

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## LICENSES AND PERMITS

### GENERAL HUNTER LICENSING

Persons who take or attempt to take game are considered hunters and therefore subject to licensing requirements.

Unless license exempt, hunters and trappers must obtain and carry while in the field proof that they have met the license requirements for the kind of hunting they are doing. This proof can be either a paper license/permit or a license authorization number.

Persons who can't show they are licensed properly while hunting risk being issued a citation.

Each hunter and trapper must have his or her own license or permit. Paper licenses and permits must be signed and the hunter information portion (signature, address, eye and hair color, sex, height and weight) completed before going afield.

Lose your license or permit? Replacements can be printed at no cost from the department's website, [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

### LICENSE-EXEMPT HUNTERS

In some cases, a resident hunter may not be required to buy a hunting license, permits to hunt deer, bear or turkey, or a **Migratory Bird-Waterfowl Permit**. Here are those situations:

- Kentucky resident owners of farmlands, their spouses and dependent children hunting upon their own farmlands during an open season;

### *Other laws apply!*

Hunters exempt from buying licenses and permits are required to follow hunting season laws, bag limits, comply with the hunter orange clothing law, and follow hunter harvest recording, checking and tagging requirements. Kentucky landowners, their legal dependents and their tenants, as described above, are subject to the usual license requirements anytime they hunt somewhere other than their own lands.

- Tenants, their spouses and dependent children hunting on farmlands where they reside and work.
- Kentucky residents on military leave of more than three days in this state who carry identification and papers verifying their leave status.
- Members of the U.S. Armed Forces based in Kentucky engaged in sport hunting or fishing on these Kentucky National Guard properties: Hidden Valley Training Area in Powell County, and the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Muhlenberg County.

Resident and nonresident children under the age of 12 are not required to purchase licenses and permits, except the elk hunt drawing application. Hunters

eligible to participate in the Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week or Free Youth Deer Hunting Weekend, and adults who accompany a youth hunter but are not hunting themselves, are not required to have a license or permit during these seasons.

### SHOOTING PRESERVE LICENSE

A shooting preserve license, available only online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov), is valid for one license year only, and only at the shooting preserve indicated at the time of purchase.

### HIP SURVEYS

When purchasing a **Migratory Bird-Waterfowl Permit**, or any license that includes it, hunters are required by federal law to complete a Harvest Information Program (HIP) survey at the time of purchase. Your license retailer (or phone operator) will ask you questions to fill out this survey. If you purchase your license online, you will be prompted to answer those questions at the end of your purchase.

You can buy licenses and permits online. Scan this symbol with your smartphone for quick access to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's website!



## HOW TO BUY LICENSES AND PERMITS

It is the hunter's responsibility to know what type of license/permit is needed.

When buying a license/permit the hunter's date of birth and Social Security number must be provided.

If you have licensing questions call Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-858-1549, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern time.

### IN PERSON

Licenses and permits can be purchased throughout the state at various locations, including country stores, some county court clerk offices, local hunting and fishing businesses, and some chain stores that sell outdoor sporting goods.

A list of license agents can be viewed online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

### BY PHONE

Licenses and permits can be purchased by telephone 24 hours a day, by calling toll-free at 1-877-598-2401. All licenses and permits, except a disability license, elk drawing application and youth licenses and permits, can be purchased by telephone.

Hunters purchasing licenses and permits by phone will be charged a

\$2.52 fee, and must pay with a Visa, Mastercard, or Discover card, or an e-check. Hunters will be issued an authorization number which serves as the license or permit.

If requested, a paper license or permit (except short-term licenses) will be mailed to the hunter. The paper license must be filled out and signed by the hunter.

The authorization number and a

picture ID must be carried in the field while hunting. Both the authorization number and paper license are valid for the license year.

**ONLINE**

Licenses and permits can also be purchased online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

Hunters purchasing licenses or permits online must pay with a Visa, Mastercard, American Express or Discover

card, or a Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Gift Certificate. Gift Certificates are available online only at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

Hunters who buy licenses or permits online will not be mailed a paper license or permit but will receive an authorization number. The authorization number or a computer printout of the license or permit and a picture ID must be carried in the field while hunting.

**WHICH LICENSE OR PERMIT DO I NEED?**

The tables below provide a quick overview of current licensing requirements. See the rest of this section for

exemptions and complete residency, licensing and hunter education requirements. Licenses and permits for the spe-

cies below are not required for children under the age of 12.

