



FIELD TRIAL PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2012

FIELD TRIAL SCHEDULING

The scheduling period for field trials to be held in 2013 is January 1 - March 31, 2012. With only a couple of weeks left in March if we haven't received your Field Trial Permit application for your 2013 dates, please send your application(s) soon. To ensure your field trial club/association receives the date(s) to which it has rights in 2013, a completed Field Trial Permit application must be received by March 31st. Only Field Trial Permit applications of the type on the Field Trial Website will be accepted. Remember that field trials are scheduled by weekend of the year. Weekend number one in 2013 is January 5-6. After March 31, 2012 any unscheduled field trial dates in 2013 become available on a first-come first-served basis to any field trial organization requesting the date(s).

FIELD TRIAL PERMIT FEES

We prefer to receive the Field Trial Permit fee when the application is submitted. Field trial clubs with Field Trial Permit applications pending for 2012 need to forward the appropriate fees to the Department's Field Trial Program at their earliest opportunity. If club officials are uncertain about the amount due, please contact us.

CREDITS & REFUNDS

To obtain a credit or refund if a field trial needs to be shortened or cancelled, field

trial clubs must contact the Field Trial Program at least 48 hours prior to the beginning date of the field trial. Normally, the Program will credit the unused Field Trial Permit fee to the club's account for use on future field trials.

INSURANCE FOR FIELD TRIALS

Field trial clubs need to forward updated Certificates of Liability Insurance as this insurance is renewed. The Secretary of the Field Trial Clubs of Illinois (FTCI) provides the required updates to the Program for those clubs that obtain liability insurance through FTCI. Liability coverage must be at least \$1,000,000.

FIELD TRIAL PERMIT SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND/OR INSTRUCTIONS

Each Field Trial Permit contains a section with the heading "Special Provisions and/or Instructions". This section of the Permit is used to bring to the attention of field trial clubs items of importance to the conduct of field trials. For example, this section always contains information and instructions about contacting the site superintendent at least a week before the field trial. This contact ensures that the site superintendent knows that the trial will or will not use all of the days specified in the permit or that the trial has been cancelled. The club can also make any special arrangements when this contact is made. During this contact the site superintendent can apprise the club of special problems at the site which will effect the field trial. **Note: Field trial clubs are required to comply with the instructions in this section of the Field Trial Permit.**

HUNTING LICENSES AND HABITAT STAMPS

Hunting licenses and habitat stamps are required of all field trial dog handlers, scouts and gunners. These licenses and stamps are available from license vendors, over the internet at: www.dnr.illinois.gov or by calling DNR Direct at: 1-888-6Permit.

Field trial clubs may apply for a waiver exempting non-resident dog handlers, scouts and gunners from the hunting license and habitat stamp requirements.

GAME BIRD RELEASES

Hand-reared game birds or mallard ducks released at field trials must either be purchased from an Illinois licensed game bird breeder or, if they are purchased from a non-resident game bird breeder, a health certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian from the state of origin certifying the game birds are disease free must accompany the game birds or mallard ducks.

To lawfully possess and release hand-reared game birds or mallard ducks the field trial club or a club member must have a Game Breeders Permit. Harvest tags are required to be affixed to a leg of each game bird or mallard shot at those field trials where live birds are shot. The harvest tag is required to be affixed before the birds are removed from the field trial site.

Game Breeders Permits are available on the internet at www.dnr.illinois.gov or from any hunting/fishing license outlet. Harvest tags are available by calling 217/785-3423 or by writing to IDNR, License Consignment/Permits, PO Box 19458, Springfield, IL 62794-9458. Harvest tags are sold in rolls of 100 @ \$10 per roll.

FIELD TRIAL WEBSITE

The Field Trial Website with the **field trial calendar**, regulations, policies, Field Trial Permit applications, waiver form letter, and related information is available at:

<http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/PARKS/index.htm>

FIELD TRIAL LETTER

The following letter was authored by my friend and colleague John Hott, Site Superintendent at Kickapoo State Park and the Middle Fork State Fish & Wildlife Area. While the letter has specific applicability to those field trial clubs that conduct their trials at the Middle Fork, the letter is also applicable to all of the other IDNR field trial sites. Common courtesy and good stewardship are important attributes for all field trial clubs. Please read the letter.

Dear Fellow Field Trialers,

I would like to take this opportunity to share some concerns that have been brought to my attention concerning conduct at field trials. First, as most of you know I actively participate in field trials as a competitor, judge and site official. This being said, I feel that I have good insight for the problems that occur at field trials.

In this day of ever smaller parcels of land to conduct trials and the ever increasing demands of all user groups we/you must realize that we all must get along and actively support all users of the land.

Many users of IDNR property do not understand what we as trailers do or are attempting to do at field trials. Many are confused about the horses and dogs, the speed with which we travel and the noise that is made as dogs are handled during the brace. Horsemen that are using the area during a trial will be encountered and some of these equestrians may not be as experienced or accomplished on horseback as you. Some of the horses encountered will not be accustomed to dogs running by them or underneath them. These same horses may not be accustomed to horses galloping up to them or by them. I have had trail riders express concern for their safety when these types of things happen.

I urge each club to discuss with the participants of their field trials how to approach not only other equestrian users but also hunters, hikers, birders and all of the other users on our great state sites. Common courtesy will go a long way to helping others understand the sport of field trialing. As one of many constituencies using public land, its very important to make friends of other constituencies which could turn into long term partnerships for the good of all of our recreational needs.

Thank you,

John Hott

PICTURES/DIGITAL IMAGES

Many of you know that I hunt English setters; therefore, you aren't surprised by the digital image at the top of this newsletter. The image was taken at this year's IL Open Shooting Dog Championship at the Jim Edgar Panther Creek SF&WA by IDNR Photographer Adele Hodde. Left to my own devices more often than not you'll find an image of an English setter at the top of this newsletter. If you would care to e-mail a digital image or two representative of the dogs at trials sponsored by your club, I might just use one of them on a future newsletter. If you send an image, please understand that you've given me the right to use the image.

QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS

Field trial club officials with questions or problems can write, call, or e-mail. Business hours are 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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