



# KENTUCKY SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

Regulations Summary • MARCH – JUNE 2025



Take Someone Hunting!

**TELECHECK:**  
**1-800-245-4263**

**Fish & Wildlife:**

1-800-858-1549 • [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov)  
Office hours: Monday - Friday  
8 AM - 4:30 PM ET

**Report Game Violations:**

1-800-25-ALERT

Photo submitted

**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

*Serving People, Conserving Fish & Wildlife*





## Commonwealth of Kentucky

Andy Beshear, Governor

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Fish, wildlife and boating regulations are recommended by the Commission (board) and approved by the Kentucky legislature. Commission members are experienced and active anglers and hunters, who serve 4-year terms after being publicly nominated by peers in their geographic districts, appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the Kentucky Senate.

Learn more or contact your district Commission member at [fw.ky.gov/More/Pages/Commission.aspx](http://fw.ky.gov/More/Pages/Commission.aspx)

### KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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### SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

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**ABOUT THE COVER:** Mackynzie Cavanah took this impressive turkey with a 12-inch beard while hunting with stepdad Cory Devine in Muhlenberg County during the 2024 spring season. This seasoned hunter has taken turkeys for three consecutive years, beginning when she was just 7 years old.

**Take Someone Hunting.** Please invite family or friends afield. Mentor them to impart the skills and experience needed to hunt on their own. Then repeat with other new participants. The future of hunting depends on it!

# NEW THIS YEAR

Changes from last season are printed in bright blue throughout this guide to assist you in noticing those changes.

### SQUIRREL

Statewide spring squirrel season ends on the third Sunday in June.

### PUBLIC LANDS

Pocahontas WMA (Harlan, Pike, Martin, Floyd, Johnson counties) open under statewide spring hunting regulations.

University of the Cumberlands WMA (Whitley, McCreary counties) open under statewide spring hunting regulations. Archery/crossbow only for

coyotes. Night hunting prohibited.

Little Sextons Creek WMA (Jackson, Clay counties) open to statewide spring hunting regulations.

Tract 1 of West Kentucky WMA (McCracken County) closed. Note: Property traded for Choate Tract.

Choate Tract, Obion Creek WMA (Fulton County) open to statewide spring hunting regulations.

Ashland WMA (Lee County) permanently closed due to termination of access agreement.

C.F. Ataya WMA renamed Cumberland Forest WMA (Bell, Knox and Leslie counties).

## APPLY FOR THE ELK HUNT DRAWING

Kentucky offers elk hunting permits to residents and nonresidents through an impartial drawing system. Permits include firearms or archery/crossbow hunts for a bull or a cow elk. Applications for the 2025 season are open through midnight April 30, 2025. Applications for the 2026 season will be taken from Aug. 1, 2025 through midnight April 30, 2026.

Elk hunt applications can be purchased via Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's website at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) or wherever Kentucky Fish and Wildlife licenses are sold. The cost is \$10 per application. Applicants may apply for more than one hunt type. No more than 10 percent of the total permits may be issued to nonresidents.

Drawn hunters must purchase their 2025 elk permit by midnight June 15, 2025. Any permits not purchased by that date will be reassigned to the new Loyalty Redraw program. The department will then hold a secondary drawing for these unsold permits through the Loyalty Redraw program.

Residents who applied unsuccessfully for the current season – and have applied for the most years without being drawn for an elk permit – will automatically be entered into the Loyalty Redraw. The redraw

is not open to nonresidents. Those drawn during the redraw must buy their permit by midnight June 30. The redraw includes all permit types.

While hunters may submit one application for each of the three permit types, they can only be drawn for one permit. Hunters drawn for an elk quota hunt will be blocked from re-applying for three years.

Youths under 16 may apply for a youth-only quota hunt in addition to the other hunts. A youth can only be drawn for one permit. Hunters may only receive one youth-only permit in a lifetime.

A random computer drawing is held in May to select hunters. Applicants can check [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) to see if they were drawn.

By applying for the Kentucky elk drawing, you are giving Kentucky Fish and Wildlife permission to release your name and county of residence if you are selected. This is part of the department's ongoing transparency policy concerning the elk drawing procedure. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife uses elk drawing application information solely for business purposes and will not release or disclose your address or telephone number.

Detailed information about elk hunting is available online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

March - June 2025



# KENTUCKY SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

Devon Stivers photo

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### ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This is a summary of hunting laws, intended solely for informational use. It is not a reprint of any referenced Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) or Kentucky Administrative Regulation (KAR) in its entirety and should not be used as such. The exact wording of Kentucky's hunting and trapping laws can be viewed online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). Click on "Regulations (KAR) on Fish, Wildlife & Boating" under "Important Info."

### OTHER GUIDES AVAILABLE

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife also produces regulation guides for fishing and boating and fall hunting and trapping at other times during the year. The fall Hunting and Trapping Guide includes waterfowl and other migratory bird hunting (dove, wood duck, teal, woodcock, snipe and crow).

# 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 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 or permit, or a license authorization number.

