DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Minnesota's Wild Turkey Harvest Fall 2025 - Spring 2026

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Summary of Season Structure

The fall 2025 turkey season opened on October 4 and closed on November 2. An unlimited number of permits were available, and hunters could harvest a single bird of any sex in any permit area (Figure 1). All hunters, regardless of license type (archery/firearm), could hunt the entire season.

The spring 2026 hunting season was open from April 15 through May 31. Hunters were limited to harvesting one bearded bird. Firearm hunters were restricted to hunting one of five week-long periods (A-E), plus the F season that includes hunters who did not harvest a bird earlier. Archery and youth hunters could hunt the entire season. An unlimited number of permits were available during all periods, except for two permit areas that held lotteries during the A time-period (502, 511). All hunters declared a permit area when purchasing their license but could harvest a bird in any permit area (Figure 1).

Fall 2024 Season

Permits Issued

The number of fall turkey hunters in 2025 (8,958) was similar to the number of hunters in fall 2024 (9,906 hunters; Table 1, Figure 2) and was 5.6% higher than the 10-year average (8,453). The proportion of youth hunters in 2025 (2,322; Table 2) decreased by 5.8% compared to the fall 2024 season (2,467), which was comparable with 2023 youth numbers (2,314).

Harvest

The fall 2025 harvest (1,020) was 31% lower than the fall 2024 harvest (1,475 turkeys; Table 1). Hunter success was 11.4%, which was 23% below that of fall 2024 (Table 1). Hens made up 52.8% of the total harvest, while jakes and toms accounted for 12.8% and 34.3%, respectively. Two permit areas, 507 and 508, contributed 57.3% of the total fall harvest (Table 2). These same areas also saw the most hunting, representing 51.9% of all fall declared permit areas (Table 2).

Spring 2025 Season

Permits Issued

The number of permits issued across all license types in 2026 decreased slightly (1.1%), from 61,834 hunters in 2025 to 61,140 hunters in 2026 (Tables 3 and 4, Figure 3). Sales of youth permits were similar among years, general permits were up 1%, and archery sales were down 8% from 2025 (Table 4). In 2026, all hunters were required to declare a permit area but were not restricted to harvesting a bird within the declared area. The highest permit sales occurred in permit area 507, and together with permit areas 508 and 501, these permits accounted for approximately 63.5% of total permits across all declared permit areas (Table 5).

Harvest

During the 2026 spring turkey season, 15,258 turkeys were harvested (Table 4). The harvest total decreased 9.7% compared to 2025, but it was still the third highest season harvest total for the modern turkey season (since 1978; Figure 3). Permit areas 507, 508, and 501 experienced the greatest harvests and accounted for roughly 63.5% of the total harvest (Table 5). Permit success in 2026 was 25.0%, which was 8% lower than last year's 2025 season (27.3 %), but still the fourth highest over the last 10 years, with 2023 through 2025 being higher (Tables 3 and 4).

In 2026, a big snowstorm blanketed much of the state with a foot of snow in some places and inclement weather continued intermittently through the A, B, and C seasons. As a result, there was slightly higher participation in the F-season. In 2026, the combined A and B period harvest accounted for 63.4% of the total spring harvest (Table 6). Collectively, A-C periods accounted for approximately 78.2% of all spring turkey harvest (Table 6), which is in line with harvest in most years.

Tables

Table 1. Permits issued, registered harvest, and permit success rates for the ten most recent fall wild turkey seasons in Minnesota, 2016-2025.

Year	Permits issued	Registered harvest	Permit success (%)[a]
2016	8,563	1,175	13.7%
2017	7,747	1,017	13.1%
2018	6,725	835	12.4%
2019	6,481	855	13.2%
2020	8,410	1,136	13.5%
2021	9,026	1,238	13.7%
2022	8,999	1,285	14.3%
2023	9,713	1,224	12.6%
2024	9,906	1,475	14.9%
2025	8,958	1,020	11.4%

[a] Total permit success (registered harvest divided by all permits issued). Success rates not adjusted for non-participation or unregistered harvest.

