



KENTUCKY SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

MARCH – JUNE 2011

TELECHECK:
1-800-245-4263

Fish & Wildlife:

1-800-858-1549 • fw.ky.gov

Office hours: Mon. - Fri., 8 AM - 4:30 PM
Dr. Jonathan Gasset, Commissioner

Report Game Violations:

1-800-25-ALERT



Photo © Tommy Kirkland

March - June 2011



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John Brunjes photo

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This is a **SUMMARY** of the laws regarding spring hunting. This guide is intended solely for informational use. It is not a reprint of any referenced statute or regulation in its entirety and should not be used as such. Questions about the information contained in this guide should be directed to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources **BEFORE** engaging in the activities referenced. Actual wording of any Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) or Kentucky Administrative Regulation (KAR) can be viewed at www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/frntpage.htm.

Kentucky Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Resources
1-800-858-1549 • fw.ky.gov
Dr. Jonathan Gassett, Commissioner
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Frankfort, KY 40601

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OTHER GUIDES AVAILABLE

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife also produces regulation guides for fall hunting and trapping, waterfowl and other migratory bird hunting, and fishing and boating. Call 1-800-858-1549 weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Copies of these regulation guides are also available where hunting licenses are sold, and are online at fw.ky.gov.



Commonwealth of Kentucky Steven L. Beshear, Governor

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Kentucky Fish and Wildlife is funded

through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and boat registration fees. It receives no general fund state tax dollars. The Department manages, regulates, enforces and promotes responsible use of all fish and wildlife species, their habitats, public wildlife areas and waterways for the benefit of those resources and for public enjoyment. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife is an agency of the Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

It's a new experience for some Kentuckians – spring squirrel hunting.

But I believe if you try it, you'll enjoy it. The weather is mild, and squirrels are active. It's a good time to introduce a friend, family member or youngster to the fun of squirrel hunting.

What started as an experiment on four state wildlife management areas in 1994, went statewide in 1999.

This year spring squirrel season has been lengthened by 14 days. It opens earlier, on May 21, and runs through June 17. The daily bag limit is the same as in the fall – six squirrels.

Hunting squirrels in the spring makes biological sense. Our season is timed to coincide with the spike in squirrel numbers after the year's first of two nesting periods – a time when hunting won't severely impact populations.

Good squirrel hunting is available in all 120 Kentucky counties. The state has



Nathan Saugster photo

more than 70,000 squirrel hunters, and wildlife cooperator surveys tell us that our most avid squirrel hunters average more than 12 trips afield annually.

In early summer, squirrels seek out the cooler temperatures found in stream drainages, and feed on soft mast, such as the seeds of maple, ash, elm, mulberry, wild cherry, hackberry and box elder trees. They consume some green vegetation (grasses), and occasionally

mushrooms and blackberries. Insects, including grasshoppers, katydids and locusts, are also a part of their diet.

Float trips combining squirrel hunting and stream fishing are an excellent way to enjoy late spring, but be sure to ask the landowner permission to access streams from their property.

As part of our commitment to small game, we are happy to offer hunters more opportunity to pursue our most stable and abundant small game species.

— Dr. Jonathan Gassett

BASIC RULES FOR HUNTING

1. You can NOT hunt or retrieve game on someone else's land without permission. midnight. See pages 8-10 for details.
2. Unless you are license exempt, you must buy and carry afield the right hunting license and permits for the kind of hunting you do. 5. All hunters born on or after January 1, 1975 must pass a hunter education course before hunting on any land besides land they own, unless they have a valid temporary hunter education exemption permit or are less than 12 years old. See pages 11-12 for other youth hunter requirements.
3. You can only hunt when the season is open for that species. Your hunting equipment must be legal. You can take no more game than the daily or season bag limits allow.
4. Before you move a harvested turkey, you must record it on a hunter harvest log. You must also telecheck the turkey by

All hunters should read the General Information section of this guide, in addition to the section for the game they are hunting, before going afield. Public land hunters should also read the Public Land Hunting section.

**HUNTING ON PRIVATE LAND IS A PRIVILEGE.
ALWAYS GET PERMISSION AND THANK THE LANDOWNER.**



fw.ky.gov

✦ KENTUCKY DEPT. OF FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES ✦

WHO WE ARE

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is an agency of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet. Our nine-member commission is nominated by Kentucky sportsmen and sportswomen and appointed by the governor. This commission appoints the department's commissioner.

We employ about 500 people full-time, including conservation officers, wildlife and fisheries biologists, conservation educators, and information technology, public relations, customer service and administrative professionals.

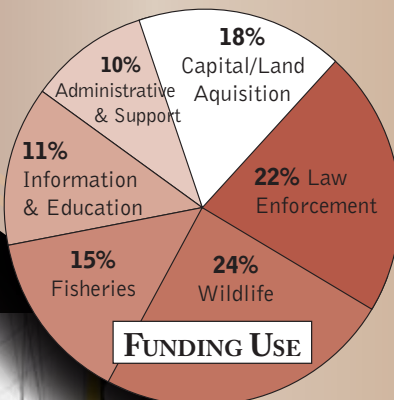
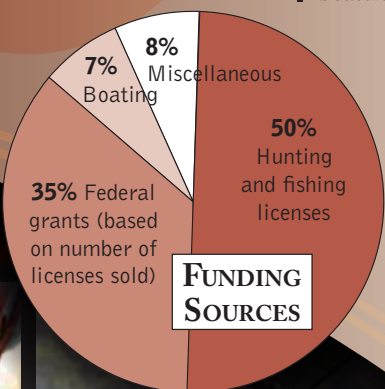
Our headquarters is located in Frankfort, but we work with landowners, hunters, anglers, boaters and wildlife enthusiasts statewide.

WHAT WE DO

We conserve and enhance fish and wildlife resources and provide opportunity for hunting, fishing, trapping, boating and other wildlife-related activities.

Every year, we:

- Enforce hunting, fishing and boating laws across Kentucky for resource protection and public safety.
- Manage about 1 million acres of public land and water for the benefit of all fish and wildlife species.
- Stock more than 4 million fish in public waters.
- Build and maintain public boat ramps, shooting ranges and bank fishing access areas, and acquire new public land and maintain facilities (capital construction).
- Assist about 2,000 private landowners with fish and wildlife habitat improvement.
- Inform and educate more than 400,000 kids and adults through education and outreach programs.



HOW YOU HELP

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife receives no money from the state's General Fund.

You provide our agency's funding every time you:

- Buy a hunting or fishing license
- Buy a firearm, ammunition, or fishing or archery equipment
- Pay your boat registration fee
- Buy fuel for your boat

