

Turkey Hunting

General Regulations

- You may buy only one turkey permit per year, which includes three carcass tags, two for spring and one for fall.
- If you have filled your bag limit, you may call turkeys for another hunter, but you may not carry a bow, crossbow, or firearm. You may call turkeys to aid another hunter only if you are licensed to hunt wild turkey in New York State and have a valid turkey permit.
- If you have taken a turkey that is unfit for consumption, authorized DEC staff may issue a special permit to take another. You will have to surrender the carcass. Call your wildlife or law enforcement office (see page 6).

Manner of Taking

- You must carry your hunting license and turkey permit while you hunt.
- You may hunt with a bow or crossbow; however, crossbows may only be used by hunters 14 or older and may not be used to take wild turkeys in Westchester or Suffolk counties.
- You may hunt with a shotgun or handgun only when using shot no larger than #2 and no smaller than #9.

- You may not take a turkey with a rifle or air gun, or with a handgun firing a bullet.
- You may use a muzzleloading shotgun.
- You may not hunt with a dog during the spring season. You may hunt with a dog during the fall season.
- You may not use bait to hunt turkey.
- You may not use an electronic calling or amplifying device to locate or hunt turkeys during the open season.
- You may use decoys. You may not use a live decoy when turkey hunting.
- A scope of any type is allowed.

Tagging, Possession, and Reporting

- Immediately after taking a wild turkey, you must fill out the appropriate carcass tag in ink, mark or cut out the date and month of kill, sign the back, and attach it to the carcass.
- The carcass tag must stay attached to the turkey carcass until it is prepared for eating.
- You may give your turkey to another person.



- You must attach a tag with the following information to the turkey carcass:
 - » Your name
 - » Your address
 - » Your hunting license number
 - » Turkey permit carcass tag number
 - » The recipient's name
 - » The recipient's address
- You must report your harvest within 7 days via phone (1-866-GAMERPT), online (dec.ny.gov), or through our HuntFishNY mobile app (see page 15).

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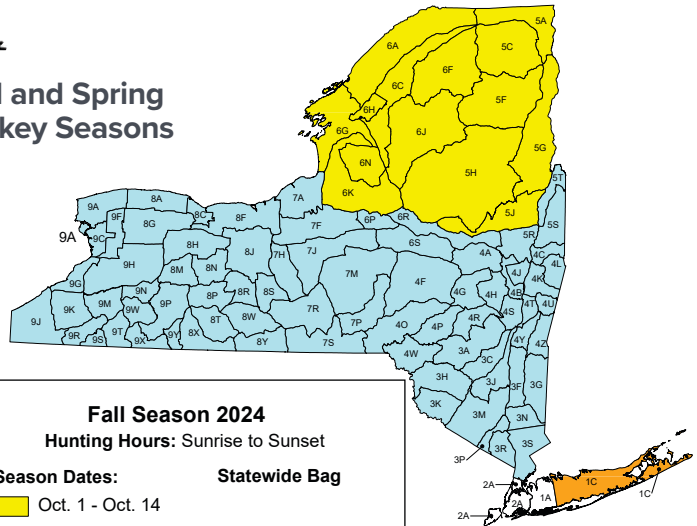
Fall Turkey Season

- You may take a bird of either sex.
- There is one carcass tag for the fall season and it may be used in any fall turkey hunting zone. Immediately after taking a turkey, you must fill out the carcass tag in ink and attach it to the bird.
- If you take a turkey, save one of its legs.** You will receive instructions about what to do with the leg when you report your harvest. The legs are used for age and sex information.

Spring Turkey Season

- In the spring, you may take two bearded birds. You may only take one bird per day.
- Fill out the carcass tag and attach it to the bird.
- You do not need to save and send in turkey legs in the spring. You do need to take careful spur, beard, and weight measurements for harvest reporting.
 - Spur measurements: Spurs should be measured from the tip of the spur to the base of the spur, where it emerges from the scaly part of the leg. Measure to the nearest 1/4 inch. Do not measure to the forward edge of the leg, only to the base of the spur.
 - Beard measurements: Beards should be measured from the tip of the beard to the base, where it emerges from the skin. Put the end of your ruler against the base of the beard and extend the beard along the body of the ruler. Measure to the nearest 1/4 inch.
 - Record the weight of the turkey to the nearest pound.