Table 2. Permits declared, registered harvest by sex, and total registered harvest during the fall 2025 wild turkey season in Minnesota.

Permit area	General permits declared[a]	Youth permits declared	Toms[a]	Jakes[a]	Hens[a]	Total registered harvest[a]
501	692	216	32	13	45	90
502	83	24	0	1	4	5
503	552	167	32	7	37	76
504	193	69	11	3	18	32
505	309	99	14	1	14	29
506	275	81	16	4	14	34
507	1,549	632	90	31	135	256
508	1,898	632	97	48	183	328
509	371	211	17	12	47	76
510	579	157	40	7	39	86
511	88	23	1	1	3	5
512	47	11	0	3	0	3
Total	**6,636**	**2,322**	**350**	**131**	**539**	**1,020**

[a] Total registered harvest for all license types.

Table 3. Total permits issued, harvest, and permit success rates by permit type during the spring 2026 wild turkey season in Minnesota.

	Total permits issued	Harvest	Permit success (%)[a]
General	33,453	10,311	30.8%
Youth	14,391	2,812	19.5%
Archery	13,296	2,135	16.1%
Total	**61,140**	**15,258**	**25.0%**

[a] Permit success rates (registered harvest divided by number of permits issued) not adjusted for non-participation or unregistered harvest.

Table 4. Permits issued, registered harvest, and permit success rates for the ten most recent spring wild turkey hunting seasons in Minnesota, 2017-2026.

Year	General permits issued	Youth permits issued	Archery permits issued	Total permits issued	Registered harvest[a]	Total permit success (%)[b]
2017[c]	27,235	11,354	11,237	49,826	11,854	23.8%
2018[c]	24,737	9,952	11,399	46,088	10,750	23.3%
2019	24,432	10,032	11,794	46,258	10,746	23.2%
2020	34,173	14,292	14,731	63,196	13,996	22.1%
2021	32,522	12,598	12,966	58,086	12,067	20.8%
2022	29,603	12,551	12,337	54,491	12,297	22.6%
2023	29,542	12,343	11,688	53,574	13,669	25.5%
2024	31,299	13,771	14,495	59,565	16,714	28.1%
2025	32,961	14,404	14,469	61,834	16,903	27.3%
2026	33,453	14,391	13,296	61,140	15,258	25.0%

[a] Includes all license types.

[b] Total hunter success (registered harvest divided by number of permits issued). Success rates are not adjusted for non-participation or unregistered harvest.

[c] Permits issued, registered harvest, and hunter success (%) were reviewed and adjusted to address inconsistencies in data query and previous reporting.

Table 5. Permits issued by license type and total registered harvest within each permit area during the spring 2026 wild turkey season in Minnesota[a].

Permit area	Archery permits declared	General permits declared	Youth permits declared	Total permits declared	Total registered harvest
501	1,522	5,976	1,812	9,310	2,341
502	142	705	149	996	246
503	1,105	3,289	1,324	5,718	1,397
504	475	918	462	1,855	432
505	615	1,836	670	3,121	746
506	634	1,311	648	2,593	624
507	3,577	8,501	4,536	16,614	4,287
508	2,950	7,117	2,866	12,933	3,067
509	564	1,347	838	2,749	781
510	1,498	2,076	925	4,499	1,219
511	134	236	101	471	83
512	80	141	60	281	35
Total	**13,296**	**33,453**	**14,391**	**61,140**	**15,258**

[a] Beginning in 2020, all hunters declared but were not restricted to harvesting a turkey in their declared permit area.

Table 6. Permits issued and harvest by license type and time period for the spring 2026 wild turkey season in Minnesota.