Persons who cannot show they are licensed properly while hunting risk being issued a citation. Each hunter must have his or her own license or permit unless exempt. Paper licenses and permits

#### *License expiration*

Annual license/permit authorization numbers are valid from the date of purchase through the last day in February. New licenses are required annually March 1. A temporary fishing license is valid for the period shown on the license. KRS 150.175

must be signed and the hunter information portion (signature, address, eye and hair color, sex, height and weight) completed before going afield.

### LICENSE-EXEMPT HUNTERS

In some cases, a resident hunter may not be required to buy a hunting license or game permits.

Exemptions include:

- The bona fide resident owners of farmlands, their spouses and dependent children may hunt on their property without a license. Tenants, their spouses and dependent children may hunt without a license on farmlands where they live and work. (Check online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) for current information on license exemptions.)
- Resident and nonresident children younger than 12 are not required to purchase licenses and permits, except the elk hunt drawing application
- 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

**Q:** Does a nonresident who owns land in Kentucky have to buy nonresident licenses and permits?

**A:** Yes. All nonresidents must purchase nonresident licenses and permits.



Scan to purchase licenses and permits.

## HOW TO BUY LICENSES and PERMITS

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

When buying a license or 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, weekdays from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Eastern time).

### ONLINE

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

Hunters purchasing licenses or permits online must pay with a Visa, Mas-

tercard, American Express or Discover card, or a Kentucky Fish and Wildlife gift certificate. Gift certificates are sold 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

#### *Lose your license?*

Replacements can be printed at no cost from [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

of the license or permit and a picture ID must be carried in the field while hunting.

### IN PERSON

Licenses and permits can be purchased at various locations throughout the state. A list of license agents can be viewed online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

### BY PHONE

Licenses and permits are not currently available by phone. Please go online to the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) for updates.

## 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, li-

censing and hunter education requirements. Licenses and permits for the species below are not required for children younger than 12.

See page 5 for Senior/Disabled Sportsman's License eligibility.

KENTUCKY RESIDENTS	Ages 12-15	Ages 16-64	Ages 65 and older OR Disabled
<b>Deer</b>	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Deer Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Statewide Deer Permit†	Senior/Disabled or Senior Lifetime Sportsman's License
<b>Fall Turkey</b>	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Fall Turkey Permit†	Senior/Disabled or Senior Lifetime Sportsman's License
<b>Spring Turkey</b>	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Spring Turkey Permit†	Senior/Disabled or Senior Lifetime Sportsman's License
<b>Small Game &amp; Furbearer</b>	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License	Senior/Disabled or Senior Lifetime Sportsman's License
	Bobcat permit required for bobcat hunters		
<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, rails, gallinules, sandhill cranes)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit†	Senior/Disabled or Senior Lifetime Sportsman's License
<b>Waterfowl</b> (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit† + Federal Duck Stamp	Senior/Disabled or Senior Lifetime Sportsman's License + Federal Duck Stamp

\*Included in Youth Sportsman's License    †Included in Resident Sportsman's License  
See page 4 for what's included in Sportsman's Licenses.

NONRESIDENTS (must buy nonresident licenses/permits)	Ages 12-15	Ages 16 and older
<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 7-Day Hunting License
	Bobcat permit required for bobcat hunters	
<b>Trapping</b>	Annual Trapping License	Annual Trapping License
<b>Migratory Birds</b> (dove, snipe, woodcock, rails, gallinules, sandhill cranes)	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit
<b>Waterfowl</b> (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit + Federal Duck Stamp

### *Other laws still apply!*

All hunters, including those who are license-exempt or eligible to purchase reduced-price licenses, must abide by all other regulations outlined in this guide.

