

2024

# MICHIGAN FALL TURKEY HUNTING REGULATIONS SUMMARY



## Important:

- A fall turkey license is valid for one turkey (any sex).
- If licenses remain by Aug. 26, hunters can purchase one license per day until quotas are met.

**Drawing results available Aug. 12.**

**Application period: July 1 - Aug. 1, 2024**

RAP (Report All Poaching): Call or text 800-292-7800

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The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission is a seven-member public body whose members are appointed by the governor and subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. The NRC has exclusive authority to regulate the taking of game and sportfish. The commission conducts monthly, public meetings in locations throughout Michigan. Citizens are encouraged to become actively involved in these public forums. For more information, visit [Michigan.gov/NRC](http://Michigan.gov/NRC).

This program receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you need more information, please write to: Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

NOTICE: This document is not a legal notice or a complete collection of hunting regulations and laws. It is a summary of regulations issued for hunters' convenience. Copies of wildlife conservation orders, which contain complete listings of regulations and legal descriptions, are available at [Michigan.gov/DNRLaws](http://Michigan.gov/DNRLaws).



## Managing turkeys in Michigan

Managing turkeys in Michigan involves the complex interactions of turkey populations, their habitat and their relationship to people. Hunting plays an important role in managing turkeys by regulating their numbers. Fall turkey hunting allows the DNR to stabilize or reduce turkey numbers in certain areas of the state to meet local goals based on habitat conditions and public attitudes. To help reach these goals, hunters are encouraged to harvest female turkeys during the fall season and are able harvest more than one bird. License quotas are developed to harvest the desired number of turkeys to meet management goals. For more information on turkey management in Michigan, visit [Michigan.gov/Turkey](http://Michigan.gov/Turkey).

## Fall turkey hunting season dates and license quotas

Fall turkey licenses are valid for specific areas and hunting dates. In many fall turkey management units (TMUs), license availability is subject to a license quota.

### General licenses

#### What type of lands can I hunt with a general license?

The fall turkey general licenses are valid on all public and private lands within the TMU.

TMU	Season dates	License quota	Hunt number
<b>G</b>	Sept. 15 – Nov. 14	200	0401
<b>GB</b>	Sept. 15 – Nov. 14	250	0402
<b>GC</b>	Sept. 15 – Nov. 14	200	0403
<b>J</b>	Sept. 15 – Nov. 14	1,500	0404
<b>L</b>	Sept. 15 – Nov. 14	500	0405
<b>M</b>	Sept. 15 – Nov. 14	1,500	0406
<b>T</b>	Sept. 15 – Nov. 14	200	0407
<b>W</b>	Sept. 15 – Nov. 14	200	0408
<b>WA</b>	Sept. 15 – Nov. 14	100	0409

### Private-land-only licenses

#### If I get a private-land-only license, are there any exceptions that allow hunting on public land?

Private-land-only licenses can only be used on private land within the TMU. You must have permission from the landowner. Private-land-only licenses are not valid on county, state or federal lands. Exception: Licenses valid for Unit YY can be used to hunt Fort Custer military lands with permission.

TMU	Season dates	License quota	Hunt number
<b>HA</b>	Sept. 15 – Nov. 14	1,700	0410
<b>YY</b>	Sept. 15 – Nov. 14	45,000	0501

