



KENTUCKY SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

Regulations Summary • MARCH – JUNE 2026

Take Someone Hunting!



TELECHECK:
1-800-245-4263

Fish & Wildlife:

1-800-858-1549 • fw.ky.gov
Office hours: Monday - Friday
8 AM - 4:30 PM ET

Report Game Violations:

1-800-25-ALERT

Rick Hill illustration

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Serving People, Conserving Fish & Wildlife



Commonwealth of Kentucky
Andy Beshear, Governor

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(February 2026)

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- 3rd District: Matthew Rhodes, Prospect
- 4th District: Greg Cecil, Munfordville
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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

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SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

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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 **highlighted in bright blue** throughout this guide.

TRAPPING

- **Furbearer trapping has been extended through March 31 for water sets (only), as defined in regulation.**

LICENSE / PERMIT FEES

- **New reduced-cost First-Time Buyer Sportsman's License available.**
- **Shooting range permit now required to shoot at Kentucky Fish and Wildlife ranges. Free to residents or non-residents who purchase any annual hunting or fishing license, including a Sportsman's License. Be sure to check box on order form for shooting range permit – the permit is not automatically included in the annual licenses. For others, yearlong shooting permit costs**

\$26.43; one-day permit costs \$5.29.

- **Cost of permits/licenses was adjusted across the board in January 2026. Future adjustments now tied to national Consumer Price Index.**

PUBLIC LANDS / HUNTING ACCESS AREAS

- **Many changes governing access to various tracts of West Kentucky WMA. For details, see the West Kentucky WMA page on fw.ky.gov and the Public Land Hunting section of this guide.**
- **Czar Hunting Access Area now closed to public use due to termination of access agreement.**
- **Green River National Wildlife Refuge now open to archery and crossbow hunting of turkey for youth during April and May in the Horseshoe Bend Hunt Unit and the Tscharner West section of the Bluff Unit.**

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 2026 season are open through midnight April 30, 2026. Applications for the 2027 season will be taken from Aug. 1, 2026, through midnight April 30, 2027.

Elk hunt applications can be purchased via Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's website at 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.

A random computer drawing is held in May to select hunters. Applicants can check fw.ky.gov to see if they were drawn.

Drawn hunters must purchase their 2026 elk permit by midnight June 15, 2026. Any permits not purchased by that date will be reassigned to the Loyalty Redraw program and distributed through a secondary drawing.

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 receive only one youth-only permit in a lifetime.

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.

March - June 2026



KENTUCKY SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

Devon Stivers photo

2 GENERAL INFORMATION

- 2 Licenses and Permits
- 2 How to Buy Licenses and Permits
- 3 Which License / Permit Do I Need?
- 4 License and Permit Fees
- 5 Resident Senior / Disability Licenses
- 6 License Requirements
- 6 Recording, Checking and Tagging
- 6 Harvest Log
- 6 Telecheck
- 6 Carcass Tag
- 7 General Hunting Regulations
- 7 Landowner Permission
- 7 Hunter Education Law
- 7 Concealed Carry
- 7 Convicted Felons

8 WILD TURKEY HUNTING

- 8 Spring Hunting Seasons
- 9 Identifying Wild Turkeys
- 10 Turkey Hunting Safety Tips

11 SQUIRREL HUNTING

- 11 Spring Hunting Season

11 COYOTE and OTHER WILDLIFE

- 11 Hunting Seasons

13 PUBLIC LAND HUNTING

- 13 Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Properties
- 13 Other Areas

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. Click on "Regulations (KAR) on Fish, Wildlife & Boating" under "Important Info."

**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF
FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

#1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601
fw.ky.gov • 1-800-858-1549 • info.center@ky.gov

LICENSE FEE CHANGES

Beginning in January 2026, Kentucky implemented an inflation-based system to adjust its license, permit and boat registration fees during even-numbered years. Pricing is based on the existing cost, plus the combined inflation rate (based on the Consumer Price Index) of the previous two years. The new system adds transparency and avoids sudden and substantial rate increases. This will help the department maintain programs such as fish stocking, wildlife management and research by keeping up with inflation costs while keeping the amount of an increase lower.

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 their own license or permit unless exempt.

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.