KENTUCKY RESIDENTS	Ages 12-15	Ages 16-64	Ages 65 and over OR Disabled
<b>Deer</b>	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Deer Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Statewide Deer Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
<b>Fall Turkey</b>	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Fall Turkey Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
<b>Spring Turkey</b>	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Spring Turkey Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
<b>Small Game &amp; Furbearer</b>	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License	Senior/Disabled License
<b>Trapping</b>	Annual Youth Trapping License	Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License	Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License
<b>Migratory Birds</b> (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + <b>Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit†</b>	Senior/Disabled License
<b>Waterfowl</b> (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + <b>Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit†</b> + <b>Federal Duck Stamp</b>	Senior/Disabled License + <b>Federal Duck Stamp</b>

\*Included in Youth Sportsman’s License

†Included in Resident Sportsman’s License

NONRESIDENTS (must buy nonresident licenses/permits)	Ages 12-15	Ages 16 and over
<b>Deer</b>	Youth Hunting License + Youth Deer Permit	Annual Hunting License + Statewide Deer Permit
<b>Fall Turkey</b>	Youth Hunting License + Youth Turkey Permit	Annual Hunting License + Fall Turkey Permit
<b>Spring Turkey</b>	Youth Hunting License + Youth Turkey Permit	Annual Hunting License + Spring Turkey Permit
<b>Small Game &amp; Furbearer</b>	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or <b>7-Day</b> Hunting License
<b>Trapping</b>	Annual Trapping License	Annual Trapping License
<b>Migratory Birds</b> (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or <b>7-Day</b> Hunting License + <b>Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit</b>
<b>Waterfowl</b> (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or <b>7-Day</b> Hunting License + <b>Migratory Game Bird-Waterfowl Permit</b> + <b>Federal Duck Stamp</b>

# LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES

	LICENSE / PERMIT	Resident	Nonresident
LICENSES	<b>Annual Fishing</b>	\$20	\$50
	<b>Joint Husband/Wife Annual Fishing</b>	\$36	Not available
	<b>1-Day Fishing</b>	\$7	\$10
	<b>3-Year Fishing</b> (available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$55	Not available
	<b>Nonresident 7-Day Fishing</b>	Not available	\$30
	<b>Nonresident 15-Day Fishing</b>	Not available	\$40
	<b>Trout Permit</b>	\$10	
	<b>Annual Hunting</b>	\$20	\$140
	<b>1-Day Hunting</b> (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	\$7	\$15
	<b>7-Day Hunting</b> (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	Not available	\$55
	<b>Annual Youth Hunting</b> (ages 12-15 only)	\$6	\$10
	<b>Shooting Area License</b> (available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$5	
	<b>Annual Trapping</b>	\$20	\$130
	<b>Annual Landowner/Tenant Trapping</b>	\$10	Not available
<b>Annual Youth</b> (ages 12-15) <b>Trapping</b>	\$5	Not available	
COMBOS	<b>Annual Combination Hunting/Fishing</b>	\$30	Not available
	<b>Senior/Disabled Combination Hunting/Fishing*</b> (includes same license and permits as Resident Sportsman's License, plus additional deer permits.)	\$5	Not available
	<b>Sportsman's License*</b> (Includes combination hunting/fishing, statewide deer permit, spring and fall turkey permits, state waterfowl permit and trout permit.)	\$95	Not available
	<b>Youth</b> (ages 12-15) <b>Sportsman's License*</b> (Includes youth hunting license, 2 youth deer permits and 2 youth turkey permits.)	\$30	Not available
DEER	<b>Statewide Deer Permit</b> (two deer)	\$35	\$120
	<b>Youth</b> (ages 12-15) <b>Deer Permit</b> (one deer)	\$10	\$15
	<b>Additional Deer Permit</b> (two deer)	\$15	
BIRDS	<b>Spring Turkey Permit</b> (statewide) (two turkeys)	\$30	\$75
	<b>Youth</b> (ages 12-15) <b>Turkey Permit</b> (one turkey, spring or fall)	\$10	\$15
	<b>Fall Turkey Permit</b> (statewide)(four turkeys)	\$30	\$75
	<b>Migratory Bird–Waterfowl Permit</b>	\$15	
	<b>Federal Duck Stamp</b> (available at post offices and online at <a href="http://www.duckstamp.com">www.duckstamp.com</a> )	\$15	
	<b>Pheasant Quota Hunt Permit</b> (if drawn)	\$25	
ELK	<b>Elk Drawing Application</b> (deadline April 30; available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$10	
	<b>Youth WMA Elk Drawing Application</b> (deadline April 30; available at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$10	
	<b>Quota Bull Elk Permit</b> (if drawn; available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$100	\$550
	<b>Quota Cow Elk Permit</b> (if drawn; available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$60	\$400
	<b>Youth Elk Permit</b> (if drawn; available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$30	\$40
	<b>Out-of-Zone Elk Permit</b> (Nonresident available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$30	\$400
BEAR	<b>Bear Permit</b>	\$30	Not available
	<b>Bear Chase Permit</b>	\$30	Not available
	<b>Youth Bear Chase Permit</b>	\$10	Not available
AREAS	<b>Peabody WMA User Permit</b>	\$15	
	<b>Land Between The Lakes (LBL) Hunter Use Permit</b>	\$25, or \$35 with Backcountry Camping	
	<b>Otter Creek ORA Admission Fees</b> (per person) (available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> )	Daily: \$3, annual: \$30, children under 12: free.	
	<b>Otter Creek ORA Special Activity Fees</b> (per person, for use of horse trails, mountain bike trails and shooting range) (available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> )	Daily: \$7, annual: \$70	
OTHER	<b>Temporary Hunter Education Exemption Permit</b> (Hunter Apprentice Opportunity; available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$5	
	<b>Habitat Improvement and Public Access Donation</b> (voluntary; available at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	Any amount	