Fall and Spring Turkey Seasons



Fall Season 2024
Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset

Season Dates: **Statewide Bag**

Oct. 1 - Oct. 14
 Oct. 19 - Nov. 1 1 bird of either sex
 Nov. 16 - Nov. 29
 Closed

Spring Season 2025
Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before Sunrise to Noon

Season Dates: **Statewide Bag**

May 1 - May 31
 in all open areas 2 bearded birds*
 No more than 1 in WMU 1C
 Closed

Youth Turkey Season 2025
Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before Sunrise to Noon

Statewide Bag Limit: 1 bearded bird

Season Dates: April 26 and 27, 2025

Open Areas: Same as Regular Spring Season

*No more than 1 per day

Reward

Protect wild turkeys against illegal hunting. Their future depends on you!

The National Wild Turkey Federation is offering a \$200 reward to anyone giving information and testimony leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone illegally hunting or killing a wild turkey in New York State. 1 844 DEC ECOS



Turkey Hunters Needed for Grouse Survey

DEC is seeking spring turkey hunters to participate in a survey to help monitor grouse populations.

For more information:

- Email us at wildlife@dec.ny.gov and type "Grouse Drumming Survey" in the subject line, or
- Call 518 402 8883, or
- Visit www.dec.ny.gov and search for drumming survey.

NYS 4-H Shooting Sports



Cornell Cooperative Extension
50 West High Street
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
518-885-8995

4-H Shooting Sports is a statewide youth development program focusing on the safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment. Six disciplines are offered:

Archery, Muzzleloading, Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun & Hunting

All disciplines are taught by certified instructors. Youth gain knowledge and understanding while developing valuable vocational and life-long recreational skills. Contact Saratoga County Cornell Cooperative Extension or visit NYS 4-H Shooting Sports on the web for more information.

<http://www.NYS4HShootingSports.org>

Turkey Hunting Tips

Successful turkey hunters sit and call.

Don't wear red, white, blue, or black.

Most turkey hunting injuries happen when one hunter stalks another hunter.

DO NOT TRY TO STALK TURKEY!

Assume anything that sounds like a turkey is a human (calls, footsteps).

If you see another hunter:

- Don't move, wave, or nod.
- Don't make turkey or animal sounds.
- Do speak up clearly, saying "STOP."

If you see a turkey:

Be 100% sure of your target and beyond. To prevent another hunter from mistaking you for a gobbler, avoid using a turkey reaper fan.

Turkey Hunting

Spring Youth Hunt

Eligible hunters are 12–15 years of age and hold a Junior Hunting License and a Turkey Permit.

All youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult, as required by law for a Junior Hunting License (see pages 44 and 45).

The accompanying adult must have a current hunting license and Turkey Permit. He/she may assist the youth hunter (including calling), but may not carry a firearm, crossbow or bow, or kill

or attempt to kill a wild turkey during the youth hunt. Crossbows may only be used by licensees who are 14 years of age or older.

The bag limit for the youth hunt is one bearded bird. This bird becomes part of the youth's regular season bag limit of two bearded birds. A second bird may be taken beginning May 1.

All other wild turkey hunting regulations remain in effect.



William T

Why Do We Have a May 1 Opener?

Research has found that the optimal start date for the spring season is the median date of incubation (when about half of hens are on nests). In New York State and much of the Northeast this is around May 1. A May 1 opener provides the best opportunity to pursue gobblers when they are vocal and responsive to calling while minimizing disruption to reproduction. An earlier season start can disrupt breeding behavior and nesting, negatively affecting long term turkey abundance and hunt quality.



Photo provided by Scott F., Conservation Fund Advisory Board (CFAB) representative, showing the success of a Mentor Youth Hunt in Oneida and Madison counties.

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BE TICK SAFE!

Ticks can spread disease, but not all bites will make you sick. Deer ticks may carry Lyme disease, the most common tick-borne disease in New York.

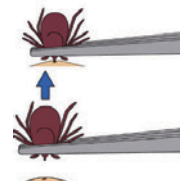


QUESTIONS?

- Contact the NYS Department of Health or your healthcare provider if you have symptoms of fever, rash, body aches, or fatigue after a tick bite.
- See www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/lyme/

TICK REMOVAL

- Using tweezers, grab the tick as close to your skin as possible.
- Pull upward with steady, even pressure.
- Clean the bite area with soap and water, rubbing alcohol, or hydrogen peroxide.



Check yourself, your children, and pets for ticks daily.