LICENSE-EXEMPT HUNTERS

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

- 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 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 are exempt, but they must 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:

License expiration

Annual licenses and permits are valid from the date of purchase through the last day in February. New licenses are required annually March 1. Short-term hunting and fishing licenses are valid for the period shown on the license. KRS 150.175



Scan to purchase licenses and permits.

Hidden Valley Training Area in Powell County and the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center in Muhlenberg County.

HOW TO BUY LICENSES and PERMITS

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

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).

Note that hunters will need to provide their date of birth and Social Security number when buying a license or permit, which they can do either online or in person.

ONLINE

Licenses and permits can be purchased online at fw.ky.gov with a credit

card (Visa, Mastercard, American Express or Discover) or a Kentucky Fish and Wildlife gift certificate, which is sold online only at fw.ky.gov.

Hunters who buy licenses or permits online will not be mailed a paper

copy. Instead, they will receive an authorization number and the option of printing the license. Either the authorization number or the printout must be carried in the field while hunting, along with a picture ID.

Lose your license?

Replacements can be printed for free through the My Profile section on fw.ky.gov. Added bonus: Any animals you harvested and telechecked year to date will be printed on your harvest log.

IN PERSON

Licenses and permits can be purchased at locations throughout the state. To find a list of license agents by county or zip code, go online at fw.ky.gov and click "Licenses."

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
Deer	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Deer Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Statewide Deer Permit†	Senior/Disabled or Senior Lifetime Sportsman's License
Fall Turkey	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Fall Turkey Permit†	Senior/Disabled or Senior Lifetime Sportsman's License
Spring Turkey	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Spring Turkey Permit†	Senior/Disabled or Senior Lifetime Sportsman's License
Small Game & Furbearer	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License	Senior/Disabled or Senior Lifetime Sportsman's License
Bobcat permit required for bobcat hunters			
Trapping	Annual Youth Trapping License	Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License	Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License
Migratory Birds <small>(dove, snipe, woodcock, rails, gallinules, sandhill cranes)</small>	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird/ Waterfowl Permit†	Senior/Disabled or Senior Lifetime Sportsman's License
Waterfowl <small>(ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)</small>	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 <small>(must buy nonresident licenses/permits)</small>	Ages 12-15	Ages 16 and older
Deer	Youth Hunting License + Youth Deer Permit	Annual Hunting License + Statewide Deer Permit
Fall Turkey	Youth Hunting License + Youth Turkey Permit	Annual Hunting License + Fall Turkey Permit
Spring Turkey	Youth Hunting License + Youth Turkey Permit	Annual Hunting License + Spring Turkey Permit
Small Game & Furbearer	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License
Bobcat permit required for bobcat hunters		
Trapping	Annual Trapping License	Annual Trapping License
Migratory Birds <small>(dove, snipe, woodcock, rails, gallinules, sandhill cranes)</small>	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit
Waterfowl <small>(ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)</small>	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	Annual Fishing	\$24.31	\$58.14
	Joint Married Couple Annual Fishing	\$44.38	Not available
	1-Day Fishing	\$7.40	\$15.86
	3-Year Fishing	\$58.14	Not available
	7-Day Fishing Nonresident	Not available	\$37
	Trout Permit	\$10.57	
	Annual Hunting	\$28.54	\$169.12
	1-Day Hunting (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	\$7.40	\$26.43
	7-Day Hunting (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	Not available	\$68.71
	Youth Annual Hunting (ages 12-15 only)	\$6.34	\$10.57
	Shooting Preserve Hunting (available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$5.29	
	Annual Trapping	\$21.14	\$137.41
	Annual Landowner/Tenant Trapping	\$10.57	Not available
	Youth Annual Trapping (ages 12-15)	\$5.29	Not available
COMBOS	Combination License (Annual Combination Hunting/Fishing License)	\$44.39	Not available
	Sportsman's License* (Includes combination hunting/fishing license, statewide deer permit, spring and fall turkey permits, Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit and trout permit. Shooting range permit free with activation through My Profile.)	\$100.42	Not available
	First Time Buyer Sportsman's License* (Includes same licenses and permits as standard sportsman's license)	\$37	Not available
	Senior OR Disabled Sportsman's License* (Includes same licenses and permits as standard sportsman's license)	\$12.68	Not available
	Senior Lifetime Sportsman's License* (Must maintain Kentucky residency; includes same licenses and permits as standard sportsman's license. For residents age 65 or older.)	\$190.26	Not available
	Youth (ages 12-15) Sportsman's License* (Includes hunting/fishing license, statewide deer permit, spring and fall turkey permits, Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit.)	\$31.71	Not available
DEER	Deer Permit (statewide, four deer)	\$37	\$248.40
	Youth (ages 12-15) Deer Permit (four deer)	\$10.57	\$15.86
	Additional Deer Permit (two deer)	\$15.86	
BIRDS	Spring Turkey Permit (statewide) (two turkeys)	\$31.71	\$116.27
	Youth (ages 12-15) Turkey Permit (one turkey, spring or fall)	\$10.57	\$15.86
	Fall Turkey Permit (statewide)(two turkeys)	\$31.71	\$116.27
	(Kentucky) Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit	\$15.86	
	Federal Duck Stamp (available at post offices and online at www.duckstamp.com)	\$25	
	Pheasant Quota Hunt Permit (if drawn)	\$26.43	
ELK	Sandhill Crane Hunt Drawing (quota hunt, apply in Sept. at fw.ky.gov)	\$3	\$3
	Elk Hunt Drawing Application (deadline April 30)	\$10	
	Youth Elk Drawing Application (ages 15 and under)	\$10	
	Elk Quota Bull Permit (if drawn)	\$105.70	\$581.35
	Elk Quota Cow Permit (if drawn)	\$63.42	\$422.80
	Elk Quota Archery/Crossbow Permit (bull or cow, if drawn)	\$105.70	\$581.35
	Youth Elk Quota Permit (if drawn; ages 12-15; youths drawn for other permits pay full cost)	\$31.71	\$211.40
BEAR	Out of Zone Elk Permit	\$31.71	\$422.80
	Bear Permit	\$31.71	\$264.25
	Youth Bear Permit (ages 12-15)	\$10.57	\$105.70
	Bear Chase Permit (bear dog training permit)	\$31.71	\$52.85
	Youth Bear Chase Permit (ages 12-15) (bear dog training permit)	\$10.57	\$15.86
AREAS	Combo Bear/Chase Permit (bear hunting/bear dog training permits)	\$52.85	Not available
	1-Day Ballard Waterfowl Permit	\$15.86	
	Peabody WMA Permit	\$15.86	
	Land Between The Lakes Hunt Permit	\$25	
	Land Between The Lakes Hunt/Backcountry Camp	\$50	
OTHER	Otter Creek ORA Fees	Check online at fw.ky.gov for current status	
	Bobcat Permit (required for hunters)	\$10.57	
	Annual Shooting Range Permit (Free to residents and non-residents with an annual hunting or fishing license; including any resident sportsman's license, activate through My Profile)	\$26.43	
	1-Day Shooting Range Permit (Free to residents and non-residents with an annual hunting or fishing license; including any resident sportsman's license, activate through My Profile)	\$5.29	
	Temporary Hunter Education Exemption Permit (One-time permit valid for 1 year only; available online at fw.ky.gov 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).