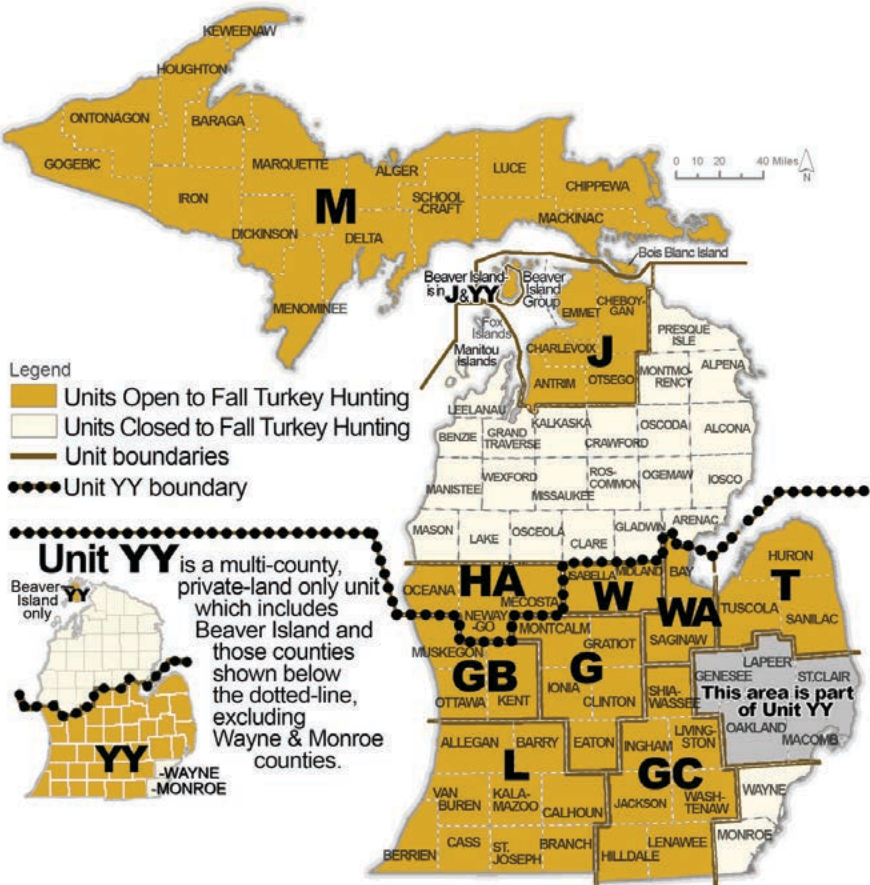
#### What area does management unit YY cover?

Unit YY for fall turkey encompasses Beaver Island and private lands in southern Michigan, excluding Wayne and Monroe counties.



# Fall turkey management units

For detailed descriptions of fall turkey management unit boundaries, visit [Michigan.gov/DNRLaws](http://Michigan.gov/DNRLaws) or contact a DNR customer service center, listed at [Michigan.gov/ContactDNR](http://Michigan.gov/ContactDNR).



