

2008 Fall Wild Turkey Harvest Report

Eric Dunton
Wild Turkey Biologist
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
35365 800th Avenue
Madelia, MN 56062
(507) 642-8478 ext. 224
eric.dunton@dnr.state.mn.us

Minnesota's fall turkey hunting season is managed with a quota system similar to the spring turkey hunting season. Permits are allocated across 50 permit areas (PAs; Figure 1) during 2, 5-day time periods in PAs 157-467 and 1, 30-day time period in PA 601.

Three types of permits were available to hunters: general lottery permits in which applicants or parties of up to 4 hunters applied for specific PA and time period, (2) landowner permits in which up to 20% of permits for each PA and time period were reserved for landowners or tenants who lived on 40 acres or more of land within the PA, and (3) surplus permits were offered in under-subscribed permit areas and time periods to hunters who applied in the lottery, but were unsuccessful. General lottery and landowner permits were made available based on a system of preference, which was determined by the number of years applicants submitted a valid, but unsuccessful application since last receiving a permit. If available, surplus permits could be purchased on a first-come, first-served basis. Permit holders were allowed to harvest 1 turkey of either sex during the fall season.

Fall turkey hunting opportunity was increased significantly during 2008 with the addition of 3,070 permits (68% increase from 2007) and 18 new permit areas. Almost 5,000 permits were issued in 2008, a 76% increase from 2007 (Table 1, Figure 2). Hunters registered 1,187 turkeys, a 71% increase from 2007 (Table 1, Figure 2). Hunter success averaged 24%, similar to the 5-year average (Table 1). Hunter success varied among PAs from 0% in PA 459 to 47% in PA 440 (Table 2). The majority of permits issued were general lottery (77%), followed by surplus (20%), and landowner permits (3%; Table 3).

In response to wild turkey range expansion, the number of PAs open to fall turkey hunting was increased from 33 in 2007 to 50 in 2008. Permit areas 228 and 337 were consolidated to PA 601, and 1,000 permits were available during a 30-day season. Permit areas were consolidated and the time period was extended to increase hunter participation and turkey harvest in response to an increasing number of urban/nuisance complaints in the metropolitan area. The addition of 800 permits in PA 601 plus 18 new PAs accounted for 55% of the additional permits available in 2008 and 45% of the registered harvest. Expanded permit allocation in traditional PAs accounted for the remainder of the increase in the number of hunters and registered harvest.

Table 1. Permits available, applicants, permits issued, registered harvest, and hunter success rates for fall turkey hunting seasons 1990 – 2008, Minnesota.

Year	Permits available	Applicants	Permits issued	Registered harvest	Hunter success (%) ^a
1990	1000	4522	951	326	34
1991	2200	2990	2020	552	27
1992	2200	2782	2028	588	29
1993	2400	3186	2094	605	29
1994	2500	3124	2106	601	29
1995	2500	3685	2125	648	30
1996	2500	4453	2289	685	30
1997	2580	4574	2378	698	29
1998	2710	4526	2483	828	33
1999	2890	5354	2644	865	33
2000	3090	5263	2484	735	30
2001	2870	4501	2262	629	28
2002	3790	5180	2945	594	20
2003	3870	5264	2977	889	30
2004	4380	5878	3277	758	23
2005	4410	4542	2978	681	23
2006	4290	4167	2802	618	22
2007	4490	4464	2837	695	24
2008	7560	5834	4981	1187	24

^a Success rates not adjusted for non-participation.

Table 2. Registered harvest and hunter success rates by permit area for the 2008 fall turkey season, Minnesota.

