



Obie Williams photo

FALL TURKEY HUNTING

SEASON DATES & RESTRICTIONS

FALL TURKEY	Shotgun	Archery	Crossbow
	Oct. 24-30 and Dec. 5-11, 2009	Sept. 5, 2009 - Jan. 18, 2010	Oct. 1-18 and Nov. 14 - Dec. 31, 2009

BAG LIMITS

Four (4) birds total:

- No more than two (2) birds may be taken during archery and crossbow seasons.
- No more than two (2) birds may be taken during shotgun season, regardless of weapon.
- No more than one (1) bird may have a beard length of three (3) inches or longer.
- No more than one (1) bird may be taken per day.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Adult hunters: Unless exempt, all fall turkey hunters ages 16 and older must carry a Fall Turkey Permit or have been issued an authorization number for a Fall Turkey Permit before hunting.

Q: Can I buy my child more than one Youth Turkey Permit?

A: Yes. Youth hunters may use multiple Youth Turkey Permits, but must follow season bag limits.

The Fall Turkey Permit is valid for fall archery, crossbow and shotgun turkey seasons. The permit is good for a total of four turkeys, following fall turkey bag limits and equipment restrictions.

Youth hunters: Kids under the age of 12 are exempt from license and turkey permit requirements. Youth ages 12-15 are eligible to purchase a Youth Turkey Permit, which is valid during any turkey season for one turkey. Youth hunters must abide by season bag limits and harvest restrictions but can use the youth permit throughout the license year. The Youth Sportsman's License includes one

Q: Can I take all four birds with archery or crossbow equipment?

A: Yes. All four birds allowed during fall turkey seasons may be taken with archery or crossbow equipment. (Two must be taken during shotgun seasons, and two more may be taken during the archery-only or crossbow season).

Youth Turkey Permit.

Hunters Note:

A person may assist or call turkeys for another legal hunter. The assistant/caller does not have to possess a hunting license or turkey permit, BUT shall not carry any type of hunting equipment. Only hunters with a valid license and permit who have not taken the season bag limit can carry a shotgun, archery or crossbow equipment when turkey hunting.

EQUIPMENT RESTRICTIONS

Turkey hunters may not use firearms during archery or crossbow-only seasons.

On some WMAs, special equipment restrictions apply, as noted in the Public Land Hunting section.

Youth supervision

Firearm turkey hunters 15 years old and younger must be accompanied by an adult, who shall remain in a position to take immediate control of the youth's firearm.

FIREARMS/AMMUNITION RESTRICTIONS

Legal

- Hunters may use the following:
- Modern (breech-loading) and muzzleloading shotguns no larger than 10-gauge and no smaller than 20-gauge are the only firearms that can be used or possessed when hunting turkeys.
 - Shotguns used to hunt turkeys must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and one in chamber).

Illegal

- Turkey hunters shall not use or carry:
- A rifle or handgun
 - A shotgun larger than 10-gauge or smaller than 20-gauge
 - Shot larger than number 4 (Shot sizes 4, 5 and 6 are most effective for turkeys.)
 - Shotgun slugs

ARCHERY & CROSSBOW EQUIPMENT RESTRICTIONS

Legal

- Longbows, recurve bows, compound bows and crossbows (during crossbow season)
- Broadheads at least 7/8" wide
- Any draw weight (no minimum)

Illegal

- Turkey hunters shall not use or carry:
- Barbed broadheads
 - Broadheads smaller than 7/8" wide
 - Arrows with chemical treatments or attachments containing chemicals
 - A crossbow without a working safety device

Equipment that does not meet these requirements is prohibited for use when turkey hunting.

HARVEST RECORDING & TAGGING REQUIREMENTS

The process and requirements for recording, checking and tagging harvested turkeys is the same as for deer. Please refer to the General Information/Telecheck section for that information and an explanation of how to fill in the hunter harvest log, and carcass tag when necessary.

POSSESSION/RELEASE OF LIVE TURKEYS

Because of potential disease problems and genetic pollution, it is illegal to possess live wild turkeys. For the same reasons, domestic or pen-raised turkeys should not be released into the wild. Due to the potential for spread of disease, it is recommended that turkeys not be artificially fed. Providing standing corn, wheat or clover patches is a much better alternative. See the General Information/Telecheck section of this guide for regulations on feeding wildlife from March 1 - May 31.

Register your turkey!

For information about registering your turkey with the official NWTf records system, log on to www.nwtf.org or contact National Wild Turkey Federation, Attn: Wild Turkey Records, P.O. Box 530, Edgefield, SC 29824-0530, telephone: (803) 637-3106.

Raise money for your conservation project with a Commission Conservation Permit!



Any incorporated nonprofit wildlife conservation organization or club can apply for a Commission Conservation Permit (Special Permit) in writing by submitting a conservation project proposal. Awarded permits can then be sold to raise money for the project.

The Commission may award up to ten quota elk hunting permits, ten deer permits, ten turkey, ten waterfowl and ten trout permits each year. Applicants may apply for one special permit per species.



For application details, visit fw.ky.gov and click on "Commissioner's Office." The deadline is May 1.