Time period	Archery permits issued[a]	Youth permits issued[a]	General permits issued	Registered harvest[b]	Percent of total harvest[b]
Any	13,296	14,391			
A			11,433	5,984	39.2%
B			9,446	3,686	24.2%
C			6,432	2,259	14.8%
D			2,782	1,026	6.7%
E			2,116	683	4.5%
F			1,244	1,620	10.6%

[a] Archery and youth permits were valid during any time period.

[b] Includes harvest from all license types.

Figures

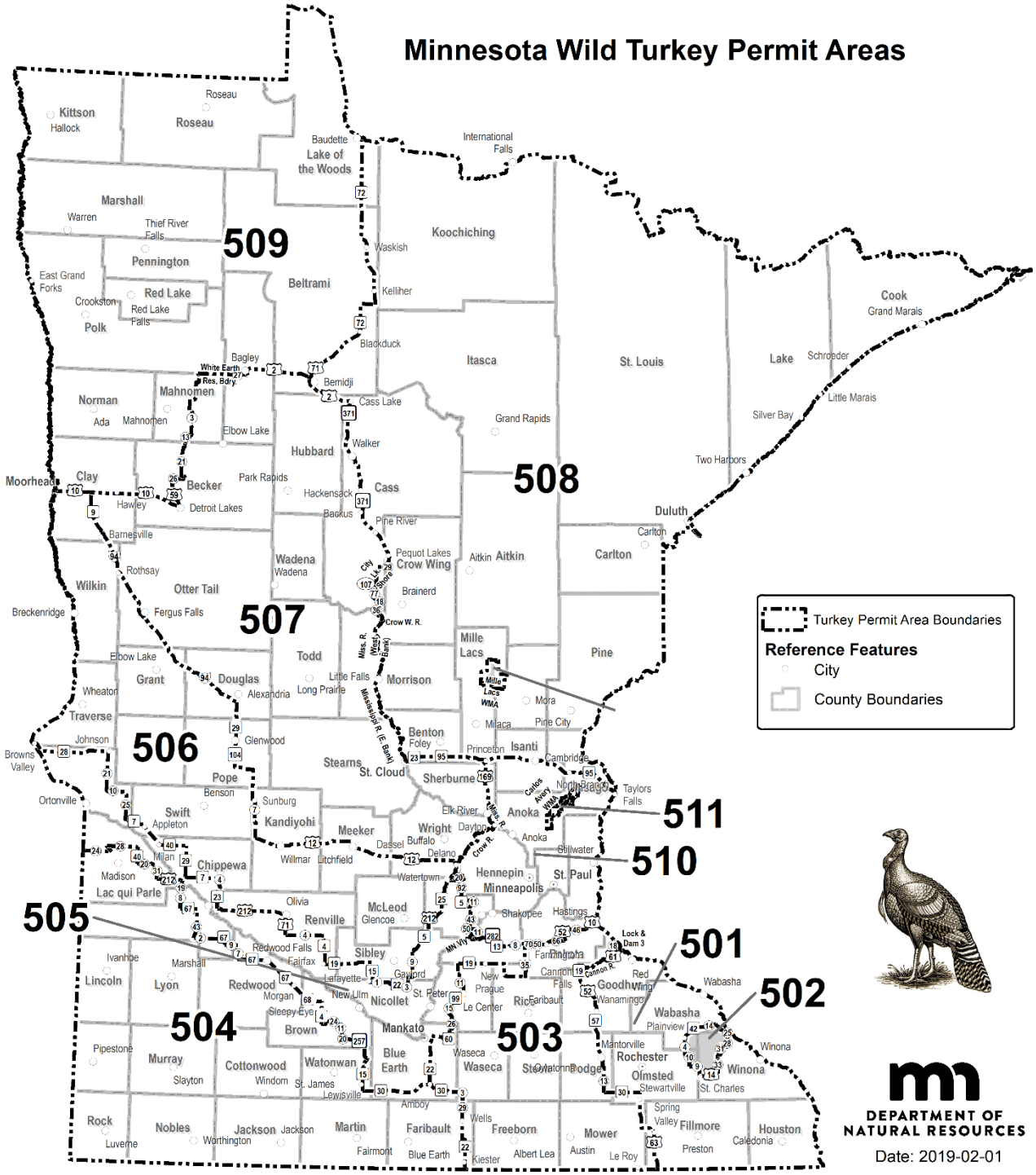


Figure 1. Permit areas open for hunting during the fall 2025 and spring 2026 wild turkey seasons in Minnesota.