Permit area	Registered harvest			Hunter success (%)	
	Time period A	Time period B	Total	2008	Average
157	3	7	10	26	a
213	6	5	11	30	a
214	12	10	22	29	a
215	30	21	51	30	a
221	10	5	15	19	a
222	10	11	21	30	a
223	16	11	27	18	a
227	12	6	18	18	24 ^b
229	4	1	5	38	a
236	32	28	60	26	26 ^c
239	24	35	59	22	a
240	23	24	47	31	a
248	7	6	13	32	a
249	0	8	8	23	a
262	2	2	4	29	a
338	25	10	35	24	23 ^c
339	13	7	20	17	20 ^c
341	36	42	78	24	25 ^c
342	23	17	40	21	22 ^c
343	42	30	72	34	29 ^c
344	17	12	29	21	21 ^c
345	7	2	9	12	18 ^c
346	30	14	44	27	24 ^c
347	15	12	27	24	26 ^c
348	26	23	49	24	25 ^c
349	22	11	33	18	22 ^c
412	2	3	5	33	a
420	5	1	6	32	33 ^b
422	2	4	6	43	39 ^b
425	6	4	10	27	28 ^b
428	1	4	5	38	a
431	1	1	2	17	17 ^b
433	4	2	6	29	25 ^b
440	2	5	7	47	a

Table 2 continued.

Permit area	Registered harvest			Hunter success (%)	
	Time period A	Time period B	Total	2008	Average
442	30	25	55	26	26 ^c
443	10	0	10	16	17 ^c
446	5	1	6	43	38 ^b
447	0	1	1	7	5 ^b
448	3	1	4	16	24 ^c
449	4	1	5	21	32 ^d
450	0	1	1	17	14 ^b
459	0	0	0	0	a
461	29	23	52	28	32 ^c
462	31	11	42	26	27 ^c
463	2	0	2	14	a
464	8	6	14	30	27 ^c
465	3	2	5	10	22 ^c
466	22	9	31	28	28 ^c
467	15	9	24	27	20 ^c
601 ^e			81 ^e	17	23 ^c
Total	632	474	1187	24	

^a Permit area was not open to fall turkey hunting prior to 2008.

^b 2-year average.

^c 5-year average.

^d 4-year average.

^e Permit areas 228 and 337 were combined in 2008 to PA 601 and the season consisted of 1, 30-day time period.

Table 3. Number of permits available and issued by permit type, time period, and permit area for the 2008 fall turkey season, Minnesota.

Permit area	Permits		General lottery		Landowner		Surplus	
	Available	Issued	Time period A	Time period B	Time period A	Time period B	Time period A	Time period B
157	50	38	12	19	5	2	0	0
213	50	37	14	14	5	4	0	0
214	100	75	39	21	3	1	0	11
215	300	168	59	48	6	0	29	26
221	120	79	37	19	1	0	5	17
222	100	70	30	30	1	0	0	9
223	200	152	66	30	1	1	12	42
227	150	98	38	28	7	2	0	23
229	20	13	8	3	0	0	0	2
236	300	231	105	81	3	1	0	41
239	300	267	84	94	1	5	22	61
240	200	152	63	25	1	3	0	60
248	50	41	20	11	1	0	0	9
249	50	35	19	15	0	1	0	0
262	20	14	8	2	0	0	0	4
338	180	145	62	58	6	1	0	18
339	180	118	52	35	1	0	8	22
341	500	331	147	116	3	1	42	22
342	350	188	107	60	3	2	11	5
343	250	210	100	80	6	4	0	20
344	200	135	59	45	0	0	18	13
345	180	76	32	18	1	1	12	12
346	300	166	98	29	9	1	10	19
347	150	111	42	48	4	0	9	8
348	250	205	93	81	4	5	7	15
349	450	179	80	72	3	0	15	9
412	20	15	5	9	1	0	0	0
420	40	19	5	4	2	0	6	2
422	20	14	6	7	0	1	0	0
425	40	37	15	18	3	1	0	0
428	20	13	5	6	0	2	0	0
431	20	12	5	1	2	0	2	2
433	20	21	8	11	0	0	2	0
440	20	15	7	6	0	2	0	0

Table 3 continued.