RESIDENT SENIOR OR DISABLED SPORTSMAN'S LICENSES

Seniors and persons with qualified disabilities may purchase discounted licenses to hunt and fish. These are available only for Kentucky residents. The Senior Sportsman's License and Disabled Sportsman's Licenses include: annual fishing and hunting licenses and permits for deer, spring and fall turkeys, migratory bird/waterfowl and trout.

Senior Sportsman's License:

Available to Kentucky residents 65 or older. (Seniors may also purchase the Senior Lifetime Sportsman's License.)

Disabled Sportsman's License:

Available to Kentucky residents who meet the disability criteria in state law and obtain a disability authorization.

Note: Disabled residents 65 and older can purchase a Senior Sportsman's License instead of the Disabled Sportsman's License. Both licenses cost the same and include the same licenses and permits, but the Senior Sportsman's License requires only proof of age.

How to get a Disabled Sportsman's license:

1. Obtain proof of disability allowed by state law.
2. Submit proof of disability to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
3. Obtain disability authorization.
4. Buy license online at fw.ky.gov or anywhere licenses are sold.

1 OBTAIN PROOF OF DISABILITY THROUGH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES

- **Federal Social Security Administration:** Obtain a Benefit Verification Letter certifying you are disabled and receive benefits. Forms should not be more than 6 months old. To get a Benefit Verification Letter: Contact your local Social Security office, call 1-800-772-1213 or go online to

socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. Benefit letters must show disability qualification and include your name, address, date of birth, the last 4 digits of your Social Security number and the benefit amount. A Benefit Verification Letter (BVL) differs from the annually issued Social Security award letter, which may lack required approval information; a BVL must be requested separately through Social Security and is not automatically provided.