**Q:** Can more than one youth turkey permit be purchased?

**A:** Yes. Multiple youth turkey permits may be purchased, but season limits must be followed.



	LICENSE / PERMIT	Resident fee	Nonresident fee
LICENSES	<b>Annual Fishing</b>	\$23	\$55
	<b>Joint Married Couple Annual Fishing</b>	\$42	Not available
	<b>1-Day Fishing</b>	\$7	\$15
	<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	\$35
	<b>Trout Permit</b>	\$10	
	<b>Annual Hunting</b>	\$27	\$160
	<b>1-Day Hunting</b> (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	\$7	\$25
	<b>7-Day Hunting</b> (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	Not available	\$65
	<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 Trapping</b> (ages 12-15)	\$5	Not available
COMBOS	<b>Annual Combination Hunting/Fishing License</b>	\$42	Not available
	<b>Sportsman's License*</b> (Includes combination hunting/fishing license, statewide deer permit, spring and fall turkey permits, Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit and trout permit.)	\$95	Not available
	<b>Senior/Disabled Sportsman's License*</b> (Includes same licenses and permits as standard sportsman's license. For residents age 65 or older, OR with disability license authorization.)	\$12	Not available
	<b>Senior Lifetime Sportsman's License*</b> (Must maintain Kentucky residency; includes same licenses and permits as standard sportsman's license. For residents age 65 or older.)	\$180	Not available
	<b>Youth</b> (ages 12-15) <b>Sportsman's License*</b> (Includes hunting/fishing license, statewide deer permit, spring and fall turkey permits and Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit.)	\$30	Not available
DEER	<b>Statewide Deer Permit</b> (four deer)	\$35	\$235
	<b>Youth</b> (ages 12-15) <b>Deer Permit</b> (four deer)	\$10	\$15
	<b>Additional Deer Permit</b> (two deer)	\$15	
BIRDS	<b>Spring Turkey Permit</b> (statewide) (two turkeys)	\$30	\$110
	<b>Youth</b> (ages 12-15) <b>Turkey Permit</b> (one turkey, spring or fall)	\$10	\$15
	<b>Fall Turkey Permit</b> (statewide)(two turkeys)	\$30	\$110
	<b>Kentucky 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> )	\$25	
	<b>Pheasant Quota Hunt Permit</b> (if drawn)	\$25	
	<b>Sandhill Crane Permit</b> (quota hunt, apply in Sept. at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> )	\$3	\$3
	<b>Elk Hunt Drawing Application</b> (deadline April 30)	\$10	
ELK	<b>Youth Elk Drawing Application</b> (ages 15 and under)	\$10	
	<b>Quota Bull Elk Firearm Permit</b> (if drawn)	\$100	\$550
	<b>Quota Cow Elk Firearm Permit</b> (if drawn)	\$60	\$400
	<b>Quota</b> (either sex) <b>Archery/Crossbow Permit</b> (if drawn)	\$100	\$550
	<b>Quota Youth</b> (ages 12-15) <b>Elk Permit</b> (if drawn; youth drawn for other permits pay full cost)	\$30	\$200
	<b>Out-of-Zone Elk Permit</b>	\$30	\$400
BEAR	<b>Bear Permit</b>	\$30	\$250
	<b>Youth Bear Permit</b> (ages 12-15)	\$10	\$100
	<b>Bear Chase Permit</b>	\$30	\$50
	<b>Youth Bear Chase Permit</b> (ages 12-15)	\$10	\$15
	<b>Combination Bear Permit</b> (includes Bear Permit and Bear Chase Permit)	\$50	Not available
AREAS	<b>Ballard WMA 1-Day Waterfowl Permit</b>	\$15	
	<b>Peabody WMA User Permit</b>	\$15	
	<b>Land Between The Lakes (LBL) Hunter Use Permit</b>	\$25	
	<b>Land Between The Lakes (LBL) Hunt/Backcountry Camp</b>	\$50	
	<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>Bobcat Permit</b> (required for hunters)	Free	
	<b>Temporary Hunter Education Exemption Permit</b> (Hunter Apprentice Opportunity; available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	Free	

\*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 and the Lifetime Sportsman's License. A 1-day or 7-day hunting or fishing license is valid only for the period shown on license. Resident and nonresident youths under the age of 12 are not required to purchase licenses or permits (except the elk hunt drawing application).

## LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

### 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 li-

cence, full-time students enrolled in a Kentucky 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.

### RESIDENT SENIOR OR DISABLED SPORTSMAN'S LICENSES

Kentucky resident seniors (ages 65 and older) and Kentucky residents with qualified disabilities may purchase discounted "sportsman's" type licenses which include: annual fishing and hunting licenses, and permits for deer, turkey, migratory bird/waterfowl and trout. Disabled persons must first receive a disability license authorization (good for three years) from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife to buy the disability license. Disability eligibility includes:

- Kentucky residents certified totally and permanently disabled by the federal Social Security Administration, a state workers' compensation board, the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System or the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board.
- Kentucky resident employees of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management declared totally and permanently disabled by a recognized authority.
- Kentucky resident veterans at least 50 percent disabled as the result of a service-connected disability.

Persons with disabilities listed above must first obtain disability authorization from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

#### You must produce proof of disability through one of the following agencies to obtain a disability authorization:

- **Federal Social Security Administration:** Any documentation from Social Security certifying you are disabled and receiving benefits is acceptable. Forms should not be more than 6 months old. A Benefit

Verification Letter is preferred. To get a Benefit Verification Letter, contact your local Social Security office, call 1-800-772-1213 or go online to [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount). All benefit letters, whether created online or obtained from a local office, must indicate disability qualification and include name, address, date of birth, last 4 digits of your social security number and benefit amount. **New applicants** are required to contact Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-858-1549 during normal business hours to process an application.

- **Veterans Affairs:** Contact your local VA office and request a letter that verifies you are at least 50 percent disabled as a result of a service-connected disability. The letter should also have your current address and your Social Security number.
- **State Workers' Compensation Board:** Request an application from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife and send the completed form to the state Workers' Compensation Board.

#### Q: How long is disability authorization valid?

A: Authorization is valid for three years (check expiration date). Customers must renew the authorization when it expires. Those with disability authorization through Veterans Affairs, U.S. Railroad Retirement Board or U.S. Office of Personnel Management may call 1-800-310-1873 to update authorization.

- **U.S. Railroad Retirement Board:** Contact the Board and request a letter stating you are permanently and totally disabled and show current address.
- **Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System:** Contact the Teachers' Retirement System and request written documentation stating you are on disability retirement and show a current address.
- **U.S. Office of Personnel Management:** Contact the federal Office of Personnel Management and obtain certification of employment, obtain certification of being 100 percent disabled from a recognized authority, and show a current address.

