

be telechecked by calling 1-800-245-4263 by midnight on the day the animal is recovered, before processing the carcass and before transporting the raw fur, pelt or unskinned carcass out of Kentucky. A hunter or trapper who wants to have a bobcat or otter mounted shall provide his or her name, telephone number and telecheck confirmation number to the taxidermist. Taxidermists cannot legally accept an unchecked otter or bobcat for mounting.

A Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) tag, issued by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, must be attached to the raw fur, pelt or unskinned carcass of any bobcat or river otter taken in Kentucky if the hunter or trapper intends to sell or ex-

port internationally.

To request a CITES tag, log on to "My Profile" online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

A CITES tag must be attached to the raw fur, pelt or unskinned carcass of any bobcat or river otter taken in Kentucky immediately upon receipt of the tag from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife per the instructions provided by the department and remain attached until it is processed or exported outside the United States.

Possession of an unused bobcat or otter CITES tag is prohibited.

A person who transfers, but does not sell, a river otter or bobcat to another person or taxidermist, is not required to request a CITES tag. But, this person must attach a handmade carcass tag to the animal that contains the telech-

eck confirmation number and the hunter or trapper's name and phone number.

### BUYING and SELLING HIDES

There is no time restriction on the holding of raw furs of furbearers by a trapper or hunter after the close of furbearer season. Raw furs may be sold only to licensed taxidermists, licensed fur buyers or licensed fur processors.

### FREE YOUTH WEEK

Resident and nonresident youth hunters and trappers ages 15 and younger may hunt and trap applicable game and furbearers, and hunt migratory birds in season without a hunting or trapping license for seven consecutive days starting the Saturday after Christmas.

Please refer to the hunter orange clothing law section (pg. 8) for guidelines.

Youth hunters must comply with all equipment regulations and bag limits for furbearers when hunting or trapping. Hunter education is not required for license-exempt hunters. Adults accompanying youth hunters/trappers during the free youth hunting and trapping week do not need a license if they are not hunting/trapping.



### FURBEARER HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS: WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Kentucky Fish & Wildlife is collecting lower jaws from hunted and trapped bobcats and river otters for a population study. Please contact the department at 1-800-858-1549 to request a sample packet and instructions. Thank you for your contribution to furbearer management.

# SMALL GAME HUNTING and TRAPPING

## SEASON DATES and RESTRICTIONS

SMALL GAME		Hunting	Trapping
Squirrel		Aug. 19 - Nov. 10 and Nov. 13, 2023 - Feb. 29, 2024	Nov. 13, 2023 - Feb. 29, 2024
Rabbit	Eastern Zone	Nov. 1-10 and Nov. 13, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024	Nov. 13, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024
	Western Zone	Nov. 13, 2023 - Feb. 10, 2024	Nov. 13, 2023 - Feb. 10, 2024
Quail	Eastern Zone	Nov. 1-10 and Nov. 13, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024	No trapping
	Western Zone	Nov. 13, 2023 - Feb. 10, 2024	
Grouse*		Nov. 1-10 and Nov. 13, 2023 - Feb. 29, 2024	
Falconry		Sept. 1, 2023 - March 30, 2024	
Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week		Dec. 30, 2023 - Jan. 5, 2024	

\* In Grouse Hunting Zone only. Information about grouse hunting on public areas is available online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

### SMALL GAME

The following animals are considered small game: squirrels, rabbits,

northern bobwhite (quail) and grouse.

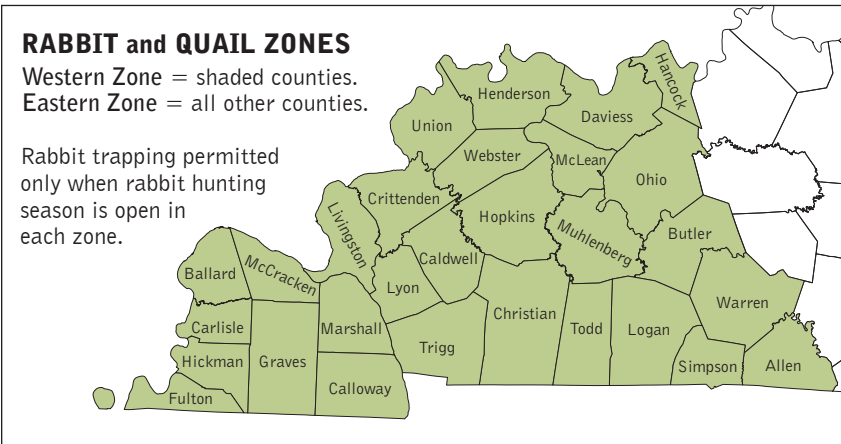
Only rabbits and squirrels may be trapped. Quail and grouse may not

be trapped. Hunting bag limits apply. Trapping equipment and restrictions are the same as those listed in the fur-

### RABBIT and QUAIL ZONES

Western Zone = shaded counties.  
Eastern Zone = all other counties.