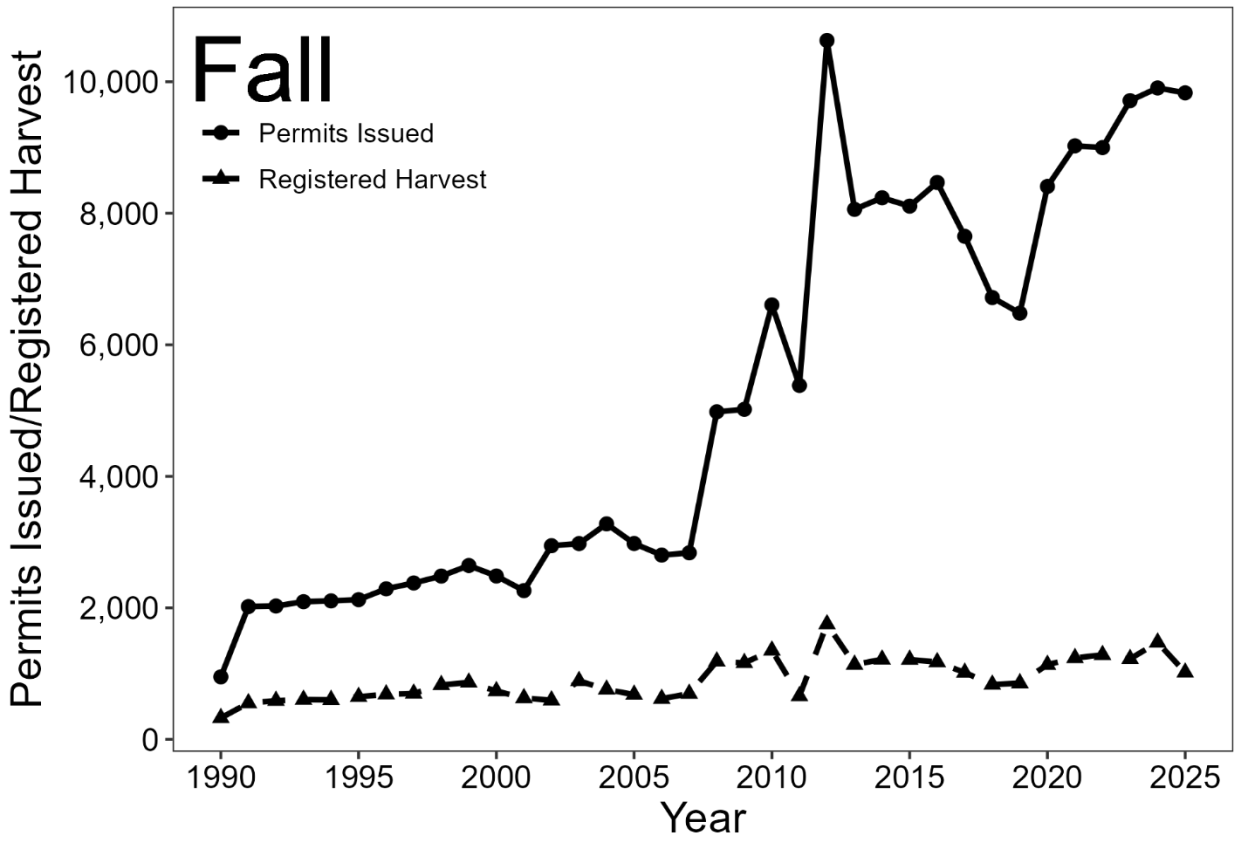


Figure 2. Permits issued and registered harvests for fall wild turkey seasons in Minnesota, 1990-2025.