#### To send disability paperwork to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife:

- Use the "MyProfile" link at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).
- By mail: KDFWR Disability License, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601
- By fax: (502) 564-9845

License agents cannot sell a disability license using an expired authorization. Once the department approves a customer's disability authorization (including renewals), the license system will automatically allow the customer to purchase a Disabled Sportsman's License. Disability authorization cards are no longer issued. (Disability authorization is not a license.)

The Senior or Disabled Sportsman's License is valid through the end of February each year. To print copies of your disability authorization or licenses/permits anytime, access your "MyProfile" account at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

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.

### YOUTH LICENSING

Resident and nonresident hunters younger than 12 are not required to purchase licenses and permits, except for elk hunt drawing applications.

Resident and nonresident hunters ages 12-15 are eligible to purchase discounted youth licenses and permits, which are valid for the entire license year if they are purchased before the youth is 16.

Persons 15 years of age and younger

who hunt turkey, elk, deer or bear with a firearm must always be accompanied by an adult.

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

The annual youth hunting license authorizes the holder to hunt all small game species, furbearers and migratory bird species.

The youth turkey permit allows the hunter to harvest one legal turkey. The youth turkey permit may be used during any turkey season. The resident-only youth sportsman's license includes the annual youth hunting license, youth deer permit and two (2) youth turkey permits.

### *Sportsman's License - Save \$67*

Available to Kentucky residents only, the sportsman's license includes a combination hunting and fishing license, spring and fall turkey permits, deer permit, Kentucky 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)) also is required for waterfowl hunting.

## RECORDING, CHECKING and TAGGING

### HARVEST LOG

All successful turkey hunters, including those who are license exempt, must fill out a harvest log as soon as the animal is harvested and prior to moving the carcass.

Information that must be written on the harvest log includes the species and sex of animal taken, date and county where taken.

A telecheck confirmation number must be obtained and recorded on the harvest log.

A harvest log is included with any paper license or permit purchased from a license agent. A printable harvest log is accessible by clicking the "Hunt" tab on Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's online homepage and choosing "Hunting Home" from the dropdown menu.

License-exempt hunters, children

younger than 12 years old, 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 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 turkeys harvested must be telechecked through the toll-free, automated check-in system. Hunters may also check in harvested turkeys online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

Entering false information is unlawful. All harvested turkeys must be telechecked by midnight on the day the animal is recovered and prior to processing the carcass.

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. County codes are listed on the "Telecheck Info" page online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). All youth hunters must use their Social Security number when telechecking an animal.

Callers must also indicate the animal's species and sex. Next, callers will be asked about the type of equipment they used to harvest the animal, whether the land was private or public, and the type of license they used.

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 turkey was legally reported. This number must be recorded on the hunter's log and retained throughout the season.

### CARCASS TAG FOR TRANSFER

A hunter shall attach a handmade tag to the carcass of any harvested turkey if transferring possession of the harvested animal to another person. The carcass tag must include the hunter's name, phone number and telecheck confirmation number.

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

A harvested turkey in a hunter's possession is assumed to be theirs, unless the carcass tag states otherwise.

**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.



# 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 verbal 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 proof of valid hunter education certification. Hunters may use hunting licenses or electronic documentation with proof of identity. Persons not required to have licenses or permits are exempt from hunter education certification. Hunter education documents issued by other states are valid in Kentucky.

Hunter education courses are available online and held throughout the state. Children must be at least 9 years old to take the hunter education test. 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 able to take immediate control of the bow or firearm at all times while hunting. One adult cannot accompany more than two hunters younger than 12 years old at the same time.

Hunters can add or view their hunter education certification through the MyProfile online portal at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). Printed licenses will include proof of certification.

## APPRENTICE HUNTING OPPORTUNITY

Persons new to hunting who have not taken the hunter education course may obtain a one-time temporary hunter education exemption permit online for FREE 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 must be carried while hunting and 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 exemption permit holder 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.

## 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 or by calling the department. 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.

## CONCEALED CARRY DEADLY WEAPONS PERMITS

Anyone who may legally possess firearms may carry any legal firearms while hunting, but only legal methods may be used to take game.

## HUNTING WITH A SUPPRESSOR

Hunters with a federal permit for a firearms suppressor may use it to hunt legal game animals, including coyotes and squirrels. Hunting license required.

## CONVICTED FELONS

A person convicted of a felony is prohibited from possessing or hunting with a firearm in Kentucky. Breech and muzzle-loading rifles, shotguns and handguns are all considered firearms. 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, or contact your County Attorney.

## REPORT GAME LAW VIOLATIONS

Anyone may report wildlife law violators anonymously by calling 1-800-25-ALERT (1-800-252-5378).

# Kentucky AFIELD

Subscribe online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov)

Kentucky Afield magazine, the official publication of the Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources, offers you practical tips for a better day in the woods or on the water. The bonus calendar issue gives you season dates and provides monthly tips about fishing and the natural world. Get all this for just \$10 a year, or \$18 for two years!



# WILD TURKEY HUNTING

## SPRING HUNTING SEASONS

SPECIES	Youth-Only	General Season
Wild Turkey	April 5-6, 2025	April 12 – May 4, 2025

Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. Hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours.

