

HABITAT STAMP and HUNTING LICENSE: Before any person 18 years of age or older takes, attempts to take, or pursues any species of wildlife protected by the Wildlife Code, except migratory waterfowl, coots, and hand-reared birds on licensed game breeding and hunting preserve areas and state-controlled pheasant hunting areas, he or she shall first obtain a State Habitat Stamp. Disabled veterans and former prisoners of war shall not be required to obtain a State Habitat Stamp. Any person who obtained a Lifetime License before January 1, 1993, shall not be required to obtain a State Habitat Stamp. All resident landowners or tenants that do not reside on the property must possess a valid Hunting, Sportsmen's or Apprentice license, unless exempt (520 ILCS 5/3.1).

Illinois Resident Landowner 5-Year Permit Application for Free Landowner Permits

- Illinois residents remain eligible for 5 years if there is no change in ownership or residency affecting the permittee's eligibility for resident landowner permits.
- Landowner permits are not transferable.
- Landowner deer muzzleloader permits are not issued. A muzzleloader lottery application may be submitted.
- Permit recipients of: Landowner Spring Turkey – eligible to apply in Spring Turkey Lotteries 2 and 3. Landowner Fall Turkey Shotgun – eligible to purchase over-the-counter Fall Turkey Shotgun permit. Landowner Deer Firearm – eligible to apply in Deer Firearm Lottery 3.

PROOF OF LANDOWNERSHIP

ALL applications must include a *COPY* of one of the following:

- A) a recorded property deed;
- B) a recorded contract for deed;
- C) the most recent real estate tax statement or most recent notice of property assessment for the property (upon which the landowner's name and acreage appears);
- D) or a current Farm Service Agency 156 EZ form.

ORIGINALS WILL NOT BE RETURNED

LANDOWNER OR TENANT

No one may apply for or be issued both a landowner permit and a tenant permit.

A Resident Landowner is one whose place of residence is in Illinois who is either a landowner of 40 acres or more of Illinois land who wishes to obtain turkey and/or combination firearm and/or archery deer permits **OR** a landowner of 20 acres (but less than 40) of Illinois land in a county where Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been identified (17 Ill. Adm. Code 650.45) who wishes to obtain combination firearm and/or archery deer permits. This includes their immediate families that are permanently residing on the same property as the landowner. For the purposes of establishing eligibility for Property-Only Hunting permits, the Department shall, after determining the total acreage of the applicable tract or tracts of land, round remaining fractional portions of an acre greater than or equal to half of an acre up to the next whole acre [520 ILCS 5/2.11 & 2.26].

A Resident Tenant is one whose place of residence is in Illinois who rents, for commercial agricultural purposes under an agreement with a landowner, either 40 acres or more of Illinois land who wishes to obtain turkey and/or combination firearm and/or archery deer permits **OR** who rents 20 acres (but less than 40) of Illinois land in a county where CWD has been identified (17 Ill. Adm. Code 650.45) who wishes to obtain combination firearm and/or archery deer permits. This also includes the immediate family members of the person who is renting the property and permanently residing on the same property as the person renting the property. Commercial agriculture shall be defined as utilization of land for the raising of hay, grain crops or livestock for profit.

In Addition to Proof of Landownership Documents, a Tenant Must Submit the Following:

- A lease or rental agreement, file stamped as recorded by the county clerk, covering the current year; **or**
- A copy of a current Farm Service Agency 156 EZ form

A hunting rights lease or other non-agricultural lease is not valid for a Property-Only Hunting permit.

TRUST

Bona fide current income beneficiary (CIB) means an individual, who at the time of application for a permit, is entitled to income (whether income exists or not) from the trust which owns either 40 acres or more of Illinois land **OR** owns 20 acres (but less than 40) of land in a county where CWD has been identified (17 Ill. Adm. Code 650.45) and the applicant wishes to hunt with no condition precedent (such as surviving another person, reaching a certain age, etc.) and is listed by name in the trust documents as a current income beneficiary.

In Addition to Proof of Landownership Documents, a CIB Must Submit the Following:

- A copy of the trust documents which show that the applicant is listed by name as a **current** income beneficiary of the trust **OR** a notarized statement from a licensed attorney stating that the applicant is a current income beneficiary of the trust. All notarized statements shall include the state license number of the attorney making the statement.
- A notarized statement signed by the current trustee of the trust identifying the applicant as a bona fide current income beneficiary and authorizing the applicant to hunt on the trust lands for which a permit is being requested.