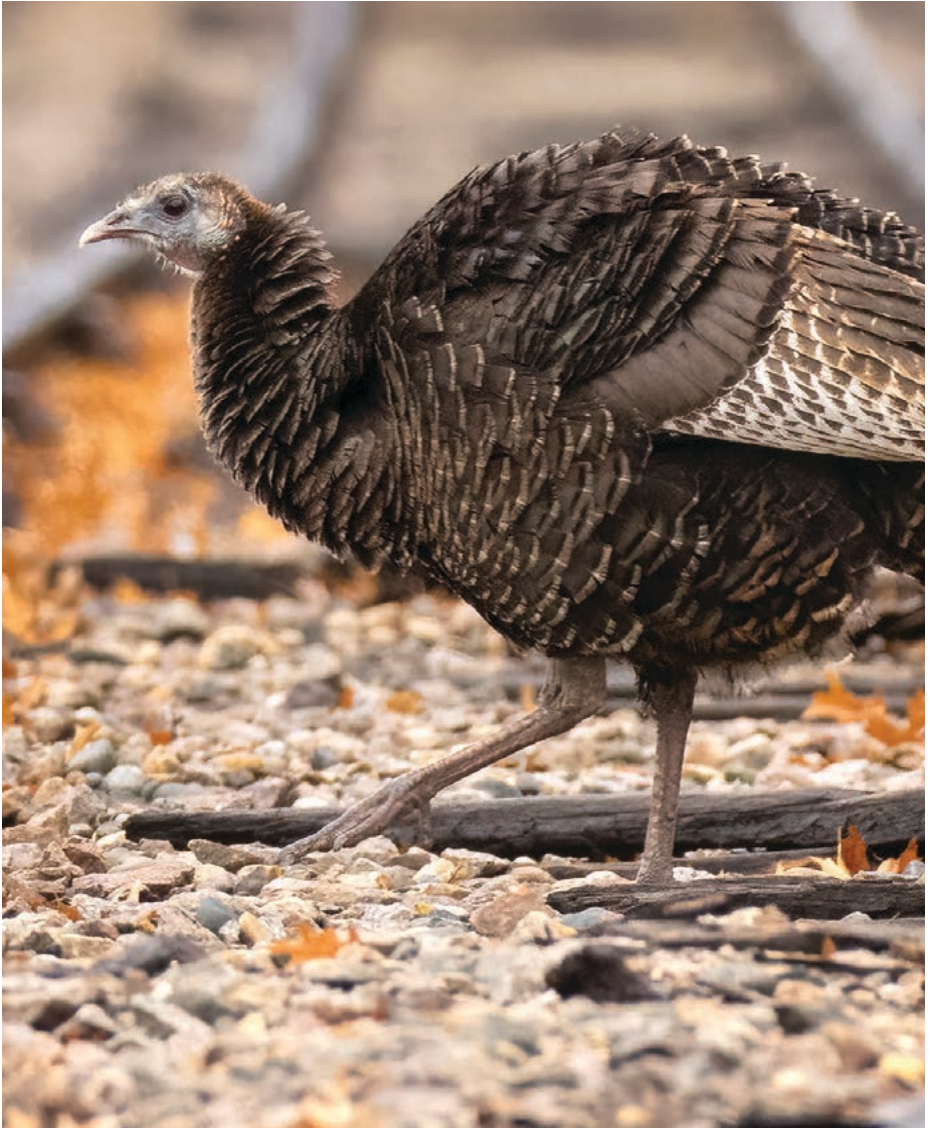
## Bag limits

### **How many turkeys can I harvest with a fall turkey license?**

You can harvest one turkey (any sex) per fall turkey license.

### **Can I harvest a fall turkey without a beard?**

Yes. You can harvest a bearded turkey (any sex) or a beardless turkey (any sex) during the fall turkey season.



### How does the fall turkey drawing system work?

Hunters are selected for a fall turkey license using a random drawing system. In each annual drawing, Michigan residents and nonresidents are equally eligible for selection and license purchase. For more information on the fall turkey drawing, visit [Michigan.gov/Turkey](https://Michigan.gov/Turkey).

## Application information

### When is the application period for the 2024 fall turkey drawing?

The application period is July 1 – Aug. 1, 2024.

### How much is an application?

An application is \$5.

### How many fall turkey applications can I purchase?

You can only purchase one fall turkey application per year. You can apply for a fall turkey license valid for a specific TMU during specific season dates.

### What identification do I need to purchase an application?

To purchase a fall turkey application in Michigan, you must have one of the following forms of identification:

- Valid Michigan driver's license.
- Valid nonresident driver's license.
- State of Michigan ID card (issued by the Secretary of State).
- DNR Sportcard (issued by any license agent, online at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses) or on the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app. If the information on your DNR Sportcard from the previous year is still accurate, you should continue to use it).

### Where can I purchase an application?

You can purchase an application from any license agent, online at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses) or through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app. The app is available for download at the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. Find a license agent at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenseAgents](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenseAgents).

## Eligible applicants

### Who is eligible to apply for the drawing?

The following people are eligible to apply for a fall turkey license (unless they have an active revocation or are otherwise ineligible):

- A person who is 9 years old or younger and is licensed under the Mentored Youth Hunting Program. Mentored Youth Hunting Program participants automatically receive a fall turkey license, so participants only need to apply if they would like to purchase additional licenses. See the Mentored youth hunting section for more information.

**Continued on page 8 ►**

- A person who is 10 years old or older and is hunter safety-certified or licensed as an apprentice hunter.

### **I am an apprentice hunter. Can I apply for the drawing?**

Yes. If you are licensed under the Apprentice Hunting Program, you can purchase an application for a fall turkey license. See the Apprentice hunting section for more information.

### **I am not a resident of Michigan. Can I apply for the drawing?**

Yes. You can apply for the Michigan fall turkey drawing as a nonresident.

## How to apply for a fall turkey license

### **How do I apply for the drawing?**

1. Look at the 2024 TMU map on page 5 and choose the TMU you want to hunt.
2. Look at the 2024 fall turkey hunt tables on page 4 to find your desired season dates for the TMU you chose. Make note of the corresponding hunt number and be sure to select this number when purchasing your application.
3. Purchase an application for the hunt number you chose (you can select one hunt number).
4. Check your receipt for accuracy and retain it as proof of your application.