### NO FEEDING OF WILDLIFE

From March 1 through July 31, it is illegal to feed wildlife with grain, seed, manufactured animal feed, or food product outside the curtilage of the home (the area immediately surrounding the home). Salt, mineral blocks and other edible attractants may not be used in the CWD Deer Surveillance Zone counties (Ballard, **Breckinridge**, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, **Hardin**, Hickman, Marshall, McCracken and **Meade** counties). Bird feeders in yards, planted food plots and normal agricultural practices are allowed.

### NO PRE-SEASON CALLING

A person shall not mimic the sound of a turkey in an area open to

### LEGAL SPRING 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.

turkey hunting and where turkeys are reasonably expected to be present from March 1 until the opening of the youth-only turkey season, and from the close of the youth-only turkey season until the opening of the statewide turkey season. However, locating turkeys with an owl, crow, coyote or woodpecker call is permitted when scouting.

### SPRING SEASON LIMITS

A legal turkey is defined as a wild turkey that is male or has a visible beard. During the spring season, a hunter may only harvest one legal turkey per WMA.

### PROHIBITED SPRING TURKEY HUNTING METHODS

A person hunting wild turkeys shall not:

- Hunt over bait. An area is considered baited until 30 days after the bait has been removed. However, a person may hunt wild turkeys on an area where grain, feed or other substance exists as the result of a bona fide agricultural practice or manipulation of a crop (food plot) for wildlife management purposes.
- Use a dog during the spring season.
- Hunt from a boat, or from any type of vehicle unless prescribed by regulation (see "Hunting Method Exemptions" in the "General Information" section of this guide).
- Use or possess an electronic or digital calling device.
- Harvest a roosting turkey.
- Use live decoys.

No more than one (1) bird may be taken per day. No more than two (2) legal turkeys may be taken per spring season. Any combination of male turkeys, or turkeys with visible beards, may be included in this two-bird season limit. Turkeys taken by youths during the youth-only season count toward their spring turkey season limit.

### HUNTER REQUIREMENTS

**Adult hunters:** Unless exempt, all spring 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 spring turkey permit.

Short-term (1- or 7-day) hunting licenses are not valid for turkey hunting. The spring turkey permit is valid for the general spring season and allows a hunter to harvest up to the spring season limit of legal turkeys. Persons ages 16 and older may not hunt turkeys during the youth-only season.

**Youth hunters:** Children ages 15 and younger may hunt turkeys during the youth-only hunting weekend and the general spring season.

Youths younger than 12 are exempt from license and turkey permit requirements. Unless exempt, all spring turkey hunters ages 12-15 must carry with them in the field proof of purchase of a valid Kentucky hunting license and a valid spring turkey permit. Youths ages 12-15 are eligible to purchase a youth turkey permit, which is valid for the harvest of one legal turkey during the fall or spring seasons. The resident-only youth sportsman's license includes two (2) youth turkey permits. Youth hunters must abide by season limits and harvest restrictions.

Youth hunting licenses and permits are valid for the entire license year if they are purchased before the youth's 16th birthday. Youths who hunt turkeys with a firearm must be accompanied by an adult who shall remain in a position to take immediate control of the firearm at all times.

### HARVEST RECORDING

All harvested turkeys must be

logged and telechecked. Hunters who harvest a turkey with a green or silver metal leg band can report band information to the department in addition to completing a regular telecheck. Visit online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) and search "Turkey Band" to learn more.

Consult the "General Information" section of this guide for complete information about harvest logs, telecheck and carcass tags.

**CALLER/ASSISTANT**

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.

**HUNTER ORANGE**

Hunters are not required to wear hunter orange clothing during the spring turkey seasons. However, wearing an article of hunter orange clothing while carrying a harvested turkey is a simple and effective way to help prevent hunting accidents that can occur when a hunter is mistaken for game.

**POSSESSION / RELEASE OF LIVE WILD TURKEYS and EGGS**

Due to the potential for spread of disease 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. It is also illegal to possess or attempt to hatch wild turkey eggs. It is further recommended that turkeys not be artificially fed during any time of the year. Providing standing corn, wheat or clover patches is a much better alternative.

**GOBBLER / HEN IDENTIFICATION**

**GOBBLER**

The gobbler is most easily recognized by the beard growing from its chest, and the pronounced spurs, sometimes as long as two inches, found on the back of its legs. A gobbler appears larger, darker, shinier and is more colorful than a hen, especially on its head, which can appear alternately red, white and blue. The gobbler often "puffs up" and struts during spring to attract hens for breeding.

**HEN**

The hen's overall look is for concealment and protection. It is smaller and more drab than the colorful gobbler, so it can sit on its nest well camouflaged. Likewise, a hen's head has more feathers to add to its camouflaged appearance.

Labels for Gobbler: WHITE CROWN, MINOR CARUNCLES, VARIOUS REDS, WHITES & BLUES, DARK PLUMAGE APPEARS TO BE BLACK, STRUTTING GOBBLER, BEARD, SNOOD, DEWLAP, MAJOR CARUNCLES, FEATHERED HEAD, GRAY-BLUE COLOR, GRAY-BROWN PLUMAGE.

Labels for Hen: SNOOD, DEWLAP, CARUNCLES.

Source: National Wild Turkey Federation ([www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org)).