\*Peabody, LBL and Otter Creek permits, elk drawing application, elk quota hunt permit, out-of-zone elk permit, bear permit, federal duck stamp and trapping license not included. An additional deer permit is not included with a Sportsman's License. Kentucky's license year begins March 1 and continues through the last day of February. New licenses are required annually, except for the 3-year fishing license. A 1-day or 7-day hunting license is valid only for the period shown on license. Resident and nonresident youth under the age of 12 are not required to purchase licenses or permits (except the elk drawing application).

## LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

### SPORTSMAN'S LICENSE - SAVE \$55

Available to Kentucky residents only, the Sportsman's License includes a combination hunting and fishing license, spring and fall turkey permits, statewide deer permit, state Migratory Bird-Waterfowl Permit and trout permit.

A federal duck stamp (available at post offices and online at [www.duckstamp.com](http://www.duckstamp.com)) is required for waterfowl hunting.

### YOUTH HUNTER LICENSING

Resident and non-resident hunters under the age of 12 are not required to purchase licenses and permits, except for the elk drawing

application.

Persons under 12 years old, who have passed a hunter education course, may hunt small game, furbearers and waterfowl without being accompanied by an adult.

Resident and non-resident hunters ages 12-15 are eligible to purchase discounted licenses and permits, which are valid for the entire license year, if purchased before the youth's 16th birthday. Persons 15 years of age and under who hunt turkey, elk, deer or bear with a firearm must always be accompanied by an adult.

The Annual Youth Hunting license authorizes the holder to hunt all small game species and migratory bird

species. Hunters 15 and younger are exempt from purchasing a state **Migratory Bird-Waterfowl Permit**, and a federal duck stamp.

A Youth Deer Permit allows the hunter to take one deer. A youth hunter may purchase a total of two Youth Deer Permits. To harvest more than two deer, a youth hunter must purchase an Additional Deer Permit.

The Youth Turkey Permit allows the hunter to take one turkey. The Youth Turkey Permits may be used during any turkey season.

The resident-only Youth Sportsman's License includes a youth hunting license, **two (2)** youth deer permits and **two (2)** youth turkey permits.

### RESIDENT SENIOR AND DISABILITY LICENSES

The following are eligible to purchase the Senior or Disabled Combination Hunting/Fishing license (which includes the same license and permits as the Resident Sportsman's License, plus additional deer permits):

- Kentucky residents 65 years of age or older.
- Kentucky residents certified totally and permanently disabled by the Federal Social Security Administration, a state Workers Compensation Board, the Kentucky Teacher Retirement System or the United States Railroad Retirement Board.
- Kentucky resident employees of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management declared totally and permanently disabled by a recog-

nized authority.

- Kentucky resident veterans at least 50% disabled as the result of a service-connected disability.

Seniors need only show proof of age and residency to purchase this license. Persons with disabilities listed above must first obtain a disability authorization card from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

#### To obtain a disability license authorization card:

If your disability is through the:

- **Federal Social Security Administration:** Call 1-800-772-1213 or go online to [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount) to print the form showing your name, address, Social Security number and date of birth. It must state that you are disabled and drawing benefits. Send form to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife (address bottom left).
- **Veteran's Administration:** Contact your local VA office and request a letter that verifies you are at least 50% disabled as a result of a service-connected disability. Send letter to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife
- If your disability is through other state or federal agencies call 1-800-858-1549.

Once the proper documentation is processed, applicants will receive their authorization card by mail.

The authorization card is not a license. It must be presented to the license seller, or the authorization number entered online, at the time of purchase.

License vendors cannot sell a disability license using an expired authorization card. Senior and Disability Combination Licenses are valid through the end of February each year. If you lose your card, contact Kentucky Fish and Wildlife for a replacement.

#### Q: For how long is a disability authorization card valid?

A: A disability authorization card is valid for three years (check the expiration date on your card). Every three years, you must provide updated paperwork (following the instructions to the left) and get a new card. Those who already have a disability authorization card through the Veteran's Administration, Railroad Retirement Board or Office of Personnel Management may call 1-800-310-1873 to get a new card.

#### Mail or fax

To send disability paperwork to the department:

By mail:  
KDFWR Disability License  
#1 Sportsman's Lane  
Frankfort, KY 40601

By FAX: (502) 564-9845

During the Free Youth Hunting and Trapping Week, resident and non-resident hunters 15 and under may hunt or trap small game and furbearers without a license. All other regulations and limits apply.