## Party applications

### **Can I apply to hunt with other hunters?**

Yes. You can apply in a party with one other person. If you apply with more than one person, you will be ineligible for the drawing. Everyone in the party will receive a license if the party is selected, except for those who submit an invalid application.

### **How do I apply with someone else as a party?**

The first person to apply (either you or the other member of the party) selects the hunt number(s) and receives a “party ID” number, which is printed on the application receipt. A new party ID number is issued each year. Then, the other person uses the party ID number when applying to complete the party. Make sure to verify the party ID number is identical on both receipts.



## Application assistance

### **The receipt I received is not printed clearly or has an error. What do I do?**

You are responsible for obtaining a DNR application receipt that correctly states your customer ID and hunt choice. Do not accept a receipt that is not legible. Check your receipt for accuracy and retain it as proof that you applied. Ensure any application errors are corrected prior to the application deadline. If you submit an invalid application, you will be ineligible for the drawing.

### **I am having trouble applying. What do I do?**

You can call 517-284-9453 for assistance.

## Drawing results

### **When will drawing results be available?**

Drawing results will be available on Aug. 12, 2024.

### **How do I check my drawing results?**

You can check your drawing results online at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses), through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app or by calling 517-284-9453. You are responsible for obtaining your drawing results.

### **What happens if I am selected for a license in the drawing?**

You can purchase the license for which you were selected. See the License types and fees section for more information.

### **Can I sell my drawing success?**

No. You cannot sell or transfer your fall turkey drawing success to another person. It is unlawful for an individual to receive a fee, other consideration or service of value, either directly or indirectly, for transferring drawing success to another person or assisting and/or guiding that person in the hunt that has been transferred.

### **What happens if I am not selected for a license in the drawing?**

If you applied in the drawing and were unsuccessful, you can purchase a leftover license for another hunt period with quota remaining beginning Aug. 19 at 10 a.m. Eastern Time. Depending on how many hunters apply, leftover licenses may or may not be available for some fall turkey management units and/or hunt period dates. See the Leftover licenses section for more information.

### **What happens if I didn't apply for the drawing?**

If you didn't apply for the drawing, you can purchase leftover licenses, if available, beginning Aug. 26 at 10 a.m. ET. See the Leftover licenses section for more information.

## License types and fees by age

License type	Age: up to 9	Junior age: 10-16	Resident age: 17-64	Resident senior age: 65+	Nonresident age: 17+ <sup>1</sup>
DNR Sportcard* <sup>2</sup>	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1
Mentored youth license	\$7.50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fall turkey application	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5
Base license* - valid through March 31, 2025	N/A	\$6	\$11	\$5	\$151
Fall turkey license	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$6	\$15
Pure Michigan Hunt application	N/A	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5

\*One dollar from each of these licenses will be used to educate the public on the benefits of hunting, fishing and trapping in Michigan and the impact of these activities on the conservation, preservation and management of the state's natural resources.

<sup>1</sup>Nonresidents under 17 years old may purchase a resident base license.

<sup>2</sup>The DNR Sportcard is not required if you have a valid state-issued driver's license or ID card.

**Resident active-duty U.S. military personnel and Michigan veterans with disabilities**

Resident active-duty military personnel and resident veterans with a 100% disability rating can obtain a leftover fall turkey license free of charge beginning Aug. 26. Licenses are full price for those who apply for a license and are selected in the drawing.

## Hunter education

### Is hunter safety required for purchasing a license?

Yes. If you were born on or after Jan. 1, 1960, you must present your hunter safety certificate or previous hunting license (other than an apprentice license) to purchase your license. A valid hunter education safety certificate from another state meets this requirement. Michigan's hunter education courses are offered throughout the year around the state. The online course can be found at [Michigan.gov/HunterEducation](http://Michigan.gov/HunterEducation). For a replacement Michigan hunter safety certificate, visit [Michigan.gov/RecreationalSafety](http://Michigan.gov/RecreationalSafety).

## Mentored youth hunting

### What is the Mentored Youth Hunting Program?

The Mentored Youth Hunting Program allows youth hunters 9 years old and younger to hunt with a mentor who is at least 21 years old, has hunting

experience and has a valid Michigan hunting license other than an apprentice license.