**TURKEY HUNTING SAFETY TIPS**

- Don't stalk a turkey. The chances of getting close enough for a shot are slim, and odds of becoming involved in an accident increase.
- Use extreme caution when tail fanning or reaping for gobblers. Hunters run the risk of being mistaken for a live turkey while engaging in this type of hunting technique.
- Eliminate the colors red, white and blue from your turkey hunting outfit. Red or white are the colors hunters are looking for when differentiating a gobbler's head from the hen's grayish-blue head.
- Don't move, wave or make turkey sounds to alert another hunter to your presence. Yell in a loud voice, "Hey, I'm here," and remain hidden.
- Be particularly careful when using a gobbler call. The sound and motion may attract other hunters, and could draw fire.
- When selecting your calling position, sit at the base of a large tree, if one is available, to protect your torso and head. Position yourself so you can see 180 degrees in front of you.
- Pattern your shotgun before the season. In season, never shoot at a sound or movement. Be certain of your target.
- Assume that every sound you hear is made by another hunter.
- When hunting with a turkey decoy, place the decoy about 20 yards from your calling position. To be safe, you need a clear line of sight beyond the decoy of at least 80 yards. This will enable you to see any approaching hunter and keep you at a safe distance if another hunter were to shoot at your decoy.
- Keep your shotgun unloaded when not in the field, and open the action or unload your shotgun when climbing a steep hill, stepping over low fence wire, or crossing a creek.



# SQUIRREL HUNTING

## SPRING HUNTING SEASON

SPECIES	Spring Season	Season Limit
Squirrel	May 17 – June 15, 2025	Daily limit is six squirrels; possession limit is 12

Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. Hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours.

### LEGAL SPRING SQUIRREL HUNTING EQUIPMENT

- 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 No. 2.
- Muzzle-loading rifles.
- Archery or crossbow equipment.
- Pellets fired from .177, .20, .22 or .25 caliber air guns.
- Slingshots with manufactured hunting ammunition.
- Dogs may be used to aid in the hunt.

### PROHIBITED METHODS OF TAKING SQUIRRELS

- Trapping squirrels during the spring season, or hunting squirrels at any time with blowguns is prohibited.

# COYOTES and OTHER WILDLIFE

## HUNTING SEASONS

### COYOTES

Coyotes may be hunted year-round on public and private land, day or night, with no limit. A hunting license is required. Hunters may only use artificial light or other means designed to make wildlife visible at night from Dec. 1 – March 31, and May 16 – June 30. Artificial light or other means designed to make wildlife visible at night cannot be connected to or cast from a mechanized vehicle.

Coyote hunters with valid Mobility-Impaired Access Permits or Hunting Methods Exemption Vehicle Permits may use a stationary vehicle as a hunting platform and may use lights or other means designed to make wildlife visible at night so long as the means used are

SPECIES	Seasons
Coyote	Year-round, day or night (exceptions apply)
Groundhog	Year-round
Bullfrog	Noon, May 16 – Midnight, Oct. 31, 2025
Turtles*	Year-round, day or night

\* Alligator snapping turtles may not be harvested.

not connected to the vehicle.

On public lands (if open to night-time coyote hunting) after daylight hours, a person shall not use any equipment other than a bow, crossbow, or shotgun loaded with a multiple projectile shell.

On private land after daylight hours, coyote hunters may only use a bow, crossbow or shotgun with multiple projectile shells. However, from Dec. 1 – March 31, and May 16 – June 30, hunters on private land at night may also use any breech-loading rifle or pistol of any caliber, a shotgun firing a single projectile or a muzzleloader of .54-caliber or less.

Hunting for coyote and other furbearers is prohibited on Cedar Creek Lake and Miller-Welch Central Kentucky WMAs.

Night hunting shall not be allowed in a county or area where a deer or elk firearm or muzzleloader season is open.

Night hunting for coyotes is prohibited on Kentucky lands managed by Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Daniel Boone National Forest, George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area, Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge and

## LEGAL METHODS AND EQUIPMENT FOR HUNTING COYOTES DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS ONLY

- Centerfire or rimfire gun
- Muzzle-loading rifle or handgun
- 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). There is no limit on shot size. Shotguns must be shoulder fired.
- Shot shells with a single projectile (slugs)
- Bow and arrow or crossbow
- Air guns with pellets at least .22 caliber in size

Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, including Beaver Creek, Cane Creek, Mill Creek, Pioneer Weapons and Redbird wildlife management areas (WMAs).

Hand or mouth-operated calls and electronic calls that imitate wounded prey or coyote calls are legal. Static or electronic decoys are legal for hunting coyotes. It is legal to hunt coyotes over animal carcasses. Animal carcasses are considered bait. A hunter shall not place or distribute bait or otherwise participate in baiting wildlife 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.

Coyotes can only be trapped during furbearer trapping seasons.

A person allowed by state and federal law to own a firearm noise suppressor can use it to hunt coyotes.

Dogs may be used to aid in the hunt.

### GROUNDHOGS (Woodchucks)

Groundhogs can be hunted year-round with no limit. A hunting license is required unless the hunter is license exempt. Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

### BULLFROGS

The daily limit (noon to noon) is 15. The possession limit is 30.

If bullfrogs are taken by gun or bow and arrow, a hunting license is required. If taken by pole and line, a fishing license is required. If frogs are taken by gig or by hand, either a hunting or fishing license is valid. It is illegal to possess a gig on a stream or lake, or in a boat, from Nov. 1 – Jan. 31.