Permit area	Permits		General lottery		Landowner		Surplus	
	Available	Issued	Time period A	Time period B	Time period A	Time period B	Time period A	Time period B
442	250	213	96	93	8	6	0	10
443	100	63	37	14	0	1	0	11
446	20	14	1	7	0	0	6	0
447	20	14	9	4	0	0	0	1
448	30	25	11	13	0	0	0	1
449	30	24	12	12	0	0	0	0
450	20	6	3	1	1	0	0	1
459	20	17	7	10	0	0	0	0
461	220	184	88	79	4	2	0	11
462	220	159	80	46	6	0	1	26
463	20	14	4	5	1	0	3	1
464	70	47	23	10	0	0	0	14
465	80	49	30	8	0	0	3	8
466	160	110	52	29	2	0	14	13
467	100	88	42	32	1	3	0	10
601	1000	474 ^a						
Total	7560	4981	2025	1507	106	53	237	579

^a Permits issued by for PA 601 (i.e., 1, 30-day time period) consisted of 301 General lottery, 2 Landowner, and 171 Surplus permits.

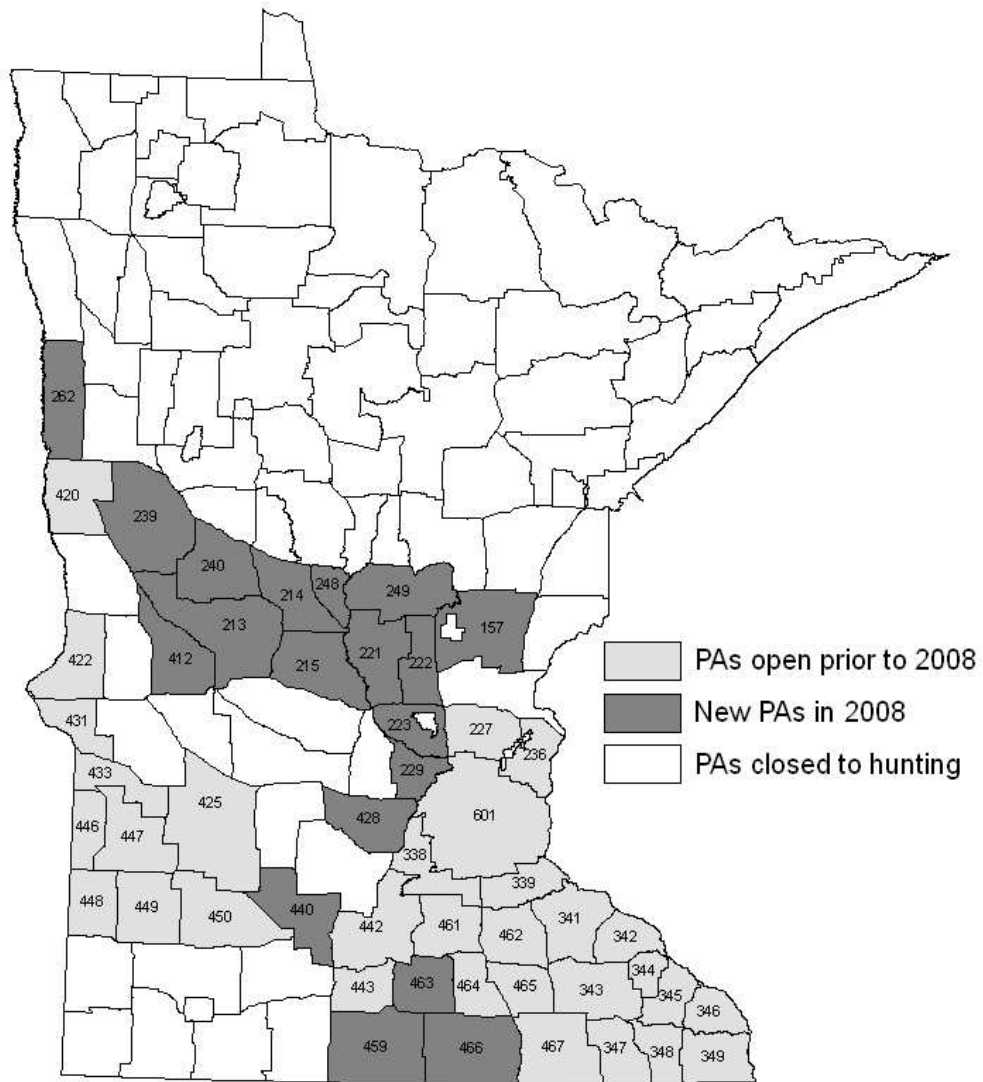


Fig. 1. Permit areas (PAs) open to hunting for the 2008 fall turkey hunting season, Minnesota.

