



TURKEY HUNTING REGULATIONS

New for 2020

Firearms hunters 18 and older no longer need to apply for an A or B time period spring turkey license. Licenses for all time periods (A-F) may be purchased over the counter beginning March 1.

Firearms turkey hunters 18 and older may hunt statewide, except access to the Mille Lacs, Carlos Avery or Whitewater Wildlife Management Areas during time periods A-C is by lottery only. Any hunter with a valid spring turkey license may hunt these areas after the C time period.

Firearms turkey hunters 18 and over who wish to hunt the Mille Lacs, Carlos Avery or Whitewater Wildlife Management Areas during time periods A-C must apply and be successful in a lottery drawing for permits to access these areas. The lottery deadline is Jan. 24, 2020.

Wild Turkey Licenses

Licenses may be purchased [online](#), by telephone (888) 665-4236 or in person wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold. Prices listed do not include \$1 issuing fee. Online and telephone purchases include additional fees. A small game license is not required.

Residents (archery only or firearm)

18 and older	\$26.00
Ages 13 to 17	\$4.00
12 and younger	Free (\$1 issuing fee)

Nonresidents (archery only or firearm)

18 and older	\$96.00
Ages 13 to 17	\$4.00
12 and younger	Free (\$1 issuing fee)

The \$5.00 Wild Turkey Stamp validation is included in the license price. You do not need to purchase an additional stamp.

See the frequently asked questions document on the wild turkey hunting web page for information about changing licenses, military privileges and more.

WILD TURKEY HUNT RULES

Licenses

- Spring wild turkey licenses for time periods A-F may be purchased over the counter starting March 1.
- All hunters will be asked which permit area they hunt most (to provide information on expected harvest pressure), but this does not restrict the license holder to that unit.
- Firearms turkey hunters, age 18 and over are restricted to the time period selected at time of purchase.
- Hunters age 17 and younger may hunt statewide for the entire season (April 15-May 31) with firearms or archery equipment.
- Archery-only license holders may hunt statewide for the entire season (April 15-May 31).
- Hunters cannot purchase both a firearms and archery-only license.

- Firearms hunters who do not tag a turkey in their selected time period may also hunt during the final hunt time period (F).
- There is no lottery for the fall turkey season. Licenses may be purchased after August 1.

General restrictions

- Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset
- No person may be accompanied by a dog while hunting or assisting in hunting wild turkeys.
- Wild turkeys may not be taken with the aid of any electronic device, except red dot scopes, rangefinders and devices designed to enhance hearing may be used.
- Live turkey decoys are prohibited.
- Hunters may not possess any firearms or bow and arrow except those defined as legal for taking wild turkeys.
- Hunting turkeys over bait is prohibited.

Method of taking

Firearms

- NEW -- shotguns or muzzleloader shotguns must be 10 gauge or smaller.
- Only fine shot size No. 4 and smaller diameter may be used.
- Red dot scopes and range finders are legal.

Archery

- Bows must have a pull of no less than 30 pounds at or before full draw
- A person may use a mechanical device attached to the bowstring if the person's own strength draws and holds the bowstring
- Arrowheads must have at least two metal cutting edges of barbless design at least 7/8 inch in diameter, or must be of a blunt head design
- Expandable arrowheads must be at least 7/8 of an inch at or after impact and must be barbless
- No person may use an arrow that is poisoned or has an explosive tip

Crossbows may be used

- By any person who possess a valid firearms license during their selected time period
- By persons 60 or older under an archery-only license (no disability permit needed)
- By any person with a disability permit under an archery-only license

Harvest

The bag limit for the spring hunt is one wild turkey with a visible beard. The beard is a feathered appendage protruding from the breast that is generally found only on males. The bag limit for the fall hunt is one bird of either sex.

Tagging

Upon harvesting a wild turkey, the site tag provided with your spring or fall wild turkey license must be detached from the license.

- Validate the site tag immediately by using a sharp object to notch the date and time (AM/PM) of the kill.
- The site tag must then be attached to the wild turkey and must remain attached to the leg of the bird during transit.

Registration

Wild turkeys must registered either [online](#), by telephone or in person at a [registration location](#).

- Although hunters are no longer restricted to a permit area, successful hunters will be required to provide the permit area where they harvested their bird. A [map](#) of turkey permit areas is available online.
- The feathers, head, and feet must remain on the wild turkey until it is registered.
- Registered wild turkeys may be transported with a fully-feathered attached wing or attached leg and foot.

- No person may possess an unregistered wild turkey outside the wild turkey permit area where the bird was taken unless it is being transported in a direct route to a registration station.

Assisting

A licensed wild turkey hunter may assist another turkey hunter, but may not shoot or tag a turkey for another hunter. An unlicensed adult age 18 or older may assist a licensed wild turkey hunter. The unlicensed adult may not shoot or possess a firearm or bow while assisting a hunter and may not charge a fee for the assistance.

Landowner/tenant drawing

Because there is no longer a lottery drawing for A or B time period spring wild turkey licenses, the separate selection lottery for qualifying landowners or tenants who also agreed to allow some public hunting on their land, is no longer necessary.

Hunting the Mille Lacs, Carlos Avery or Whitewater wildlife management areas

Firearms hunters 18 and older must enter and be successful in the lottery to access to the Mille Lacs, Carlos Avery and Whitewater Wildlife Management areas.

- Lottery applications may be made [online](#), by telephone (888) 665-4236 or in person wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold. The application period begins in mid-December.
- Successful applicants will receive a letter indicating their selected wildlife management area and time period.
- Successful applicants may also hunt statewide. They are not required to stay in their selected wildlife management area
- Archery-only and hunters 17 and younger may access these areas without being successful in the lottery.
- The lottery deadline is the fourth Friday in January.
- Any hunter with a valid license may hunt the Mille Lacs, Carlos Avery or Whitewater wildlife management areas after the C time period.

Trespass law

Trespass is the most frequent complaint landowners have against hunters. Trespassing is illegal and can ruin relationships with private landowners. This could, in turn, hamper habitat programs, reduce land access, and possibly eliminate future hunting.

Always ask permission before entering private land. If you are caught trespassing, you may be issued a citation and assessed a fine under civil penalties, and repeat violators can lose their license or registration.

Alternatively, if you are convicted of violating trespass laws under criminal procedures, you may lose your hunting privileges for up to two (2) years, lose hunting equipment, and be subject to fines and possibly a jail sentence. All DNR conservation officers and all other licensed peace officers enforce trespass laws and may issue a citation to a person who trespasses in violation of the law or who removes a sign without authorization.

For more details about trespass law, see the current Hunting Regulations Book.