

# ELK HUNTING

## DATES, RESTRICTIONS AND HOW TO APPLY

QUOTA ELK	Firearms	Archery	Crossbow
<b>Bull (antlered)</b>	<b>Week 1:</b> Oct. 1-7, 2016 <b>Week 2:</b> Oct. 8-14, 2016	Sept. 17-30, Oct. 15 – Dec. 9, Dec. 17, 2016 – Jan. 6 and Jan. 14-16, 2017	Sept. 24-30, Oct. 15 – Dec. 9 and Dec. 17-23, 2016
<b>Cow (antlerless)</b>	<b>Week 1:</b> Dec. 10-16, 2016 <b>Week 2:</b> Jan. 7-13, 2017	Oct. 15 – Dec. 9, Dec. 17, 2016 – Jan. 6 and Jan. 14-16, 2017	Oct. 15 – Dec. 9 and Dec. 17-23, 2016
<b>Youth-only Quota (either sex)</b>	All seasons as noted above		

Note: Hunters must follow deer season regulations and use only the legal elk hunting equipment described on this page to take elk from any county not included in the 16-county elk zone (out-of-zone), and must have an Out-of-Zone Elk Permit.

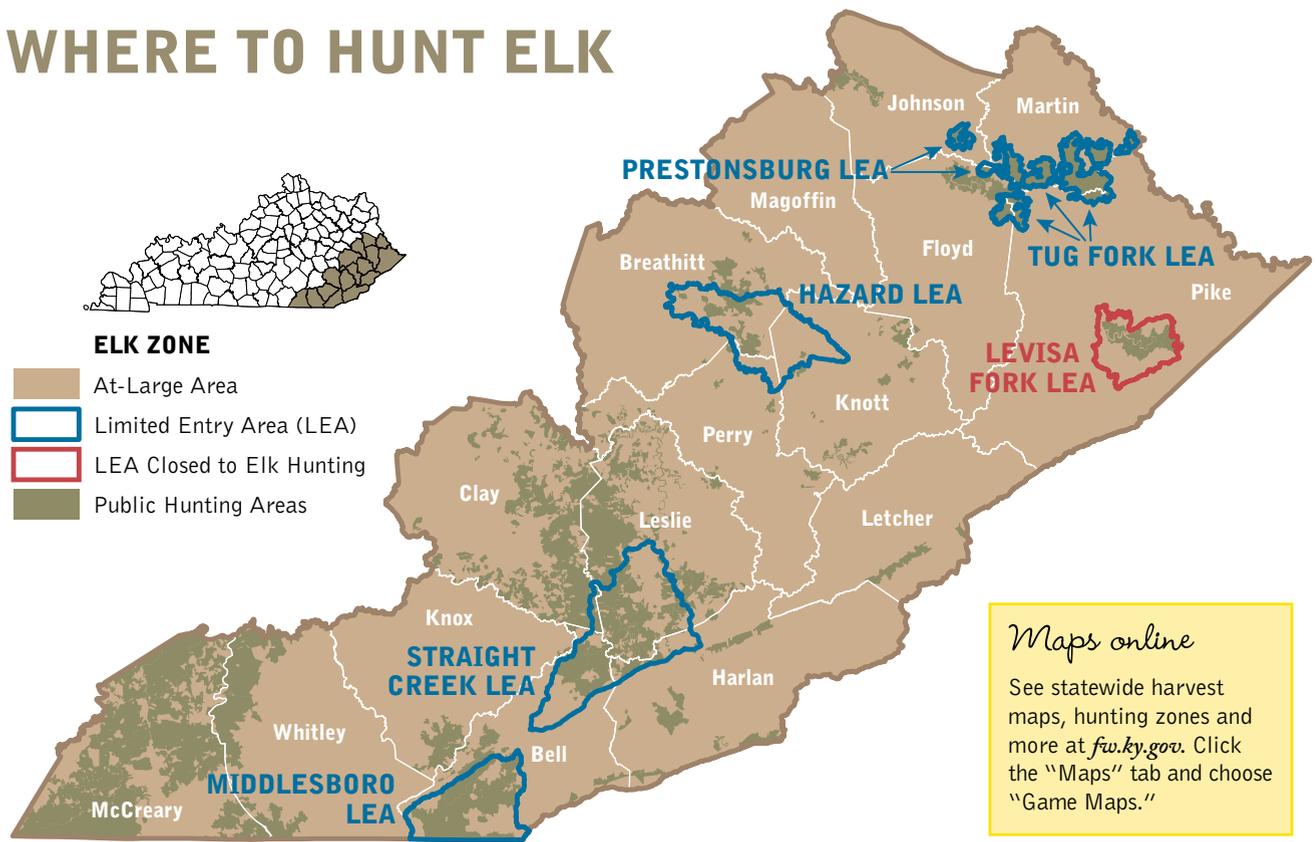
### HOW THE QUOTA HUNTS WORK

- Applications go on sale January 1 for the upcoming season's Kentucky elk quota hunts. Hunters must buy their elk quota hunt applications before midnight Eastern time on April 30.
- Elk quota hunt applications can only be purchased online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). A person who does not have access to the department's website to apply for any quota hunt may contact the department toll free at 1-800-858-1549 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) for assistance.
- Residents and non-residents are eligible to apply for each of the four permit types (bull or cow firearms, bull or cow archery/crossbow) but can only be drawn for one.
- Each application costs \$10. Only individuals may purchase elk applications, not a party of hunters together.
- Hunters 15 years of age and under may apply for a youth-only quota hunt during the same application period as for the regular elk quota hunt drawing.
- Applicants for the youth-only hunt may also purchase elk applications for the regular elk quota hunts. A youth may not be drawn for the youth-only quota hunt and the regular quota hunt for elk in the same year, and if drawn for the youth-only hunt, will be permanently blocked from applying for the youth-only hunt again.
- A random computer drawing is held in May to select the drawn hunters. Applicants may check to see if they were drawn on [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).
- It is the hunter's responsibility to find a place to hunt in the area they choose or are assigned to hunt. Hunters must get landowner permission to hunt on private land.
- There is no limit to the number of assistants an elk hunter may take into the field, but only the permit holder is allowed to hunt.
- For the 2016-17 elk season, [the Levisa Fork LEA encompassing Fishtrap Lake in Pike County is designated as an Active Restoration Area and is off limits to elk hunting.](#)