### **What species can mentored youth harvest with their license?**

The mentored youth license is a “package” license to hunt small game, waterfowl, turkey (spring and fall) and deer, trap furbearers and fish for all species. It also allows hunters to apply for or purchase additional licenses including antlerless deer, bear, elk and fall turkey. Additional restrictions apply; complete program details can be found online at [Michigan.gov/MentoredHunting](https://Michigan.gov/MentoredHunting).

### **I am a mentored youth hunter. What can I do with the fall turkey license I received in my MYH package?**

As a mentored youth hunter, you get one fall turkey license, which is valid for one turkey (any sex) in any open fall turkey hunt unit on public or private land.

### **I am 9 years old or younger and not a resident of Michigan. Can I purchase a mentored youth license?**

Yes. The mentored youth license is available to both residents and nonresidents who are 9 years old or younger.

### **What happens if a mentored youth turns 10 years old during the license year?**

The mentored youth license and kill tags will remain valid for the duration of the license year, even if the mentored youth turns 10 years old during the license year.

## **Apprentice hunting**

### **What is the Apprentice Hunting Program?**

The Apprentice Hunting Program allows a person who does not have a hunter safety certificate and is 10 years old or older to hunt during the current hunting seasons with a mentor who is at least 21 years old. An apprentice hunter will need to purchase a base apprentice license to participate. Additional licenses are required to hunt big game, furbearers and waterfowl. Complete program details can be found online at [Michigan.gov/MentoredHunting](https://Michigan.gov/MentoredHunting).

- ◇ Apprentice youth hunters can hunt for turkeys on public lands and private or Commercial Forest lands.

### **I am not a resident of Michigan. Can I purchase a base apprentice license?**

Yes. The base apprentice license is available to residents and nonresidents who do not have a hunter safety certificate.

### **How many times can I purchase a base apprentice license?**

You can purchase a base apprentice license for up to two license years before you must successfully complete a hunter safety course and purchase a regular base license.

### **I am an apprentice hunter. Can I purchase a fall turkey license?**

Yes. If you are licensed under the Apprentice Hunting Program, you can purchase a fall turkey license awarded in the drawing or a leftover fall turkey license, if available.

### **Can I hunt by myself with a base apprentice license, or do I need to hunt with someone else?**

When hunting as an apprentice hunter, you must be accompanied by someone 21 years old or older who has a regular, current-year hunting license for the same game you are hunting. If you are an apprentice hunter who is 10-16 years old, your accompanying mentor must be your parent, guardian or someone designated by your parent or guardian who is at least 21 years old. A mentor can accompany no more than two apprentice hunters while hunting.

### **Does my accompanying mentor need to have a fall turkey license for the same unit and hunt period as me?**

For hunting fall turkey, your accompanying mentor needs a current-year fall turkey hunting license, but it does not have to be for the same management unit or season dates as your fall turkey license.

### **How close do I need to be to my accompanying mentor during the hunt?**

Your accompanying mentor must be able to come to your immediate aid and stay within a distance that permits uninterrupted, unaided visual and verbal contact.

## **Michigan residents**

### **Do I qualify as a Michigan resident?**

To qualify as a Michigan resident, you must meet one of the following criteria:

- Reside in a settled or permanent home or domicile within the boundaries of this state with the intention of remaining in this state. Resident status can only be claimed in one state.
- Be a full-time student at a Michigan college or university and reside in the state during the school year.
- Serve full time in the U.S. military and be officially stationed in Michigan.
- Serve full time in the U.S. military and maintain residency in Michigan.

### **If I own land in Michigan but live in a different state, can I buy a resident fall turkey license?**

No. The ownership of land in Michigan by itself is not a qualification for a resident license. You would be considered a nonresident.

## Treaty-authorized hunters

### Can I hunt with a tribal member?

Yes. You can hunt with a tribal member who is present and actively hunting if you possess a state-issued hunting license for the applicable species and season for which you are hunting.

## DNR Sportcard

### What is a DNR Sportcard?

A DNR Sportcard serves as a valid form of identification for people without a driver's license. There are no age restrictions or residency requirements for purchase. A DNR Sportcard is not required if you have a valid state-issued driver's license or ID card. A DNR Sportcard with accurate information can be used from year to year.