### TURTLES

Snapping turtles (except alligator snapping turtles) and softshell turtles may be taken year-round with no limit but may not be harvested for commercial purposes.

A hunting license is required if turtles are taken by gun or bow and arrow. Consult the Kentucky Fishing & Boating Guide for information on other legal means of harvest.

### WILD PIGS

As part of an ongoing effort to encourage the eradication of invasive wild pigs through trapping groups instead of shooting individual pigs, Kentucky no longer permits hunting for wild

pigs. Wild pigs destroy wildlife habitat, decimate wildlife food sources such as acorns, and eat eggs of ground-nesting birds. Trapping is a proven, effective means of removing feral pigs from the landscape.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, in partnership with USDA Wildlife Services, offers free professional trapping services to anyone experiencing damage from wild pigs. Landowners may still shoot any wild pig damaging their property; any take of a wild pig must be reported to a game warden within 24 hours. See Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) Chapter 150.170 for more information or visit online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

Report wild pig sightings, damage or the release of wild pigs to the department by calling 1-800-858-1549 or visiting [www.fw.ky.gov/wildpigs](http://www.fw.ky.gov/wildpigs).

### BIRDS

- English sparrows and starlings may be hunted year-round with no limit, but a hunting license is required unless the hunter is license exempt.
- Pheasants released during quota hunts are not open to year-round hunting on Green River Lake WMA, Yellowbank WMA and Clay WMA.
- All birds of prey and native songbirds are protected under state and federal laws, and may not be taken.

### OTHER PROTECTED WILDLIFE

- The spotted skunk, a rare species found in eastern Kentucky, is a protected species and may not be taken.
- All federally threatened or endangered species are protected under state and federal laws and may not be taken.

# PUBLIC LAND HUNTING

## KENTUCKY FISH and WILDLIFE PROPERTIES

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife owns, leases or manages more than 85 wildlife management areas (WMAs) for public use. It also has agreements to provide public access on certain privately owned lands, known as Hunting Access Areas.

Many public-use areas have special regulations and hunting season dates that are different from statewide seasons. On some public-use areas, a user permit is required.

This section lists WMAs where

special regulations are in effect for the spring turkey and squirrel seasons. If you plan to hunt on any of these areas, make note of the differences from statewide regulations.

When hunting on WMAs or

Hunting Access Areas, respect the boundaries of adjoining private lands, be courteous, don't trespass and keep safety in mind. Horseback riding on WMAs is prohibited during firearms seasons for turkeys.

### **BARREN RIVER LAKE WMA (Barren and Allen counties)**

Hunters shall not hunt with a breech-loading firearm on the Peninsula Unit, including Narrows, Goose and Grass islands.

### **CZAR HUNTING ACCESS AREA (Johnson, Martin and Floyd counties)**

**Beech Fork Tract:** Open to hunting under statewide regulations and rules and regulations in effect for the county. Off-limits areas are shown on a map available on Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's website.

**Czar and Area 3 tracts:** Quota hunt for spring turkey. Applicants must call (606) 395-6825 for authorization. Closed to all other hunting.

### **ELK HORN COAL HUNTING ACCESS AREA (Floyd, Letcher, Knott and Pike counties)**

Spring hunting seasons are open under statewide regulations. Camping, ATV use, horseback riding, baiting, live-stock production and the use of screw-in steps or tree stands that have screws and spikes, which may injure trees are not permitted on the property.

### **HIGGINSON-HENRY WMA (Union County)**

Open for the youth-only and general spring turkey seasons, but turkey hunters may only use archery gear and crossbows.

### **LIVINGSTON COUNTY WMA and STATE NATURAL AREA**

Open for the youth-only turkey season, and open only to youth hunters during the general spring turkey season.

### **OTTER CREEK OUTDOOR RECREATION AREA (Meade County)**

User permit required. Hunting during the youth-only and general spring turkey seasons ends at noon each day. Open for spring squirrel season, except hunters shall not use a rimfire gun.

### **PEABODY WMA (Ohio, Hopkins and Muhlenberg counties)**

Any person age 16 and older must obtain and carry a Peabody WMA user permit (\$15) while on the property; or be a member of a group with an event permit, either an individual event permit (\$25) or an annual event permit (\$250).

### **PIONEER WEAPONS WMA (Bath and Menifee counties)**

Hunters may not use breech-loading firearms to take squirrel or turkey. Scopes or optical enhancements shall not be used to take turkey.

### **RH GROUP HUNTING ACCESS AREA (Floyd, Letcher, Magoffin, McCreary and Pike counties)**

Open under local and statewide hunting regulations for spring turkey and squirrel hunting. Commercial guiding, camping, ATV use, horseback riding, fishing, night hunting, baiting, live-stock production, and the use of screw-in steps or tree stands that have screws and spikes which may injure trees are not permitted on the property. A waiver is required to access property. Go online to [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) and search under RH Group for more information. For the tracts in Pike County, hunters must call the RH Group office at (606) 437-4091 prior to entry.

### **ROBINSON FOREST WMA (Breathitt, Knott and Perry counties)**

The main block of this area is closed to turkey and squirrel hunting.