Youth hunters who hunt deer or out-of-zone elk with a firearm during the Free Youth Deer Hunting Weekend are not required to have a deer or out-of-zone elk permit, but must be accompanied by an adult, and follow all other deer/elk hunting regulations.

Hunter education is not required for youth to participate in the Free Youth Deer Hunting Weekend, or the Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week, but is strongly recommended.

**RESIDENT LICENSING**

A resident is any person who has established permanent domicile and legal residence and has resided in Kentucky for 30 days prior to buying a license, full-time students enrolled in an educational institution for at least six

months, or military service personnel on permanent assignment in Kentucky.

**NONRESIDENT LICENSING**

A person who does not meet the definition of a Kentucky resident is considered a nonresident and must purchase nonresident licenses and permits. Nonresident youth hunters are subject to the same license and permit requirements as resident youth hunters. A nonresident who owns land in Kentucky must purchase nonresident licenses and permits.

# RECORDING, CHECKING, TAGGING AND TRANSPORTING

## Harvested Deer, Elk, Turkey, Bear, Bobcat and Otter

The following regulations apply to all deer, elk, turkey, bear, bobcat and otter taken by hunters or trappers, including landowners and other license-exempt hunters.

**HARVEST LOG**

All successful hunters, including those who are license exempt, must fill out a harvest log as soon as the animal is taken and prior to moving the carcass. Information that must be written on the harvest log includes the species and sex of animal taken, date, county where taken, and telecheck confirmation number.

A harvest log is on the back of any paper license or permit. A printable harvest log is accessible by clicking the “Hunt” tab on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife

online homepage ([fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov)), choosing “More” from the dropdown menu and selecting the “Recording, Checking, Tagging and Transporting” section.

License exempt hunters, youths under 12 years of age, and those who only have a license authorization number, may create their own harvest log by writing the information on a piece of paper or index card.

Hunters and trappers must have the completed harvest log in their possession whenever afield during the current season.

**TELECHECK**

**1-800-CHK-GAME (1-800-245-4263)**

All deer, turkey, elk, bobcat and river otters harvested must be telechecked

through the toll-free, automated check-in system. Hunters may also check in the animals they harvest online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

Checking a harvested animal takes about five minutes. Entering false information is unlawful. Multiple animals may be telechecked during the same call.

All harvested animals must be telechecked by midnight on the same day the animal is recovered.

Bears harvested during the modern gun bear season must be telechecked before leaving the check station. Hunters who harvest a bear during the archery-crossbow season or the bear quota hunt with dogs season must telecheck the bear by 8 p.m. Eastern time the day that it was harvested, and also call 1-800-

**KENTUCKY COUNTY CODE NUMBERS FOR TELECHECK**

001	Adair	021	Carroll	041	Grant	061	Knox	081	Mason	101	Robertson
002	Allen	022	Carter	042	Graves	062	Larue	082	Meade	102	Rockcastle
003	Anderson	023	Casey	043	Grayson	063	Laurel	083	Menifee	103	Rowan
004	Ballard	024	Christian	044	Green	064	Lawrence	084	Mercer	104	Russell
005	Barren	025	Clark	045	Greenup	065	Lee	085	Metcalfe	105	Scott
006	Bath	026	Clay	046	Hancock	066	Leslie	086	Monroe	106	Shelby
007	Bell	027	Clinton	047	Hardin	067	Letcher	087	Montgomery	107	Simpson
008	Boone	028	Crittenden	048	Harlan	068	Lewis	088	Morgan	108	Spencer
009	Bourbon	029	Cumberland	049	Harrison	069	Lincoln	089	Muhlenberg	109	Taylor
010	Boyd	030	Daviess	050	Hart	070	Livingston	090	Nelson	110	Todd
011	Boyle	031	Edmonson	051	Henderson	071	Logan	091	Nicholas	111	Trigg
012	Bracken	032	Elliott	052	Henry	072	Lyon	092	Ohio	112	Trimble
013	Breathitt	033	Estill	053	Hickman	073	McCracken	093	Oldham	113	Union
014	Breckinridge	034	Fayette	054	Hopkins	074	McCreary	094	Owen	114	Warren
015	Bullitt	035	Fleming	055	Jackson	075	McLean	095	Owsley	115	Washington
016	Butler	036	Floyd	056	Jefferson	076	Madison	096	Pendleton	116	Wayne
017	Caldwell	037	Franklin	057	Jessamine	077	Magoffin	097	Perry	117	Webster
018	Calloway	038	Fulton	058	Johnson	078	Marion	098	Pike	118	Whitley
019	Campbell	039	Gallatin	059	Kenton	079	Marshall	099	Powell	119	Wolfe
020	Carlisle	040	Garrard	060	Knott	080	Martin	100	Pulaski	120	Woodford

858-1549 within 24 hours of harvest to arrange for a physical check of the animal and receive a tag issued by the department. Deer and elk must be telechecked before removing the hide or head.