Lands held in trust by corporations, LLCs, or partnerships shall not be considered a basis for a permit for the shareholders/members/partners as bona fide current income beneficiaries of the trust.

Immediate Family of a Landowner, Tenant, or a Bona Fide Current Income Beneficiary: The immediate family of a landowner, tenant, or a bona fide current income beneficiary means, and is limited to, the spouse, children, brothers, sisters and parents permanently residing on the same property as the landowner, tenant, or bona fide current income beneficiary of a trust.

CORPORATIONS

Bona fide equity shareholder means an individual who purchased, for market price, publicly sold stock shares in a corporation; purchased shares of a privately-held corporation for a value equal to the percentage of the appraised value of the corporate assets represented by the ownership in the corporation; or is a member of a closely held family-owned corporation and has purchased or been gifted with shares of stock in the corporation accurately reflecting his or her percentage of ownership, and intends to retain the ownership of the shares of stock for at least 5 years, is a resident of this State and the corporation owns either 40 acres or more of Illinois land **OR** owns 20 acres (but less than 40) of land in a county where CWD has been identified (17 Ill. Adm. Code 650.45).

In Addition to Proof of Landownership Documents, a Corporation Shareholder Must Submit the Following:

- A copy of ownership interest in a **for-profit** corporation with a fully executed stock certificate, articles of incorporation or corporate agreement.
- A notarized statement signed by a duly authorized officer of the corporation identifying the applicant as a bona fide equity shareholder, authorizing the applicant to hunt on the lands for which a permit is being requested, and declaring that no more than 15 authorizations will be requested per county for the corporation.

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC)

Bona fide equity member means an individual who became a member upon the formation of the LLC; or has purchased a distributional interest in a LLC for a value equal to the percentage of the appraised value of the LLC assets represented by the distributional interest in the LLC and subsequently becomes a member of the company pursuant to Article 30 of the Limited Liability Company Act; and intends to retain the membership for at least 5 years; and the LLC owns either 40 acres or more of Illinois land **OR** owns 20 acres (but less than 40) of land in a county where CWD has been identified (17 Ill. Adm. Code 650.45). Members of Foreign LLCs must include the latest, file-stamped filing with the Illinois Secretary of State as part of the application for a permit.

In Addition to Proof of Landownership Documents, an LLC Member Must Submit the Following:

- A copy of the LLC's articles of organization **OR** the operating agreement identifying the applicant as a bona fide equity member. If the articles of organization or the operating agreement submitted to the Department does not include a listing of the members of the LLC, then the application shall include a notarized statement from a manager of the LLC that the applicant is a member of the LLC.
- A notarized statement signed by a duly authorized officer of the LLC identifying the applicant as a bona fide equity member, authorizing the applicant to hunt on the lands for which a permit is being requested and declaring that no more than 15 authorizations will be requested per county for the LLC.

LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS, LIMITED LIABILITY LIMITED PARTNERS, LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP AND GENERAL PARTNERSHIP

Bona fide equity partner means an individual who became a partner, either general or limited, upon the formation of the partnership; or has purchased a distributional interest in the partnership or limited partnership for a value equal to the percentage of the appraised value of the partnership assets represented by the distributional interest in the partnership and intends to retain ownership of the partnership for at least 5 years, and the partnership owns either 40 acres or more of Illinois land **OR** owns 20 acres (but less than 40) of land in a county where CWD has been identified (17 Ill. Adm. Code 650.45).

In Addition to Proof of Landownership Documents, a Partner of a Partnership Must Submit the Following:

- A copy of the partnership agreement, certificate of partnership or statement of qualification.
- A notarized statement signed by a duly authorized officer of the partnership identifying the applicant as a bona fide equity partner, authorizing the applicant to hunt on the lands for which a permit is being requested, and declaring that no more than 3 authorizations will be requested per county for the partnership.

Immediate Family of an LLC Member, Shareholder of Corporation, or Partner of a Partnership Are Not Eligible See 17 Ill. Adm. Code 528 et al.

Revised May 2026

<https://dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/illinois-resident-landowner-program.html>