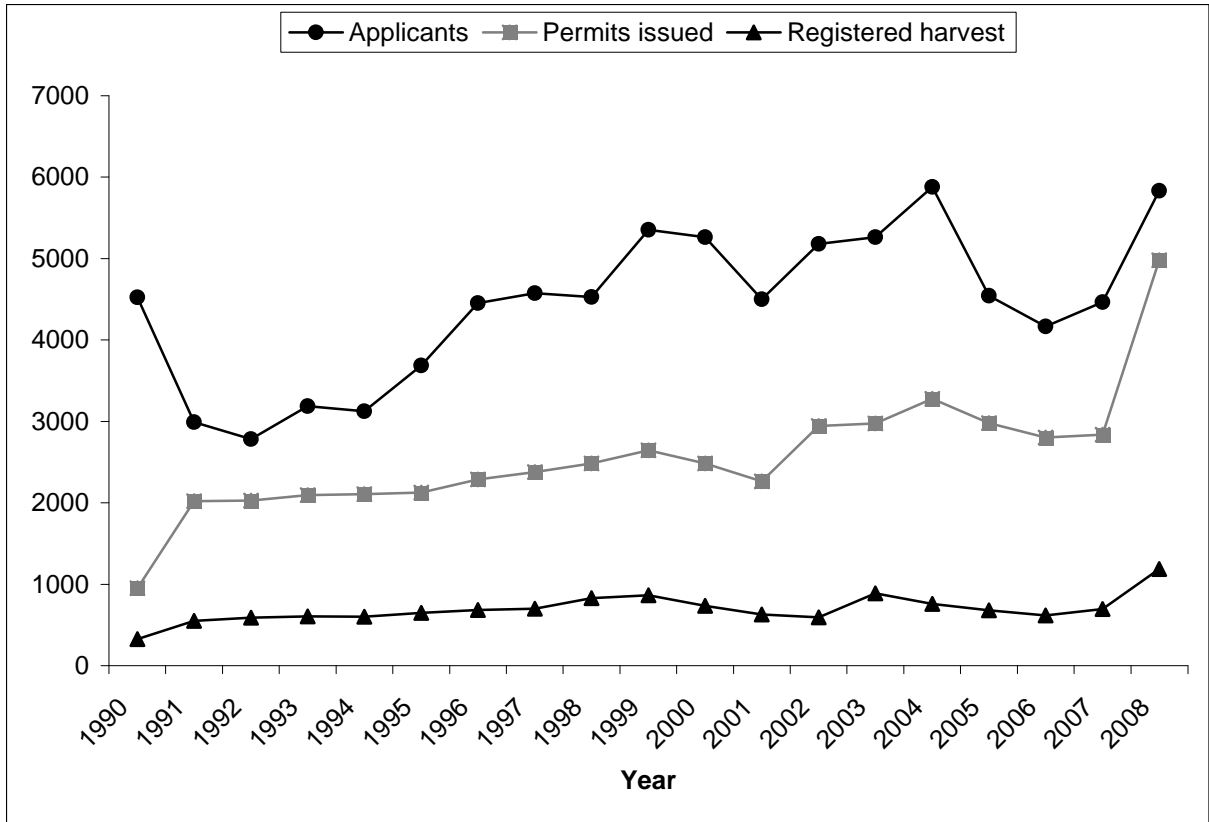


Fig. 2. Applicants, permits issued, and registered harvest for fall turkey seasons 1990 - 2008, Minnesota.