Telecheck is available 24 hours a day while hunting seasons are open. Listen to each question carefully and provide the requested information using the keypad on any touch tone phone.

Callers will be asked their Social Security number and code for the county in which the animal was taken. All youth hunters must use their Social Security number when telechecking an animal.

Callers must also indicate the animal's species and sex. Deer hunters who take button bucks should check the deer as "male" and then choose "no visible antler" when prompted.

Next, callers will be asked about the type of equipment used to harvest the animal, whether the land was private or public, and the type of license they used. License choices may include: Statewide License, Senior/Disabled License, Landowner, Deer Control Tag, Trapping License, Elk Permit or Out-of-Zone Elk Permit.

Youths under 12, youths who check deer taken during the Free Youth Deer Hunting Weekend, or license exempt military personnel should select "Statewide License."

Once the harvest information has been entered correctly, the caller will be asked to hold for several seconds while the system submits the survey information. The hunter then will be given a confirmation number which is proof that the harvested animal was legally reported. This number must be recorded on the hunter's log and retained throughout the season.

### CARCASS TAG

All hunters shall attach a hand-made tag to any harvested deer, elk, tur-

**Q:** Due to a cell phone dropped call, a hunter loses a confirmation number. Should the animal be checked in again?

**A:** Try again until you get the confirmation number, and then contact the department at 1-800-858-1549 the next business day to report the incident.

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2

Date, County & Sex must be filled in before carcass is moved. TELECHECK 1-800-245-4263	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEER	<input type="checkbox"/> TURKEY <input type="checkbox"/> BOBCAT <input type="checkbox"/> OTTER <input type="checkbox"/> ELK
DATE 11-16	COUNTY Hickman SEX F
CONFIRMATION # 1234567890	
<input type="checkbox"/> DEER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TURKEY <input type="checkbox"/> BOBCAT <input type="checkbox"/> OTTER <input type="checkbox"/> ELK
DATE 11-24	COUNTY Anderson SEX M
CONFIRMATION # 1234567891	
<input type="checkbox"/> DEER	<input type="checkbox"/> TURKEY <input type="checkbox"/> BOBCAT <input type="checkbox"/> OTTER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ELK
DATE 12-1	COUNTY McCreary SEX F
CONFIRMATION # 1234567892	
BEAR	
<input type="checkbox"/> DEER	<input type="checkbox"/> TURKEY <input type="checkbox"/> BOBCAT <input type="checkbox"/> OTTER <input type="checkbox"/> ELK
DATE 12-15	COUNTY Harlan SEX M
CONFIRMATION # 1234567893	
<input type="checkbox"/> DEER	<input type="checkbox"/> TURKEY <input type="checkbox"/> BOBCAT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTTER <input type="checkbox"/> ELK
DATE 2-12	COUNTY Marshall SEX M
CONFIRMATION # 1234567894	
 	

## HOW TO FILL OUT THE HUNTER HARVEST LOG

### BEFORE YOU MOVE THE ANIMAL FROM THE SPOT IT WAS FOUND:

**Step 1:** Mark the box for the appropriate species and fill in the date, county and sex of the animal. Bear hunters will need to write "bear." Put the harvest log back in your pocket.

### WHEN YOU CALL OR GO ONLINE TO CHECK IN THE ANIMAL:

**Step 2:** Write the telecheck confirmation number on the harvest log, and keep the log information in your possession whenever you are in the field during the deer, elk, turkey, bear, bobcat or otter season.

**Reminder:** All hunters must fill out a hunter harvest log. Carcass tags are only required if the carcass leaves your possession.

key, bear, bobcat, or otter that leaves the hunter's possession.

For example, a carcass tag is required if the hunter gives the animal to another person, drops it off to be processed, or takes the head and cape to a taxidermist.

A harvested animal in a hunter's possession is assumed to be his or hers, unless the carcass tag states otherwise. Hunters who harvest bears during the modern gun bear season must attach a department-issued carcass tag before leaving the check station. Hunters who harvest a bear during the archery-cross-bow season must attach a department-issued carcass tag after having the bear inspected by department personnel.

Meat processors and taxidermists are prohibited by law from accepting any harvested animal, or parts of a harvested animal, without a carcass tag attached.

The carcass tag must include the hunter's name, phone number and telecheck confirmation number.

### CITES TAGS

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 export internationally.

To request a CITES tag go online to [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) or call 1-800-858-1549, and provide the animal's telecheck confirmation number.

CITES tags must immediately be attached to the animal or pelt per the instructions included with the mailed tag and remain with the pelt until it is processed. Possession of an unused bobcat or otter CITES tag is prohibited.

### TRANSPORTING HARVESTED ANIMALS

Hunters bringing any deer or elk, or parts of deer or elk, into Kentucky shall have proof that the animal was legally harvested elsewhere and shall do so in compliance with the carcass importation law.

