

age of 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**

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 tagging harvested turkeys are the same as for deer and elk. See pages 7 and 8.

**POSSESSION/RELEASE OF LIVE TURKEYS**

Because of potential disease problems and genetic pollution, it is illegal to possess live wild turkeys. For the same reasons, domestic or pen-raised turkeys should not be released into the wild.

**HUNTING TURKEYS OVER BAIT IS ILLEGAL**

It is illegal to hunt turkeys over bait – an area where feed, grains or other substances capable of luring wild turkeys have been placed. An area is considered baited until 30 days after the bait has been removed. An area where grain, feed or other substances exists as the result of a bona fide agricultural practice or manipulation of a crop for wildlife

**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.

management purposes is legal for turkey hunting.

**SMALL GAME HUNTING & TRAPPING**

**SEASON DATES & RESTRICTIONS**

SMALL GAME		Hunting	Trapping
Squirrel		Aug. 20 – Nov. 11 and Nov. 14, 2016 – Feb. 28, 2017	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 14, 2016 – Feb. 28, 2017
Rabbit	Eastern Zone	Nov. 1-11 and Nov. 14, 2016 – Jan. 31, 2017	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 14, 2016 – Jan. 31, 2017
	Western Zone	Nov. 14, 2016 – Feb. 10, 2017	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 14, 2016 – Feb. 10, 2017
Quail	Eastern Zone	Nov. 1-11 and Nov. 14, 2016 – Jan. 31, 2017	No trapping
	Western Zone	Nov. 14, 2016 – Feb. 10, 2017	
Grouse*		Nov. 1-11 and Nov. 14, 2016 – Feb. 28, 2017	
Falconry		Sept. 1, 2016 – March 30, 2017	
Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week		Dec. 31, 2016 – Jan. 6, 2017	

\* In Grouse 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-bearer section.

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

**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 number 2.
- Muzzle-loading rifles.
- Archery or crossbow equipment.
- Pellets fired from .177, .20, .22 or .25 caliber air guns.
- Dogs may be used to aid in the hunt.
- Falconry.
- **Slingshots with manufactured hunting ammunition**

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.

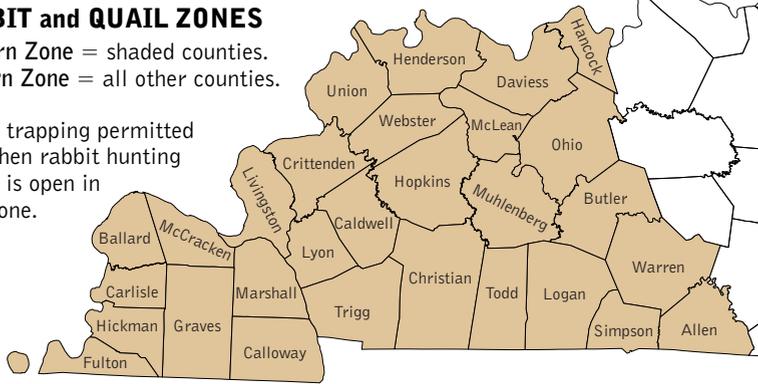
**FREE YOUTH WEEK**

Resident and nonresident youth hunters and trappers ages 15 and under may hunt and trap small game without

**RABBIT and QUAIL ZONES**

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

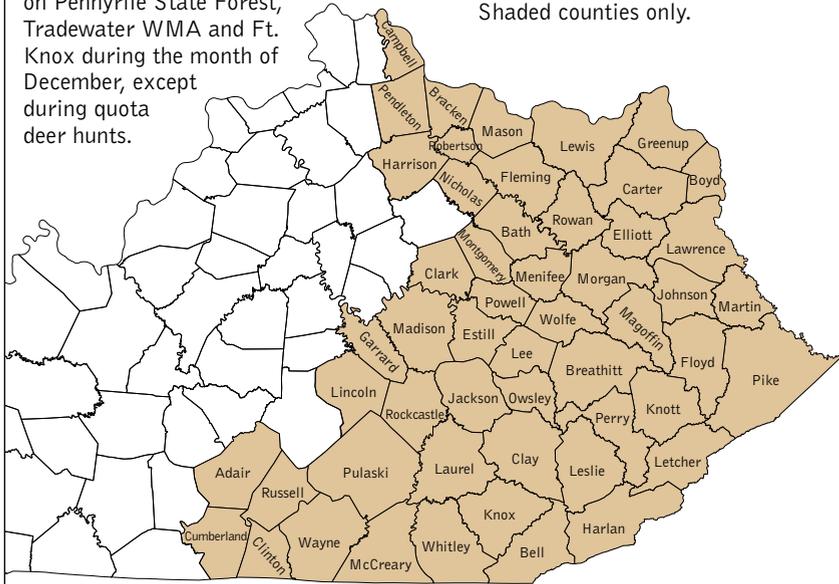
Rabbit trapping permitted only when rabbit hunting season is open in each zone.



**GROUSE HUNTING ZONE**

Shaded counties only.

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



a hunting or trapping license for seven consecutive days starting the Saturday after Christmas.

Hunter orange clothing must be worn by all hunters on Dec. 31, 2016 – Jan. 1, 2017 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 & 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 dur-

ing 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. Click the "Hunt" tab on [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) and choose "Game Species" from the dropdown menu.