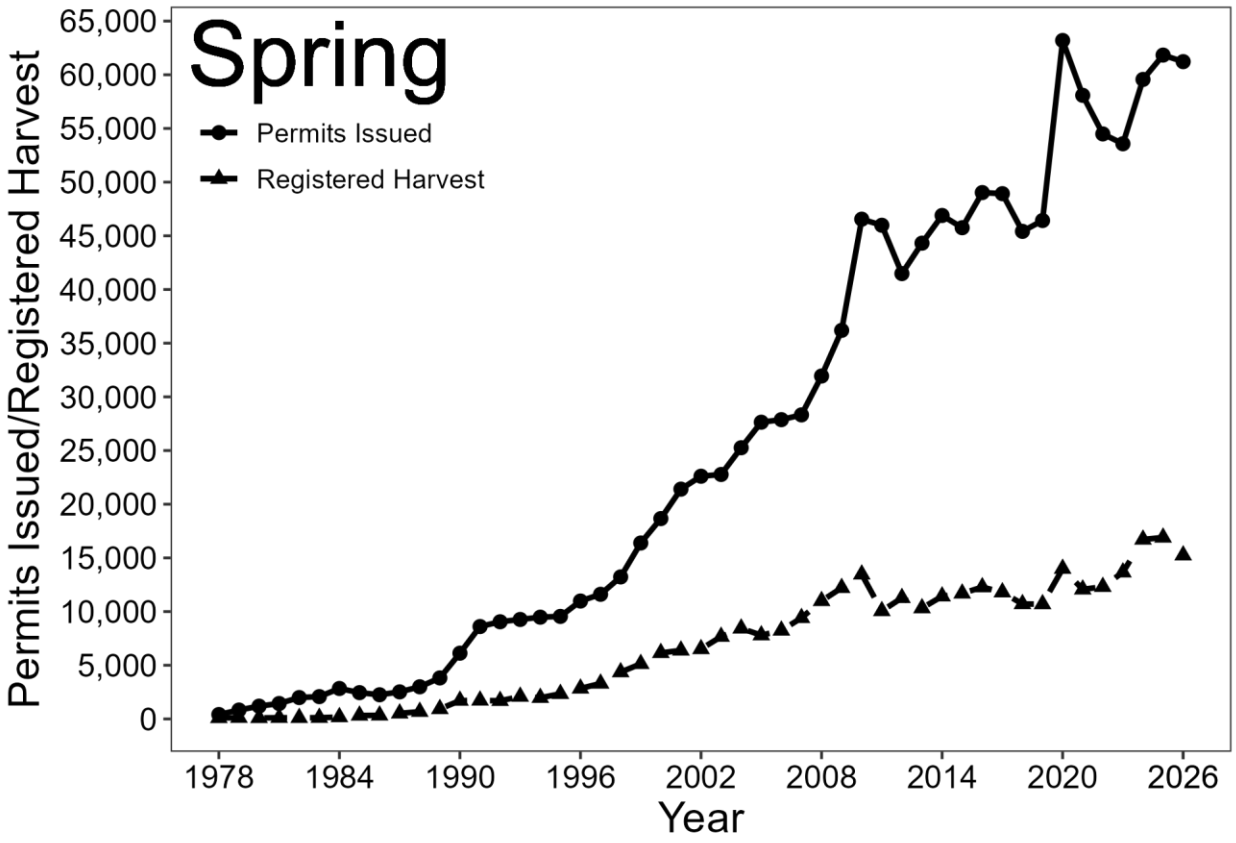


Figure 3. Permits issued and registered harvests for spring wild turkey seasons in Minnesota, 1978-2026.