

**LEGAL BEAR 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 larger than 10-gauge, and 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.
- Archery and crossbow equipment that is legal for deer hunting.

**YOUTH-ONLY SEASON**

Unless license exempt, hunters must purchase a Bear Permit, in addition to a Youth or Annual Hunting License. Bear Permits are available for purchase

over-the-counter, by phone (1-877-598-2401), and online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

If the 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 receive 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 the next day.

**HUNTER ORANGE REQUIREMENT**

Bear hunters and those who accompany them, or any other person hunting on public or private lands in the bear hunting zone during a firearm season for bears, must comply with the hunter orange clothing law. This requirement also applies to any person chasing bears during the Bear Quota Hunt with Dogs season.

**OTHER RESTRICTIONS**

- Bear hunting is open to Kentucky residents only.
- Hunters and houndsmen may not disturb or take bears from dens.

**Q:** Is it legal to shoot a bear that is feeding at a trash can or dumpster?

**A:** No. Garbage is considered bait.

- Bear hunting is prohibited on Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, Kingdom Come State Park, and the Hensley-Pine Mountain WMA. Additionally, bear hunting within the 12,094 acres surrounding Hensley-Pine Mountain WMA and Kingdom Come State Park is limited to landowners, their spouses and dependent children hunting on their own property.
- See map for detailed bear reserve boundaries.
- Hunters may not take female bears with cubs, or any bear weighing less than 75 pounds.
- Hunters may not use bait during any bear season.
- Dogs may not be used to hunt bears during the archery/crossbow or modern gun seasons, but leashed tracking dogs may be used to recover wounded bears.
- Hunters 15 years old and younger who use a firearm must be accompanied by an adult, who shall remain in a position to take immediate control of the youth's firearm.

# FALL TURKEY HUNTING

## SEASON DATES & RESTRICTIONS

FALL TURKEY	Shotgun	Archery	Crossbow
	Oct. 22-28 and Dec. 3-9, 2016	Sept. 3, 2016 – Jan. 16, 2017	Oct. 1-16 and Nov. 12 – Dec. 31, 2016

**BAG LIMITS**

- Four birds total, no more than two (2) of which may be taken with a shotgun.
- No more than one (1) bird may have a beard length of three (3) inches or longer.
- No more than one (1) bird may be taken 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 li-

censes 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.

**Youth hunters:** Youths under the

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.