- **Veterans Affairs:** Obtain letter verifying that you are at least 50 percent disabled as a result of a service-connected disability. The letter must include your current address and 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.

• U.S. Railroad Retirement Board:

Obtain letter stating you are permanently and totally disabled and show current address.

• Kentucky Teachers' Retirement

System: Obtain written documentation stating you are on disability retirement and show a current address.

• U.S. Office of Personnel

Management: Obtain certification of employment, certification of 100 percent disabled from a recognized authority, and show a current address.

2 SEND PROOF OF DISABILITY TO KENTUCKY FISH AND WILDLIFE

- Online: Visit fw.ky.gov and go to My Profile. Select "Disability Authorization." Upload your file.
- By mail: KDFWR Disabled License, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601.

- By fax: (502) 564-9845.
- Questions? Call 1-800-858-1549 or email Info.Center@ky.gov

3 OBTAIN DISABILITY AUTHORIZATION

Disability authorization. You will receive disability authorization once your proof of disability is verified. To check your application status, access your My Profile account at fw.ky.gov. Once your status is verified, you can print your disability authorization card from My Profile, but note that you are not required to carry that card in the field. (You are, however, required to carry proof of the Disabled Sportsman's License itself while out in the field hunting or fishing.)

Expiration and renewal: Disability authorizations are valid for 3 years (although the Sportsman's License itself must be bought annually). You can check your expiration date at My Profile. If it is expired, you will be unable to buy the Disabled Sportsman's License. To renew your authorization card, simply repeat the steps on this page. However, if you received your disability authorization through Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board or U.S. Office of Personnel Management, you may call Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-858-1549 to renew over the phone.

4 BUY LICENSE

Once you have the disability authorization, you may buy your discounted Disabled Sportsman's License online at fw.ky.gov or wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold. Licenses are valid through the end of February each year. Go to My Profile to print or reprint your license at home anytime for free.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

RESIDENT LICENSING

A resident is defined as:

- 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 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 must purchase nonresident licenses and permits. That includes nonresidents who own land in Kentucky.

Nonresident youth hunters are subject to the same license and permit requirements as resident youth hunters.

YOUTH LICENSING

Ages 12-15: 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 turns 16.

The annual youth hunting license authorizes the holder to hunt all small game species, furbearers and migratory bird species. In addition, with the proper permits, they can also hunt bear, deer, turkey and elk. The resident-only Youth Sportsman's License includes the annual youth hunting license, youth deer permit, spring and fall youth turkey permits, and migratory bird/waterfowl permit.

Ages 11 and under: Resident and nonresident hunters younger than 12 are not required to purchase licenses and permits, except for elk hunt drawing applications.

Hunter ed certification: Hunter ed certification is required for youth hunters 12 to 15 years old, optional for hunters 9 to 11 years old, and unavailable for hunters 8 and under.

Supervision: Hunters who are under 16 years old must always be accompanied by an adult when hunting turkey, elk, deer or bear with a firearm. For small game, furbearers and migratory bird/waterfowl, hunters ages 9 to 15 who are hunter ed certified do not need to be accompanied by an adult to hunt, but supervision is required for hunters ages 9 to 11 who are not hunter ed certified and for hunters 8 and under, since they are ineligible for hunter ed classes.

Note that supervising adults are not required to have licenses or permits if they are not hunting, and that one adult cannot accompany more than two hunters younger than 12 years old at the same time.

RECORDING, CHECKING and TAGGING

HARVEST LOG

All 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 the animal taken, the date it was taken and the county where it was taken. After the animal is telechecked, the Telecheck confirmation number must also be recorded.

A blank harvest log is included with any license or permit purchased from a license agent or online. Additional harvest logs can be printed through the My Profile function at fw.ky.gov or by click-

ing the "Hunting" tab and then "Printable Harvest Log" under the "Other Links" 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 above 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 or online at fw.ky.gov by midnight on the day the animal is recovered and prior to processing the carcass.

Entering false information is unlawful.