### **WEST KENTUCKY WMA (McCracken County)**

All tracts are open for the youth-only turkey season. All tracts except those marked with the letter "A" are open for the general turkey season. Squirrel hunters shall not use a rifle, ball or slug ammunition. Check-in required before using an "A" tract. Tract 6 is closed to vehicular traffic from Feb. 1-April 16.

## OTHER AREAS

The following lands are not owned or managed by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Hunting dates may differ from statewide seasons and advanced registration to hunt may be required. Some areas require paper licenses and have more restrictive hunter education age requirements.

Seasons on military installations are subject to change based on training exercises and other activities. Active duty military may be license-exempt on some areas.

Contact the appropriate agency for details.

**BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT**  
431 Battlefield Memorial Highway  
Richmond, KY 40475  
(859) 779-6177

<https://fw.ky.gov/Hunt/Pages/Blue-Grass-Army-Depot-Hunt-Info.aspx>

Open to spring turkey hunting through application only. Special regulations apply. Contact Raysha Childers at (859) 779-6651 or email [raysha.n.childers.civ@army.mil](mailto:raysha.n.childers.civ@army.mil).

### **CLARKS RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

91 U.S. 641 North, P.O. Box 89  
Benton, KY 42025  
(270) 527-5770

[www.fws.gov/refuge/clarks\\_river](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/clarks_river)

Open under statewide regulations for spring squirrel and turkey seasons. Squirrel hunters may only use nontoxic shot and use of centerfire weapons is

prohibited. No bonus birds. Must use statewide turkey permit. Refuge user permit required.

### **FORT CAMPBELL MILITARY RESERVATION**

6645 101st Airborne Division Road  
Fort Campbell, KY 42223  
(270) 798-9824

<https://ficampbell.isportsman.net>

State hunting license, iSportsman account and Fort Campbell permit are required. Civilian hunters must complete an annual criminal background check and register their firearms at Fort Campbell Visitor Center (located at Gate 4 or Gate 7). Following background check, hunters must be validated at Fort Camp-



*Maps and information*

Go online to [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) and search under "maps" for information on public hunting areas. Use the ArcGIS app for mobile devices.

bell Fish and Wildlife office. Hunters must have proof of successful completion of a state-approved hunter safety course no matter age. Youth hunters must be at least 9 years of age to harvest an animal. Youth under 9 years old may go hunting with an adult, but are not authorized to harvest an animal. Kentucky hunters may hunt on both the Kentucky and Tennessee portions of the base. Turkeys taken are bonus birds. Open to spring squirrel hunting. Consult website or contact of- fice for dates.

**FORT KNOX MILITARY RESERVATION**

Hunt Control Office  
4916 Wilson Road, Building 9297  
Fort Knox, KY 40121  
(502) 624-7311 or (502) 624-2712  
<https://ftknox.isportsman.net>  
Post permit and iSportsman ac-

count required. Hunters must register firearms at the Visitor Center located at the Chaffee Gate before bringing them onto the installation. For more information about firearms registration, call (502) 624-7011 or (502) 624-7019. Hunters ages 12-60 must have a hunter education card, or hunter education exemption permit. Turkeys taken are bonus birds. Spring squirrel hunting permitted. See small game hunting guidelines on iSportsman for authorized methods of take and season dates, or call the Hunt Control Office.

**GREEN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

(270) 527-5770  
Regulations pending for youth-only spring turkey hunting; go online to [fws.gov/refuge/green-river](http://fws.gov/refuge/green-river) for current information. Not open for spring turkey hunting for adults.

**LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**

100 Van Morgan Drive  
Golden Pond, KY 42211  
(270) 924-2000  
[www.landbetweenthelakes.us](http://www.landbetweenthelakes.us)  
LBL Hunter use permit required.

*Bonus birds*

Some areas offer "bonus" birds that do not count against the statewide season limit, but hunters must possess a valid hunting license and turkey permit to participate.

Open for quota and non-quota turkey hunts. Hunters shall take no more than one (1) turkey with a visible beard. No bonus birds. Must use statewide permit. Spring squirrel hunting permitted under local and statewide regulations. Contact LBL for full season dates and bag limits.

**REELFOOT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

4343 Hwy. 157, Union City, TN 38261  
(731) 538-2481  
<http://reelfoot.fws.gov>

Quota turkey hunts in early April by advance application. Hunters may not take more than one (1) bearded turkey. Counts toward spring turkey season limit. Hunters who hunt with shotguns must use non-toxic shot. Open to spring squirrel hunting under Tennessee season dates and regulations, except closed during all quota hunts. Refuge user permit required.

**ATTENTION TURKEY HUNTERS!**



*See survey results*

For results of the 2024 Spring Turkey Hunter Survey, see our website at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).



Scan to access the Summer Brood Survey

You can help the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' efforts to manage the wild turkey resource by participating in the **Summer Brood Survey**. In July and August, record all observations of turkeys, including broods (hens and poults) and gobblers.

Visit the department's website at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) for more details about this survey, which will help Kentucky Fish and Wildlife better track trends in turkey populations. Enter "Spring Turkey Hunting" in the search box on the department's homepage. Only summarized results will be reported.