

FALL TURKEY HUNTING

SEASON DATES and RESTRICTIONS

FALL TURKEY	Shotgun	Archery	Crossbow
	Oct. 26 - Nov. 1 and Dec. 7-13, 2019	Sept. 7, 2019 - Jan. 20, 2020	Oct. 1-20 and Nov. 9 - Dec. 31, 2019



ATTENTION, TURKEY HUNTERS!

You can help the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' efforts to manage the wild turkey resource by participating in the following hunter surveys:

Bowhunter Survey

Record turkeys and other species observed while archery hunting.

Fall Post-Season Survey

After the October and December shotgun seasons, answer questions about your fall hunting experiences.

Visit the department's website at fw.ky.gov for more details about these surveys, which will help Kentucky Fish and Wildlife better track trends in turkey populations. Enter "Fall Turkey Hunting" in the search box on the department's homepage.

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 licenses 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 younger than 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.

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.

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 the "Recording, Checking, Tagging and Transporting" guidelines in the "General Information" section of this guide.

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 (food plot) for wildlife management purposes is legal for turkey hunting.

FURBEARER HUNTING and TRAPPING

SEASON DATES and RESTRICTIONS

FURBEARERS	Hunting	Trapping
Raccoon & Opossum	Oct. 1, 2019 - Feb. 29, 2020, day* or night (exceptions apply)	One-half hour before sunrise on Nov. 11, 2019 - Feb. 29, 2020
Coyote	Year-round, day or night (exceptions apply)	
Bobcat	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 23, 2019 - Feb. 29, 2020	
River Otter, Muskrat, Mink, Beaver, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Weasel & Striped Skunk	One-half hour before sunrise Nov. 11, 2019 - Feb. 29, 2020	
Free Youth Hunting & Trapping Week	Dec. 28, 2019 - Jan. 3, 2020	

FURBEARER BAG LIMITS

Raccoon & Opossum	No limit
Coyote	No limit
Bobcat	5; no more than 3 of which shall be taken with a gun
River Otter	10; only 6 of which can be taken from Otter Zone 2
Muskrat, Mink, Beaver, Red Fox, Gray Fox, Weasel & Striped Skunk	No limit

*See exception in Special Hunting Restrictions

SPECIAL HUNTING RESTRICTIONS

(Daylight hours are defined as 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.)

During modern gun deer season, raccoon and opossum hunters may not hunt during daylight hours. Night hunting on Friday, Nov. 8, 2019 shall conclude by 30 minutes before sunrise on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019, which is when shooting hours open for modern gun deer season.

A hunter shall not use a light from a boat to take raccoon or opossum.

A person shall not use the following while chasing raccoon or opossum from noon on March 1 through September 30: a firearm, a slingshot, tree climber or any device to kill, injure, or force a raccoon or opossum from a tree or den.

Coyotes may be hunted year-round, day or night, with no bag limit. However, they can be hunted using lights or night vision equipment after daylight hours from Feb. 1 – May 31 only. Lights or other means to

RIVER OTTER ZONES

Zone 1: shaded counties
Zone 2: all other counties

