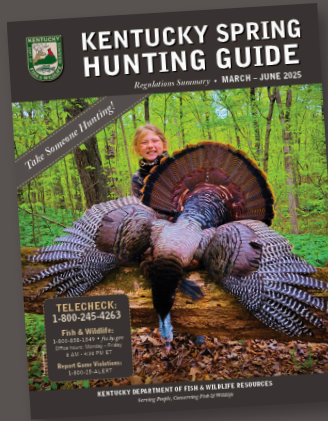




KENTUCKY SPRING HUNTING

2025 Quick Reference



SEE ALL THE RULES AT
fw.ky.gov

This sheet describes the basic regulations for spring hunting but is not a comprehensive listing. Hunters with additional questions should call the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources at 1-800-858-1549 or view the 2025 Kentucky Spring Hunting Guide online.

GENERAL HUNTING INFORMATION

- Hunting license required
- Turkey hunters must have spring turkey permit
- Those exempt from needing licenses, permits and hunter education include:
 - Residents or tenants, their spouses and dependent children, hunting on property they own or live on
 - Children under the age of 12
- Harvest reporting requirements for turkey:
 - Hunter must fill out harvest log before moving carcass; log must include species, sex, date and county
 - Must report harvest through the telecheck system by calling 1-800-245-4263 or online at fw.ky.gov
- Harvest reporting not required for squirrels, coyotes or groundhogs
- Hunter orange not required for spring seasons
- Hunter education required for those born in 1975 or after (see exceptions above)
 - Free one-year hunter education exemption available; call 1-800-858-1549 for details
 - Only one exemption permit per lifetime

LEGAL METHODS AND EQUIPMENT FOR HUNTING COYOTES (DURING DAYLIGHT)

- 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
- Check full guide for night hunting regulations

SEASON	Dates	Limits
Spring Wild Turkey	April 12 – May 4, 2025	2 male or visibly bearded turkeys; daily limit is 1. Only 1 per WMA.
Youth-Only Wild Turkey	April 5-6, 2025	
Spring Squirrel	May 17 – June 15, 2025	Daily limit is 6 squirrels; possession limit is 12
Coyote	Year-round (day or night)	None
Groundhog	Year-round	None

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

LEGAL SPRING TURKEY HUNTING METHODS

- Shotguns no larger than 10 gauge, using lead or non-toxic shot no larger in diameter than #4. Repeating shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and one in chamber).
- 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

PROHIBITED SPRING TURKEY HUNTING METHODS

- Hunting over bait
- Use of electronic calls
- Shooting roosted turkeys
- Using a dog

LEGAL SPRING SQUIRREL HUNTING METHODS

- Rimfire rifles or handguns
- Shotguns no larger than 10 gauge, using lead or non-toxic shot no larger in diameter than #2. Repeating shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and one in chamber).
- Air guns using .177, .20, .22 or .25 pellets
- Slingshots with manufactured hunting ammunition
- Archery or crossbow equipment
- Dogs may be used

PROHIBITED METHODS OF TAKING SQUIRRELS

- Trapping
- Blowguns