

FALL TURKEY HUNTING

SEASON DATES and RESTRICTIONS

FALL TURKEY	Shotgun	Archery	Crossbow
	Oct. 28 - Nov. 3 and Dec. 2-8, 2023	Sept. 2, 2023 - Jan. 15, 2024	Oct. 1-22 and Nov. 11 - Dec. 31, 2023

BAG LIMITS

- Two (2) turkeys per season.
- One (1) turkey with a beard at least three (3) inches long.
- One (1) turkey with no visible beard or a beard shorter than 3 inches.
- One (1) turkey per day.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Adult hunters: Unless exempt, all fall turkey hunters ages 16 and older must carry with them in the field proof of purchase of a valid Kentucky hunting license and a valid fall turkey permit. Short-term (1- or 7-day) hunting licenses are not valid for turkey hunting. The fall turkey permit is valid for the fall archery, crossbow and shotgun turkey seasons and allows a hunter to harvest up to the fall season bag limit of turkeys.

LEGAL FALL TURKEY HUNTING EQUIPMENT

- Breech-loading or muzzle-loading shotguns no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than .410.
- 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. 4
- Longbows, recurve bows and compound bows of any draw weight (no minimum).
- Crossbows of any draw weight (no minimum) with a working safety device.
- Non-barbed broadheads with a minimum cutting diameter of 7/8-inch, whether expandable or non-expandable.

Youth hunters: Youths younger than 12 are exempt from license and turkey permit requirements. Youths ages 12-15 are eligible to purchase a youth turkey permit, which is valid during any turkey season for one turkey. Youth hunters must abide by season bag limits and harvest restrictions but can use the youth permit throughout the license year. The youth sportsman's license includes two (2) youth turkey permits. Anyone may call turkeys, or assist in the hunt. Callers and assistants are not required to possess a hunting license or turkey permit, and may carry equipment while in the field.

OTHER RESTRICTIONS

Hunters may not use bait or any substance capable of luring wild turkeys. **Fall turkey hunters shall not hunt**

within 600 feet of a baited site nor for thirty (30) days after bait is removed. This prohibition does not apply to bona fide agricultural practices or planted food plots. Turkey hunters may not use firearms to take turkeys during archery or crossbow-only seasons. On some WMAs, special equipment restrictions may apply.

YOUTH SUPERVISION

Firearm turkey hunters 15 years old and younger must be accompanied by an adult, who shall remain in a position to take immediate control of the youth's firearm at all times.

HARVEST RECORDING and TAGGING REQUIREMENTS

The process and requirements for recording, checking and tag-

ATTENTION TURKEY HUNTERS!



You can help the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' efforts to manage the wild turkey resource by participating in the **Summer Brood Survey**. In July and August, record all observations of turkeys, including broods (hens and poults) and gobblers.

Visit the department's website at fw.ky.gov for more details about this survey, which will help Kentucky Fish and Wildlife better track trends in turkey populations. Enter "Turkey Brood Survey" in the search box on the department's homepage. Only summarized results will be reported.

ging harvested turkeys are the same as for deer and elk. See the “Recording, Checking, Tagging and Trans-

porting” guidelines in the “General Information” section of this guide. To help researchers, hunters who harvest

wild turkeys with leg bands should report the band number online at fw.ky.gov/Hunt/Pages/TurkeyBand.aspx.

FURBEARER HUNTING and TRAPPING

SEASON DATES and RESTRICTIONS

FURBEARERS	Hunting	Trapping
Raccoon & Opossum	Oct. 1, 2023 - Feb. 29, 2024, day* or night (exceptions apply)	Nov. 13, 2023 - Feb. 29, 2024
Coyote	Year-round, day or night (exceptions apply)	
Bobcat	Nov. 18, 2023 - Feb. 29, 2024	
River Otter, Muskrat, Mink, Beaver, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Weasel & Striped Skunk	Nov. 13, 2023 - Feb. 29, 2024	
Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week	Dec. 30, 2023 - Jan. 5, 2024	

FURBEARER BAG LIMITS	
Raccoon & Opossum	No limit
Coyote	No limit
Bobcat	5; no more than 3 of which shall be taken with a gun*
River Otter	10; only 6 of which can be taken from Otter Zone 2
Muskrat, Mink, Beaver, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Weasel & Striped Skunk	No limit

Bobcat permit required for bobcat hunters

*See exception in Special Hunting Restrictions

Friday, Nov. 10, 2023 shall conclude by 30 minutes before sunrise on Saturday, Nov. 11, which is when shooting hours open for modern gun deer season.

A hunter shall not use a light from a boat to take raccoon or opossum.

A person shall not use the following while chasing raccoon or opossum from noon on March 1 through September 30: a firearm, a slingshot, tree climber or any device to kill, injure, or force a raccoon or opossum from a tree or den.

Coyotes may be hunted year-round, day or night, with no bag limit. Hunters may only use artificial light or other means designed to make wildlife visible at night from Dec. 1 - **March 31 and May 16 - June 30**. Artificial light or other means designed to make wildlife visible at night cannot be connected to or cast from a mechanized vehicle. Coyote hunters with valid Mobility-Impaired Access Permits or Hunting Methods Exemption Vehicle Permits may use a

stationary vehicle as a hunting platform, and may use lights or other means designed to make wildlife visible at night so long as the means used are not connected to the vehicle.

On public land after daylight hours, a person shall not use any equipment other than a bow, crossbow, or shotgun loaded with a multiple-projectile shell. **On private land after daylight hours, coyote hunters may only use a bow, crossbow or shotgun loaded with multiple projectiles. From Dec. 1 - March 31, and May 16 - June 30, hunters on private land at night may also use any breech-loading rifle or pistol of any caliber, a shotgun firing a single projectile or a muzzle-loader of .54-caliber or less.**

Night hunting shall not be allowed in a county or area where a deer or elk firearm or muzzleloader season is open.

Night hunting for coyotes is prohibited on Kentucky lands managed by Big South Fork National River and Rec-

SPECIAL HUNTING RESTRICTIONS

(Daylight hours are defined as 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.)

During modern gun deer season, raccoon and opossum hunters may not hunt during daylight hours. Night hunting on

RIVER OTTER ZONES

ZONE 1: Anderson, Ballard, Bath, Boone, Bourbon, Bracken, Breckinridge, Bullitt, Caldwell, Calloway, Campbell, Carlisle, Carroll, Christian, Crittenden, Daviess, Fayette, Fleming, Franklin, Fulton, Gallatin, Grant, Graves, Grayson, Hancock, Hardin, Harrison, Henderson, Henry, Hickman, Hopkins, Jefferson, Kenton, LaRue, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, Mason, Meade, McCracken, McLean, Muhlenberg, Nelson, Nicholas, Ohio, Oldham, Owen, Pendleton, Robertson, Rowan, Scott, Shelby, Spencer, Trigg, Trimble, Union, Webster and Woodford. **ZONE 2:** All other counties.