An unchecked animal may not be transported out of Kentucky.

Furs and hides may only be sold to a licensed fur buyer, fur processor or taxidermist.

# GENERAL HUNTING REGULATIONS

## LANDOWNER PERMISSION

A person shall not enter upon the lands of another to shoot, hunt, trap, fish or for other wildlife-related recreational purposes without the oral or written permission of the landowner, tenant, or person who has authority to grant permission.

Those who fail to obtain permission are subject to arrest and prosecution.

Railroad tracks and rights of way are privately-owned property and permission to hunt, trap or fish must be obtained prior to entry.

Landowners are under no obligation to allow hunters to retrieve game or hunting dogs from their property.

## HUNTER EDUCATION

Persons born on or after Jan. 1, 1975 must carry a valid hunter education card or hunter education exemption permit while hunting. Persons not required to have licenses or permits are exempt from hunter education certification.

Hunter education courses are held throughout the state. Pre-registration must be done online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). More information about the registration process is available on the website or by calling 1-800-858-1549.

Children must be at least 9 years old to take the hunter education course. People who complete the course are issued an orange certification card. Hunter education cards issued by other states are valid in Kentucky.

Children younger than 12 years old are exempt from hunter education certification, but must be accompanied by an adult who meets the hunter education requirement. The adult must be in a position to take immediate control of the bow or firearm at all times while hunting. One adult cannot accompany more than two hunters under 12 years old at the same time.

## APPRENTICE HUNTING OPPORTUNITY

Persons new to hunting who have not taken the hunter education course may buy a one-time temporary hunter education exemption permit online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

This apprentice hunting opportu-

nity allows new hunters in Kentucky to hunt for up to one year (from date of purchase) without a hunter education card. The permit requires its holder to hunt with a licensed, adult hunter (at least 18 years old) who meets the hunter education requirement. The adult shall be in a position to take immediate control of the exempted hunter's bow or firearm at all times while hunting. This law applies even if the exempted hunter is an adult.

After the hunter education exemption permit expires, the hunter is no longer exempt and must successfully complete a hunter education course.

The temporary hunter education exemption permit is valid only in Kentucky. It is not accepted at Blue Grass Army Depot or Fort Campbell.

Resident landowners, spouses and dependent children, tenants, their spouses and their dependent children are only hunter education exempt on property they own, or the property where they reside and work. When hunting elsewhere, they must comply with Kentucky's hunter education law.

## REPLACEMENT HUNTER EDUCATION CARDS

Free replacement hunter education cards can be printed online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). On the homepage, click on the "Education" tab and select "Hunter Education" from the drop down menu.

## HUNTER ORANGE CLOTHING LAW

All hunters, and persons accompanying them, must wear outer garments of hunter orange color visible from all sides on the head, back and chest when hunting during daylight hours for any species during the modern gun, muzzleloader and youth firearm deer seasons, or a firearm elk or firearm bear season.

Waterfowl and dove hunters are exempt from this requirement.

Hunter orange garments can be of mesh type material, as long as openings in the mesh weave are no wider than one-quarter inch by any measurement. Garments may display a small portion of another color.

The following are common exam-

ples of violations related to hunter orange clothing:

- Wearing camouflage-patterned hunter orange garments without additional solid hunter orange clothing on the head, back and chest.
- Wearing hunter orange clothing while walking to a stand and taking it off when you get there.
- Hunting squirrel, rabbit or quail when and where a firearm deer or elk season is also open without wearing hunter orange clothing.

Hunters using archery equipment during deer firearms seasons must wear hunter orange clothing.

Hunters are not required to wear hunter orange clothing during a firearms season on a state owned or managed WMA where firearms hunting for deer, elk or bear is prohibited.

## SHOOTING HOURS

Shooting hours for all species listed in this guide, except raccoons, opossums and frogs, are during daylight hours only – 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. However, hunters may be in the field or stands before and after shooting hours.

Raccoons and opossums may be taken day or night, except during modern gun deer season when raccoon and opossum hunting is permitted only at night.

**Exceptions also apply for coyotes. See the Furbearer Hunting & Trapping section.**

## HUNTING METHOD EXEMPTIONS

The department grants exemptions to hunters with certain physical disabilities to hunt with a crossbow during archery-only seasons, or to use a stationary vehicle as a hunting platform. However, persons with qualifying physical disabilities must first have an exemption form completed and signed by a licensed physician certifying why the exemption is necessary.

Forms are available online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) or by calling the department at 1-800-858-1549. A completed exemption form serves as the hunter's exemption permit. It should not be returned to the department. Persons

who obtain an exemption are still required to have the appropriate hunting license and permits, and must carry the signed exemption form with their hunting license and permits while in the field.