- Quota elk permits must be purchased from the department's website ([fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov)) prior to hunting.
- Unless license exempt, hunters drawn for a quota elk permit are required to buy an elk quota hunt permit in addition to an annual hunting license.
- Hunters awarded a bull elk permit will

### LEGAL ELK HUNTING EQUIPMENT

- A modern rifle of .270 caliber or larger with a magazine capable of holding no more than 10 rounds.
- A muzzleloading rifle of .50 caliber or larger.
- A muzzle-loading or breech-loading shotgun no smaller than 20-gauge, firing a single projectile (slug, round ball, conical bullet or sabot bullet) only.
- A handgun loaded with centerfire cartridges with a case length of 1.285 inches or larger, firing bullets of .270 caliber or larger designed to expand upon impact.
- Firearms may not be fully-automatic (capable of firing more than one round with one trigger pull).
- Full metal jacketed or tracer bullet ammunition is prohibited.
- Crossbows or archery equipment (long bows, recurves or compound bow) loaded with a fixed blade or mechanical broadheads at least 7/8" wide (when blades extended), but broadheads may not be barbed, or chemically treated. Crossbows must have a working safety. A person drawn for an archery or crossbow permit may hunt with a crossbow during all archery and crossbow seasons if they are 15 years old or younger, 65 years of age or older or has a crossbow hunting method exemption permit at the time of the hunt.

# WHERE TO HUNT ELK



be blocked for three years from applying for another bull elk permit.

### QUOTA HUNTS WITHIN THE ELK ZONE

The elk zone includes the following 16 counties: Bell, Breathitt, Clay, Floyd, Harlan, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Perry, Pike and Whitley. Inside this 3.5 million-acre zone, elk may only be taken by hunters drawn for a quota hunt as previously described. All elk hunters must display a department-issued hang tag in their vehicles while hunting.

### BAITING

Elk may not be hunted over bait on public or private lands within the elk zone. However, it is legal to hunt elk over bait outside the elk zone.

### CALLING

A person shall not mimic the sound of an elk on public land open to elk hunting from Sept. 1 until the opening of the elk archery season.

### SHOOTING HOURS

Elk may only be hunted during daylight hours, from 30 minutes before

sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

### BAG LIMIT/HUNTER ORANGE

The season bag limit on elk is one per hunter per season, regardless of permit type. Hunters may not take an elk during a quota elk hunt and also take

an elk out-of-zone during the same season. Elk hunters and those who accompany them, or any other person hunting public or private lands in the elk zone during firearm elk seasons, must comply with the hunter orange clothing law.