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

Hunters – including youth hunt-

ers – 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. Other questions address the animal's species and sex, the type of equipment used to harvest the animal, whether the land was private or public, and the type of license used.

At the end of the survey, callers are put on hold for a few seconds while the system submits the information and then are given a confirmation number. The number is proof that the harvested turkey was legally reported and must be recorded on the hunter's log and retained throughout the season.

CARCASS TAG FOR TRANSFER

Separately, a hunter shall attach a handmade tag to the carcass of any harvested turkey if transferring possession of the bird to another person, including a butcher or taxidermist. The carcass tag must include the hunter's name, phone number and Telecheck confirmation number.

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

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

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 issued in Kentucky or by another state. 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 courses are available online and held throughout the state. Pre-registration must be done online at fw.ky.gov. More information about the registration process is available on the website or by calling Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Go to fw.ky.gov and search under the keywords "hunter education" for exemptions to the live fire training portion of the program.

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 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 younger than 12 years old at the same time.

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.

This one-time permit allows new hunters in Kentucky to hunt for one year without taking hunter education courses. 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, 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 on property where they reside and work. When hunting elsewhere, they must comply with Kentucky's hunter education law.

REPLACEMENT HUNTER EDUCATION CARDS

Replacement hunter education cards can be printed for free by going to fw.ky.gov and clicking "Education," then "Hunter Education" and "Reprint Your Hunter Ed Card."

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

REPORT GAME LAW VIOLATIONS

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

and signed by a licensed physician certifying why the exemption is necessary.

Forms are available online or by calling the department. A completed and signed exemption form serves as the hunter's exemption permit. It should not be returned to the department but must be carried in the field with the appropriate hunting license and permits.

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. For details, see KRS 527.040 or contact your County Attorney.

Subscribe online at fw.ky.gov

Kentucky Afield magazine 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 4-5, 2026	April 18 – May 10, 2026

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). 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 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. Hunters with a spring turkey permit can take up to two turkeys during the spring

season, but only one bird per day. Any combination of male turkeys and turkeys with visible beards may be included in this two-bird limit. (Hunters who take two birds in the spring later can also take up to two turkeys during the fall season with the purchase of a separate fall hunting permit, or a Sportsman's License that includes both spring and fall turkey permits.) During the spring season, only one legal turkey can be harvested per WMA. 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 spring turkey permit. The spring permit is valid only during the general spring season and allows hunters to harvest up to two birds.

Short-term hunting licenses (1- or 7-day licenses) are not valid for turkey hunting. 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 both the youth-only hunting weekend and the general spring season. No matter when they hunt, youths who hunt turkeys with a firearm must be accompanied by an adult in position to take immediate control of the firearm at all times.

Turkey hunters younger than 12 are not required to buy a hunting license or turkey permit but must abide by season limits, harvest restrictions and supervision requirements.

Turkey hunters ages 12-15, unless exempt, must carry with them in the field proof of purchase of a valid Kentucky hunting license and turkey permit. Youths ages 12-15 have two different options to be legal: They can buy a discounted youth hunting license and a discounted youth turkey permit,

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.

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.

which is valid for one turkey that can be taken during either the spring or fall seasons. (Youths can buy more than one youth permit but must abide by season bag limits and harvest restrictions.) Or resident-only youth can buy a Youth Sportsman's License, which includes a hunting license and both a spring turkey permit and a fall turkey permit. Each of those permits is valid for up to two turkeys during that season only.

A hunter who turns 16 during a license year can use a youth hunting license and permits during the entire license year as long as they were bought before that 16th birthday.

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* 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, including guns, while in the field.

HUNTER ORANGE

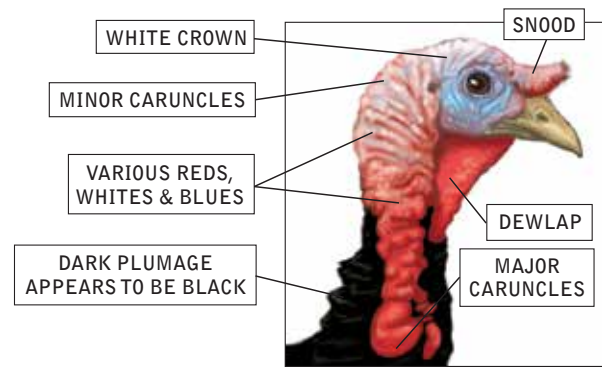
Hunters are not required to wear

hunter orange clothing during the spring turkey seasons. However, wearing hunter orange while carrying a harvested turkey can help prevent hunting accidents that can occur when a hunter is mistaken for game.