## Base license

### What is a base license?

A base license is required for everyone who hunts in Michigan. The base license provides funding for habitat and conservation work on both public and private land and supports the work of conservation officers and field staff to ensure safe, legal hunting practices are followed. The base license is not a kill tag and is valid for hunting small game. Additional licenses are required to hunt and trap other species. Hunters are always encouraged to carry their base license when hunting.

### I was selected for a fall turkey license in the drawing but can't purchase my license. Why not?

While an application can be purchased prior to obtaining a base license, you must purchase your 2024 base license before you can purchase a fall turkey license.

### When can I purchase a 2024 base license?

The 2024 base license is currently available for purchase. A 2024 base license is valid through March 31, 2025.

## Fall turkey license

### What is a fall turkey license?

A fall turkey license is a kill tag that allows an individual to harvest a turkey within a designated TMU and hunt period during the fall turkey season.

### What type of lands can I hunt with a fall turkey license?

A fall turkey license is valid on all public and private lands within the designated TMU, except fall turkey licenses for TMU HA and YY are valid on private lands only. You must have permission from the landowner to hunt on private property.



### **Can I purchase more than one fall turkey license?**

Yes. You can purchase one fall turkey license per day until quotas are met.

### **Can I let someone else hunt using my fall turkey license?**

No. You cannot use another person's kill tag or allow another person to use your kill tag. It is illegal for hunters to harvest or attempt to harvest a turkey unless they have an unused fall turkey hunting license issued in their name for the TMU in which they are hunting.

### **Can I use the same kill tag on more than one turkey?**

No. You cannot use a kill tag more than once.

### **Can I put my kill tag on a turkey someone else harvested?**

No. You cannot put your kill tag on a turkey you did not harvest.

## **Leftover licenses**

### **Are there always leftover licenses available?**

No. There is no guarantee that leftover licenses will be available for any hunt number. Current leftover license and permit availability may be viewed at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses).

### **When can I purchase a leftover license if I was not selected for a fall turkey license in the drawing?**

If any licenses remain after the drawing and you have a current base license, you can purchase a leftover fall turkey license on a first-come, first-served basis beginning Aug. 19 at 10 a.m. ET.

### **When can I purchase a leftover license if I didn't apply for the drawing?**

If any licenses remain as of Aug. 26 at 10 a.m. ET and you have a current base license, you can purchase a leftover fall turkey license on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **I am not a resident of Michigan. Can I purchase a leftover license?**

Yes. You can purchase a leftover fall turkey license as a nonresident, if available.

### **How many leftover fall turkey licenses can I purchase?**

You can purchase one fall turkey license (awarded in the drawing or leftover) per day until quotas are met.

## Pure Michigan Hunt

### **What is the Pure Michigan Hunt?**

The Pure Michigan Hunt is a chance at the hunt of a lifetime for three lucky hunters. Winners may purchase one elk (resident only), bear, antlerless deer, spring turkey, fall turkey and base hunting license at a total cost of \$3. They may also participate in one reserved waterfowl hunt at a managed waterfowl area or have first selection of another hunt choice at any managed waterfowl area if approved by the local area manager. Also, winners will receive a prize package worth thousands and can choose to transfer their Pure Michigan Hunt opportunities to other individuals. Each PMH license is valid for the applicable 2025 species hunting season and may be used in any open hunt area for that species, except bear hunting on Drummond Island. Licenses will be subject to all 2025 hunting regulations.

### **How does the Pure Michigan Hunt drawing system work?**

Hunters are selected for a Pure Michigan Hunt license package using a random drawing system. In the license drawing, Michigan residents and nonresidents are equally eligible for selection and license purchase. Nonresidents are not eligible to purchase the PMH elk license.

### **When is the application period for the 2025 Pure Michigan Hunt drawing?**

The application period is Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2024.

### **How many Pure Michigan Hunt applications can I purchase?**

You can purchase as many Pure Michigan Hunt applications as you wish until Dec. 31, 2024.

### **When will the 2025 Pure Michigan Hunt winners be announced?**

Three lucky hunters will be drawn in January 2025, and the winners will be announced via Facebook video broadcast, with final confirmation by phone. Drawing results will be posted online the week following the video announcement.

### **Where can I find more information?**

For more information on the Pure Michigan Hunt drawing, visit [Michigan.gov/PMH](https://Michigan.gov/PMH).