## KENTUCKY'S TROPHY BULLS

SCORE	Hunter	County	Method	Season
*377 5/8	David Giles	Knott	Modern Gun	2015
*373 4/8	Anthony Brown	Letcher	Archery	2015
*372 6/8	Terrell Royalty	Knott	Modern Gun	2009
371 0/8	Greg Neff	Bell	Modern Gun	2007
368 4/8	Bill Krider	Knott	Modern Gun	2015
*367 7/8	Kelvin Jackson	Harlan	Modern Gun	2008
367 0/8	Bill Auxier	Knott	Modern Gun	2007
*365 5/8	Brent Jones	Knott	Modern Gun	2013
361 5/8	Ryan Wilson	Martin	Archery	2014
361 4/8	Franklin Scott	Knott	Modern Gun	2006

\* Non-typical

This list includes the 10 largest bull elk scored and reported to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. The department is compiling a list of the top 100 elk taken in Kentucky. Please send copies of official (signed) score sheets to: Kentucky Trophy Elk List, KDFWR, 1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, Ky 40601. Emailed submissions to [info.center@ky.gov](mailto:info.center@ky.gov) also will be accepted.

## ELK HUNTING OUTSIDE THE ELK ZONE

Elk may be taken from any county outside the zone by hunters who possess an annual Kentucky hunting license and an Out-of-Zone Elk Permit. These hunters must follow deer season regulations and use only the legal elk hunting equipment outlined on page 15, but are not required to possess a Statewide Deer Permit.

### CHECKING and TAGGING

All elk must be telechecked. Hunters must call 1-800-245-4263 and report the harvest. See the “General Information” section for details.

Once an elk is harvested, a hunter may remove the head of the animal to facilitate its removal from the field prior

to the elk being telechecked. It is still necessary to fill out the harvest log immediately after harvest and telecheck the animal before midnight on the day the elk is harvested or recovered. If the hide or head of the elk is removed in the field – to quarter the animal, for example – it is now necessary to demonstrate proof of sex by retaining the head or keeping the genitalia attached to the carcass.

A carcass tag is required if a harvested elk leaves the hunter’s possession for any reason.

### VOUCHER COOPERATOR ELK PERMIT PROGRAM

A recently developed access program by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has created

additional elk hunting opportunity for drawn elk hunters.

The Voucher Cooperator Elk Permit Program links people who own or lease elk hunting land with hunters who have drawn an elk tag. Hunter access is accomplished by offering landowners/lessees an elk tag when they accumulate 20 points (harvested bull = 2 points, harvested cow = 1 point). Hunters will sign up to hunt voucher properties on a first come, first served basis through an online system after the area drawing is complete.

Interested landowners and lessees may contact Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-858-1549 to learn more about the Voucher Cooperator Elk Permit Program.

# BEAR HUNTING

## SEASON DATES & RESTRICTIONS

BEAR	Chase-only	Archery/Crossbow	Modern Gun	Quota Hunt w/Dogs	Youth-only
	Aug. 1-31, 2016	Oct. 22-28, 2016	Dec. 10-12, 2016	Nov. 26-27 and Dec. 17-18, 2016	Dec. 31, 2016 – Jan 1, 2017

### BEAR HARVEST QUOTAS

Archery/Crossbow	10 bears or 5 female bears, whichever is reached first.
Modern Gun	15 bears or 5 female bears, whichever is reached first.
Quota Hunt with Dogs	5 bears, either sex
Youth Only	5 bears, either sex

### CHASE-ONLY SEASON WITH DOGS

Unless license exempt, participants must purchase a Bear Chase Permit or Junior Bear Chase Permit. Bear Chase Permits may be purchased online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) from July 1 - Dec. 31.

Bears may be chased with dogs only within the Eastern, Central, and Western Bear Chase Areas (see map). Bears shall only be chased during legal day-

light hours. Hunters shall not chase bears from an area where bait is present or has been present for 30 days. Individual chase groups shall include no more than five (5) people and eight (8) dogs, except a chase party may total seven (7) people if two (2) additional youths accompany the party.

### ARCHERY/CROSSBOW SEASON

Unless license exempt, hunters must purchase a Bear Permit, in addition to an Annual Hunting License. Bear Permits are available for purchase over-the-counter, by phone (1-877-598-2401), or online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

If either harvest quota limit is reached, the season will close 30 minutes after sunset that day. Successful hunters must telecheck their bear by 8 p.m. Eastern time and also call 1-800-858-1549 within 24 hours of harvest to arrange for a physical check of the animal and re-

ceive a tag issued by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Bears physically checked during the archery/crossbow season must include a carcass or an intact hide that contains the skull and proof of sex.

Hunters must call 1-800-858-1549 after 9 p.m. each day of the season to check if the bear quota has been reached. If the quota has not been reached, the season will continue through next day.

### MODERN GUN SEASON

Unless license exempt, hunters must purchase a Bear Permit, in addition to an Annual Hunting License. Bear Permits are available for purchase over-the-counter, by phone, or online. If either harvest quota limit is reached, the season will close 30 minutes after sunset that day. Bears taken during the modern gun season must be checked immediately after leaving the field at a department oper-