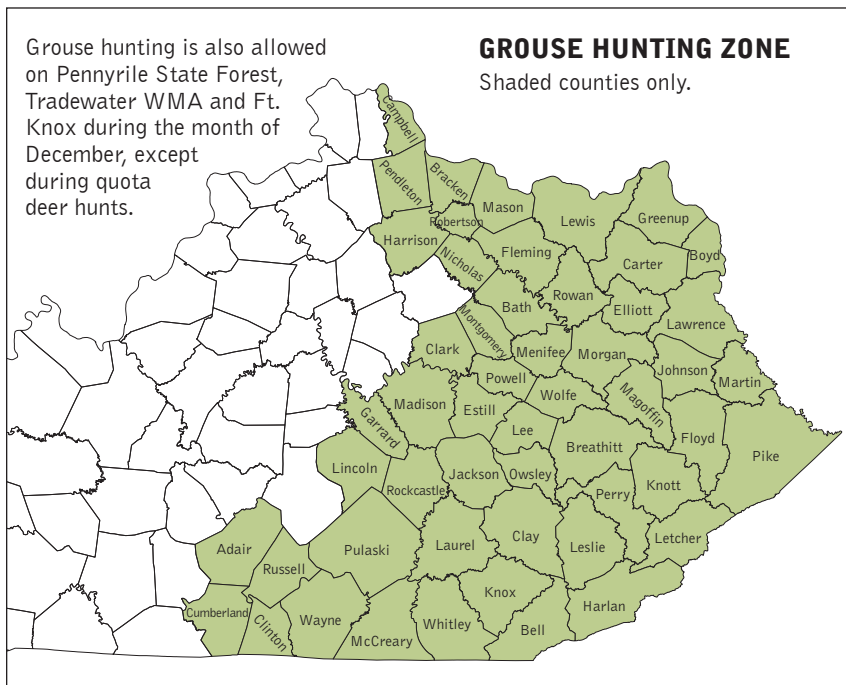
Rabbit trapping permitted only when rabbit hunting season is open in each zone.



Grouse hunting is also allowed on Pennyrite State Forest, Tradewater WMA and Ft. Knox during the month of December, except during quota deer hunts.

### GROUSE HUNTING ZONE

Shaded counties only.



### LEGAL SMALL GAME HUNTING EQUIPMENT and METHODS

Hunters may only use the following to take small game during the fall and winter seasons:

- A rimfire gun or rimfire handgun
- .410 gauge handgun
- Muzzle-loading or breech-loading shotguns no larger than 10-gauge. Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and one in chamber)
- Lead or non-toxic shot no larger than No. 2
- Muzzle-loading rifles
- Archery or crossbow equipment
- Pellets fired from .177, .20, .22 or .25 caliber air guns
- Falconry
- Slingshots with manufactured hunting ammunition
- Dogs may be used to aid in the hunt

worn by all hunters Dec. 30-31, 2023 since youth hunters are also permitted to hunt deer with firearms at that time.

Youth hunters must comply with all equipment regulations and bag limits for small game when hunting or trapping. Hunter education is not required for license-exempt hunters. Adults accompanying youth hunters/trappers during the free youth hunting and trapping week do not need a license if they are not hunting/trapping.

### FALCONRY SEASON

The limit for this hunting method is two (2) of any small game or furbearer species per falconer per day, except during the fall and winter hunting season when the limits are the same as for other methods. Falconers must possess a falconry permit, which costs \$75 and is valid for three years, as well as a valid Kentucky hunting license, unless license exempt, and obey all applicable state and federal laws.

#### **Q:** Do I have to telecheck my small game?

**A:** No. However, you can help Kentucky Fish and Wildlife by filling out the hunter cooperater surveys for small game. Search “hunter cooperater” at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

bearer section.

A trapping license is required for anyone 12 years of age and older.

Trappers must harvest squirrels and rabbits upon capture, unless they possess a captive wildlife permit from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Seasons on WMAs and other public hunting lands not managed by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife may be different from statewide seasons.

Individual area listings are available online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

### BAG LIMITS

- Squirrel: Daily limit is 6; possession limit is 12.
- Rabbit: Daily limit is 4; possession limit is 8.
- Quail: Daily limit is 8; possession limit is 16.
- Grouse: Daily limit is 4; possession limit is 8.

### FREE YOUTH WEEK

Resident and nonresident youth hunters and trappers ages 15 and younger may hunt and trap small game without a hunting or trapping license for seven consecutive days starting the Saturday after Christmas.

Hunter orange clothing must be