POSSESSION / RELEASE OF LIVE WILD TURKEYS and EGGS

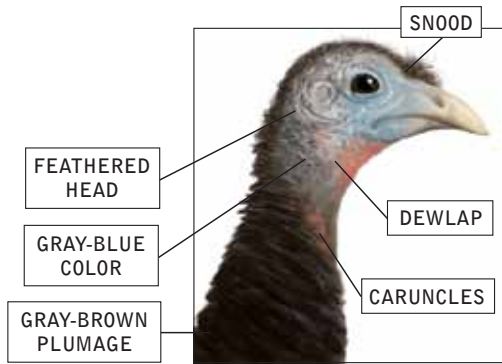
Due to the potential for spread of disease and genetic pollution, it is illegal to possess live wild turkeys and to possess or attempt to hatch wild turkey eggs. For the same reasons, domestic or pen-raised turkeys should not be released into the wild. It is further recommended that turkeys not be artificially 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. A small percentage of hens also grow beards.

Source: National Wild Turkey Federation (*www.nwtf.org*).

TURKEY HUNTING SAFETY TIPS

- Don't stalk a turkey. The chances of getting close enough for a shot are slim and the odds of becoming involved in an accident increase.
- Use extreme caution when tail fanning or reaping for gobblers. Hunters risk being mistaken for a live turkey while using this hunting technique.
- Eliminate the colors red, white and blue from your hunting outfit. Red or white are the colors hunters look for to differentiate a gobbler's head from a hen's grayish-blue head.
- Don't move, wave or make turkey sounds to alert another hunter to your presence. Instead, yell in a loud voice, "Hey, I'm here" while remaining hidden.
- Take care when using a gobble call. The sound and motion may attract other hunters and draw fire.
- When selecting your calling position, try to sit at the base of a large tree 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, be certain of your target and never shoot at a sound or movement.
- 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 and establish a clear line of sight beyond the decoy of at least 80 yards. This allows you to see an approaching hunter and keeps you at a safe distance should a hunter shoot at your decoy.
- Keep your shotgun unloaded when not in the field. Open the action or unload your gun when climbing a steep hill, stepping over or through fence wire, or crossing a creek.



See survey results
 For results of the 2025 Spring Turkey Hunter Survey, see our website at fw.ky.gov.

Rachel Cummings photo

ATTENTION TURKEY HUNTERS!



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 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.

SQUIRREL HUNTING

SPRING HUNTING SEASON

SPECIES	Spring Season	Season Limit
Squirrel	May 16 – June 21, 2026	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 rifle 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 (includes WMAs).

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 private land and public land (with some exceptions), day or night. A hunting license is required, and there is no bag limit.

Lights: Hunters may use artificial light or other means designed to make wildlife visible at night only during these periods: 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

SPECIES	Seasons
Coyote	Year-round, day or night (exceptions apply)
Bear	Chase-only season with dogs, June 1 – Aug. 31, 2026
Groundhog	Year-round
Bullfrog	Noon, May 15 – Midnight, Oct. 31, 2026
Turtles*	Year-round, day or night

* Alligator snapping turtles may not be harvested.

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 not connected to the vehicle.

Method of take: On public lands open to nighttime coyote hunting, coyote hunters after daylight hours 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 use only a bow, crossbow or shotgun with multiple projectile shells. However, 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.

Coyotes can be trapped only during furbearer trapping seasons.

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.

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

Calls, bait, dogs: 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.

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.

BEAR CHASE

The first of two bear chase-only seasons with dogs runs June 1 – Aug. 31 in all three bear zones. This is not a hunting season.

Participants must purchase and carry proof of a hunting license and bear chase permit or youth bear chase permit.

Bears can be chased during legal daylight hours only. Hunters cannot chase bears from a baited area while bait is present or for 30 days after the bait has been removed.

Bear chase is not permitted on WMAs until the third Saturday in August and is not permitted at all in many WMAs. See the “Bear Hunting” section online at fw.ky.gov.