## Identification requirements

### What identification do I need to purchase a license?

To purchase a fall turkey license in Michigan, you must have one of the following forms of identification:

- Valid Michigan driver's license.
- Valid nonresident driver's license.
- State of Michigan ID card (issued by the Secretary of State).
- DNR Sportcard (issued through license agents, at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses) or on the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app. If the information on your DNR Sportcard from the previous year is still accurate, you should continue to use it).

### Do I have to carry my fall turkey license when hunting?

Yes. When hunting, you must carry your fall turkey license and the identification used to purchase that license and present both upon demand of a Michigan conservation officer, a tribal conservation officer or any law enforcement officer.

## Where to buy licenses and kill tags

### Where can I purchase a fall turkey license or leftover license?

You can purchase a license from any license agent, online at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses) or through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app. The app is available for download at the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. Find a license agent at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenseAgents](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenseAgents).

### I purchased my fall turkey license online. When will I get my kill tag?

If you purchased your fall turkey license online, your kill tag will be mailed to you seven to 10 business days after your purchase. You cannot go hunting without the license in your possession.

## Lost licenses and kill tags

### What do I do if I lost my fall turkey license?

If you originally purchased your fall turkey license at a license agent or online, you can visit a license agent and have your license replaced. Because a fall turkey license is a kill tag, **a fall turkey license replacement is full price**. You must provide the identification number used to purchase the original license.

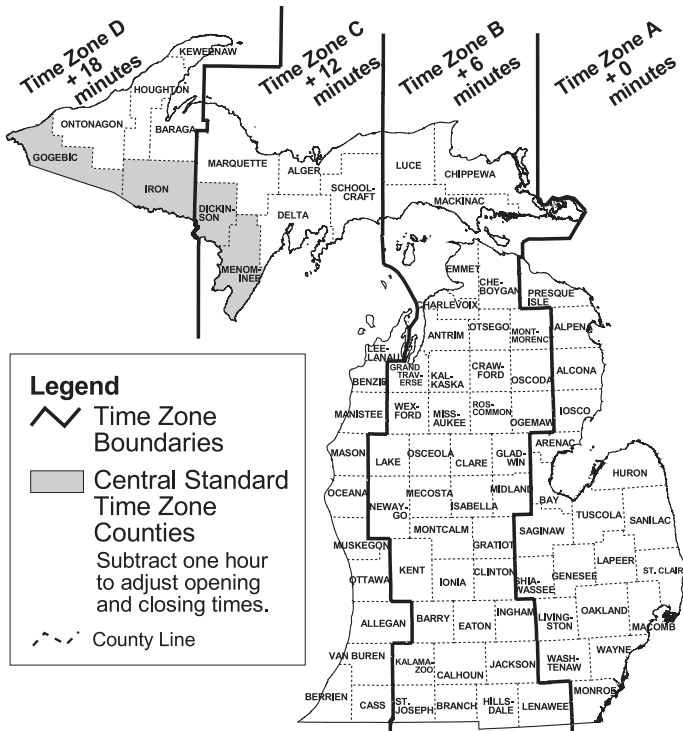


# Hunting hours

## When is it legal for me to hunt fall turkeys?

Actual legal hunting hours (one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset) for Zone A are printed in the table. To determine the opening (a.m.) or closing (p.m.) time in another zone, add the minutes shown on the map for the zone to the time from the Zone A hunting hours table. The hunting hours listed in the table reflect Eastern Time, adjusted for daylight saving time where appropriate. **If you are hunting in Gogebic, Iron, Dickinson or Menominee counties (Central Time), you must make an additional adjustment to the printed time by subtracting one hour.**

## Hunting time zones map





## Zone A hunting hours table (September - October)

Hunting hours listed are one half-hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset (adjusted for daylight saving time).