### PROHIBITED HUNTING METHODS

- No person shall discharge any firearm, bow and arrow, crossbow or other similar device, upon, over, or across any public roadway. Hunting is prohibited in highway or interstate medians and rights of way.
- No person shall take or attempt to take any wildlife, protected or unprotected, from an automobile, or other vehicle, except as prescribed by regulation. Hunting from boats is permitted for small game and furbearers.
- A person shall not pursue, chase or take a deer, elk or turkey (during the spring turkey season) with the aid of dogs; while on horseback; or when a deer, elk or bear is swimming. Dogs may be used to locate and flush turkeys during the fall turkey seasons only.
- It is illegal to feed bears directly or indirectly for any reason.
- No person shall take wildlife with the aid of fire, explosives, smoke or gas.
- Baiting is prohibited on all WMAs, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Daniel Boone National Forest, Jefferson National Forest, Land Between The Lakes and state parks open to hunting.
- Deer and elk hunters shall not use electronic decoys or calls.
- No person shall take a turkey when the turkey is roosting. A roost is the place where a turkey spends the night.
- A person hunting wild turkeys shall not use live turkeys as decoys.
- Wild turkey or bears shall not be hunted by the aid of bait, nor shall areas be hunted where bait is present. This includes private lands baited for deer. An area is considered baited for 30 days after all bait has been removed. A baited area is any place where feed, grains or other substances capable of luring wild turkeys or bears have been placed. An area where grains or other feeds exist as the result of legitimate agricultural practices, or as the result of growing or manipulating a crop for wildlife management is legal for hunting.

### CONCEALED CARRY DEADLY WEAPONS PERMITS

Anyone who may legally possess firearms may carry firearms while hunting, but any firearms carried concealed must be done so pursuant to KRS 527.020.

### CONVICTED FELONS

A person convicted of a felony is prohibited from possessing or hunting with a firearm in Kentucky. The prohibition on handguns applies to those convicted after Jan. 1, 1975. The prohibition on other firearms applies to those convicted after July 15, 1994. See KRS 527.040 for more details.

### SPOTLIGHTING

No person may deliberately cast the rays of a spotlight or other artificial light into any field, pasture, woodlands or forest, whether public or private, where wildlife or domestic livestock may reasonably be expected to be located. Shining artificial lights into private residences or other structures also is prohibited.

This does not apply to: headlights of vehicles engaged in a normal course of travel; lights being used in legitimate agricultural activities; anyone involved in activities legitimate to his or her business or occupation; circumstances including lawful hunting activities; or any landowner, his or her immediate family, or any paid employee while working on his or her land at that time.

No person shall take wildlife, except raccoons, opossums, frogs and fishes, using lights or other means designed to blind wildlife or make wildlife visible at night. **Exceptions also apply for coyotes. See the Furbearer Hunting & Trapping section.**

### GAME CALLING DEVICES and RESTRICTIONS

- Hand or mouth-operated calls may be used in hunting all species.
- A hunter may use electronic calls or attracting devices for furbearers during the furbearer season.
- Mechanical or electronic calls may be used to take crows only during crow season.
- Deer, turkey and elk hunters shall not use or possess electronic calling devices.

### TRANSPORTATION and HOLDING OF LIVE NATIVE WILDLIFE

A person may not take or possess live wildlife without first obtaining a permit when prescribed by regulation.

A person shall not hold live native wildlife in captivity that was not legally taken or possessed. A person shall not buy or sell, offer to buy or sell, trade, or barter native wildlife or parts thereof obtained from the wild. Wildlife acquired prior to obtaining the proper permits may be confiscated and the holder fined.

Orphaned wildlife may only be possessed by a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Persons transporting live deer or other types of cervids (members of the deer family) without proper documentation or permits, or holding live deer captive in unpermitted facilities or pens, are subject to fines and may have their animals confiscated or destroyed.

### DOG TRAINING and HUNTING WITH DOGS

Hunters may run or train dogs for rabbits, foxes, coyotes, raccoons and opossums year-round as long as game is harvested only during an open hunting season.

Some WMAs have special restrictions on using dogs, so check ahead of time. All members of the party must have a valid hunting license (unless license-exempt) to pursue rabbits or furbearers, even when training dogs without taking game.

Dogs may not be used to chase, molest or hunt deer and elk. Dogs may be used to chase or hunt bears if a legal season is open.

Dogs are permitted for locating and flushing turkeys during the fall turkey season only, and dogs on leash are permitted for tracking and locating wounded deer, elk and bear. Except during the hunting season, raccoon and opossum hunters shall not use any device to force a raccoon or opossum from trees or dens. Raccoon squallers may be used year-round.

### BOBWHITE SHOOT-TO-TRAIN SEASON

For the purpose of bird dog training on private lands only, pen-reared bobwhite quail may be harvested August 15 through May 15 (excluding bobwhite

hunting season), provided that prior to shooting a person must:

- Possess a valid hunting license, or be license-exempt
- Submit a completed application to the department
- Possess proof of the sale/ownership of the birds
- Possess a captive wildlife permit for pen-reared bobwhite if more than 100 birds are in possession, or if kept for more than 10 days

- Make sure that the training area is free of wild quail
- Band pen-reared birds before release with No. 7 leg bands or department-supplied bands.