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 eradicate invasive wild pigs, wild pig hunting was prohibited June 6, 2024. This removes incentives for illegal release and discontinues hunting as it is an ineffective eradication strategy. Trapping by professional wild pig experts is a proven, effective means of removing wild pigs from the landscape. Wild pigs must be eradicated in Kentucky to

prevent destruction of wildlife habitat, decimation of wildlife food sources such as acorns, and displacement of deer and turkey, which can affect hunter harvest.

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, as spelled out in Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) Chapter 150.170. Any take of a wild pig must be reported to a game warden within 24 hours. For more information, visit online at fw.ky.gov/wildpigs.

Report wild pig sightings, damage or the release of wild pigs to www.squealonthepigs.com or download the Squeal on Pigs! app.

BIRDS

- House 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.
- 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.

Sportsman's License – Save nearly \$80

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) also is required for waterfowl hunting.

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 hunting 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.

HIGGINSON-HENRY WMA (Union County)

Open for the youth-only and general spring turkey seasons, but turkey hunters may use only 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)

[Check the Otter Creek ORA page on fw.ky.gov](https://fw.ky.gov) for latest regulations.

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 WMA (Floyd, Letcher, Magoffin, McCreary and Pike counties)

Open under local and statewide hunting regulations for spring turkey and squirrel hunting. A waiver is re-

quired to access the property. Prior to entry, hunters should email a completed Waiver Form to the RH Group office at leagle@rossharrisgroup.com. The company will return a completed form, which the hunter should keep with them while on the property. Use caution if active mining practices are underway, and give large trucks the right-of-way.

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)

Tracts 2-7 are open for both the youth-only turkey season and the general turkey season. The only portion of the A Tracts still open for public use is the area of Tract 7A north of KY 358, which requires check-in prior to use. While that part of Tract 7A is open for the spring youth turkey season, the spring squirrel season, predator hunting, dog training etc., it is not open for the general spring turkey season. Hunters shall not use a rifle, ball, or slug ammunition. Tract 6 is closed to vehicular traffic 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 ex-

ercises 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.

Maps and information

Go online to fw.ky.gov and search under "maps" for information on public hunting areas. Use the ArcGIS app for mobile devices.

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

Open under statewide regulations for spring squirrel and turkey seasons. Squirrel hunters may use only 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://ftcampbell.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 Campbell 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 office 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://fknnox.isportsman.net>

Post permit and iSportsman account 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

Archery and crossbow hunting of turkey for youth only during April and May is permitted in accordance with the state season in the Horseshoe Bend Hunt Unit and the Tscharnier West section of the Bluff Unit. For hunting information: <https://www.fws.gov/story/2024-12/hunting-information-green-river-nwr>

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

100 Van Morgan Drive
Golden Pond, KY 42211
(270) 924-2000

www.landbetweenthe lakes.us

LBL Hunter use permit required. 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.

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.

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.

Kentucky 2026

ELK & OUTDOOR FEST



KENTUCKY'S OFFICIAL ELK DRAW

401 GLENWOOD DRIVE, BARDSTOWN KY

MAY 9TH 9 AM - 4PM

MUSIC

INCLUDED IN GENERAL ADMISSION

18 UNDER KIDS FREE ADMISSION WITH PAYING ADULT

FEATURING
TOM MABE
AS MC



RAFFLES

DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN



2 VIP 3DAY KY BOURBON FEST PASSES



>ABOUT US<

SINCE 2022 KY ELK FEST HAS DONE...

- AWARDED 2000+ KY ELK TAGS
- RAISED \$800,000 FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS
- SUPPLIED OVER 1000 BOWS FOR KY NASP
- SUPPLIED 400K+ SHOTSHELLS FOR KY YOUTH TRAP TEAMS
- CONTRIBUTED \$50K TO KY CONSERVATION CAMPS

IN PERSON ONLY!*

- RIFLE BULLTAG WINNERS
SAVAGE 110 RIFLE
- ARCHERY BULLTAG WINNERS
Mathews ARC BOW
- YOUTH WINNERS
SAVAGE AXIS RIFLE

*FOR PAID GENERAL ADMISSION

- SPARTAN RAFFLE
FIRST 2000 PEOPLE THROUGH THE GATE WITH PAID GENERAL ADMISSION TICKET AUTOMATICALLY ENTERS DRAWING FOR SPARTAN DEFENDER
- BROWNING SAFE SALE
UP TO 40% OFF ON SAFES PLUS WITH UP TO \$400 REBATES