### MIGRATORY BIRD and WATERFOWL HUNTING

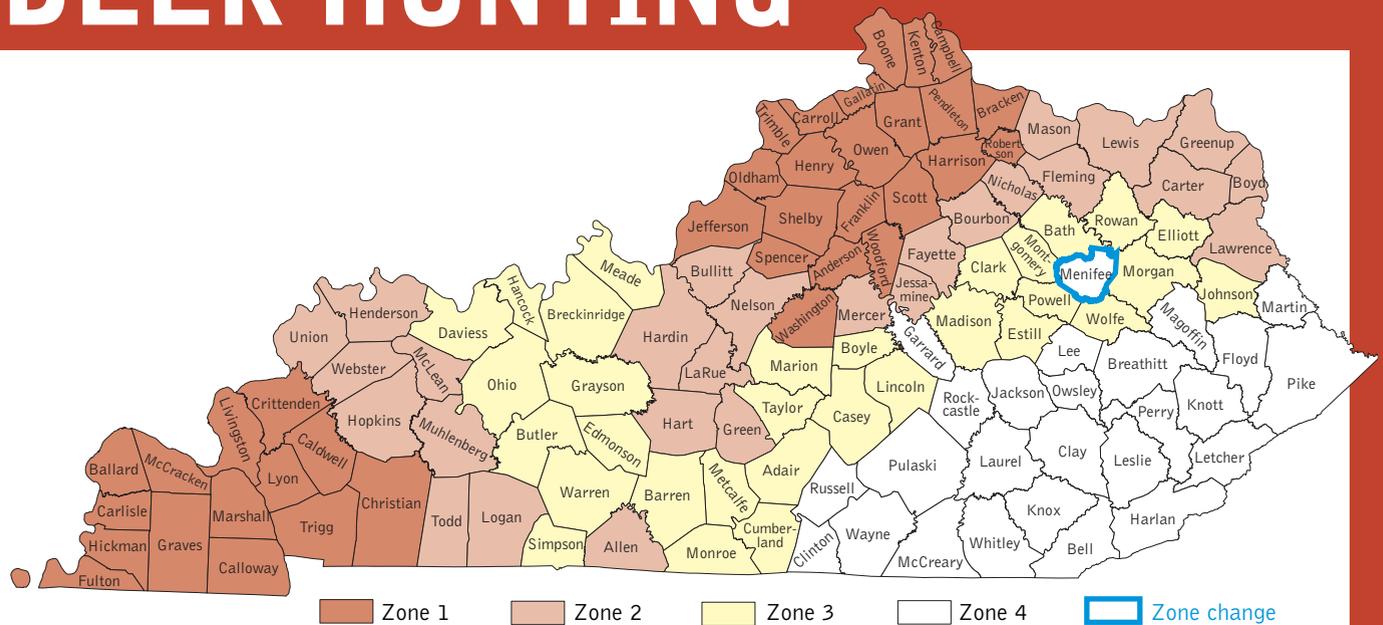
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) governs migratory bird and waterfowl hunting.

Season dates for these species are

finalized by the USFWS in August, which is too late to be included in this guide. However, the first portion of the Kentucky dove season usually opens September 1 each year and runs through late October.

Hunters should consult the early migratory bird and waterfowl hunting guides for complete details, or check the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) a few days before the season is expected to open.

# DEER HUNTING



## DEER HUNTING ZONES & SEASONS

DEER	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4
<b>Modern Gun</b>	Nov. 8-23, 2014 (either sex)		Nov. 8-17, 2014 (either sex)	Nov. 8-17, 2014 (antlered only)
<b>Archery</b>	Sept. 6, 2014 - Jan. 19, 2015 (either sex)			Sept. 6, 2014 - Jan. 19, 2015 (either sex, except antlered only Oct. 18-19, Nov. 8-17 and Dec. 13-18)
<b>Crossbow</b>	Oct. 1-19 and Nov. 8 - Dec. 31, 2014 (either sex)			Oct. 1-19 and Nov. 8 - Dec. 31, 2014 (either sex, except antlered only Oct. 18-19, Nov. 8-17 and Dec. 13-18)
<b>Muzzleloader</b>	Oct. 18-19 and Dec. 13-21, 2014 (either sex)			Oct. 18-19, Dec. 13-18, 2014 (antlered only) and Dec. 19-21 (either sex)
<b>Youth-only Firearms</b>	Oct. 11-12, 2014 (either sex)			
<b>Free Youth Weekend</b>	Dec. 27-28, 2014 (either sex)			

Note: During the Free Youth Deer Hunting Weekend, hunters ages 15 and under may hunt deer with a firearm without a license or deer permit, but must be accompanied by an adult.