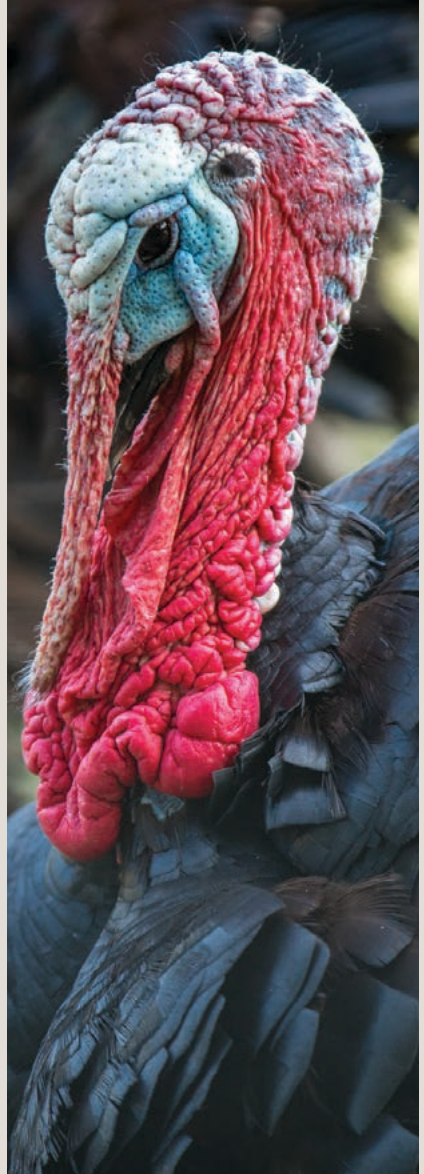
Date	Time Zone A a.m.	Time Zone A p.m.
Sept. 15	6:43	8:11
Sept. 16	6:44	8:09
Sept. 17	6:45	8:07
Sept. 18	6:46	8:06
Sept. 19	6:47	8:04
Sept. 20	6:48	8:02
Sept. 21	6:49	8:00
Sept. 22	6:50	7:58
Sept. 23	6:51	7:57
Sept. 24	6:52	7:55
Sept. 25	6:53	7:53
Sept. 26	6:54	7:51
Sept. 27	6:56	7:50
Sept. 28	6:57	7:48
Sept. 29	6:58	7:46
Sept. 30	6:59	7:44

Date	Time Zone A a.m.	Time Zone A p.m.
Oct. 1	7:00	7:43
Oct. 2	7:01	7:41
Oct. 3	7:02	7:39
Oct. 4	7:03	7:37
Oct. 5	7:04	7:36
Oct. 6	7:05	7:34
Oct. 7	7:07	7:32
Oct. 8	7:08	7:31
Oct. 9	7:09	7:29
Oct. 10	7:10	7:27
Oct. 11	7:11	7:26
Oct. 12	7:12	7:24
Oct. 13	7:13	7:22
Oct. 14	7:14	7:21
Oct. 15	7:16	7:19
Oct. 16	7:17	7:18
Oct. 17	7:18	7:16
Oct. 18	7:19	7:15
Oct. 19	7:20	7:13
Oct. 20	7:22	7:11
Oct. 21	7:23	7:10
Oct. 22	7:24	7:09
Oct. 23	7:25	7:07
Oct. 24	7:26	7:06
Oct. 25	7:28	7:04
Oct. 26	7:29	7:03
Oct. 27	7:30	7:01
Oct. 28	7:31	7:00
Oct. 29	7:32	6:59
Oct. 30	7:34	6:57
Oct. 31	7:35	6:56

**Zone A hunting hours table (November)**

Hunting hours listed are one half-hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset (adjusted for daylight saving time).

Date	Time Zone A a.m.	Time Zone A p.m.
Nov. 1	7:36	6:55
Nov. 2	7:37	6:53
Nov. 3	6:39	5:52
Nov. 4	6:40	5:51
Nov. 5	6:41	5:50
Nov. 6	6:42	5:49
Nov. 7	6:44	5:48
Nov. 8	6:45	5:47
Nov. 9	6:46	5:45
Nov. 10	6:47	5:44
Nov. 11	6:49	5:43
Nov. 12	6:50	5:42
Nov. 13	6:51	5:41
Nov. 14	6:52	5:41



## Safety zones

### What are the safety zones around buildings when hunting with a firearm?

Safety zones are all areas within 150 yards (450 feet) of an occupied building, dwelling, house, residence, cabin or any barn or other building used in a farm operation. No person may hunt or shoot at any wild animal or wild bird with a firearm within a safety zone without the written permission of the owner or occupant of the property. The safety zone applies to hunting only. It does not apply to indoor or outdoor shooting ranges, target shooting, law enforcement activities or the lawful discharge of firearms for any nonhunting purpose.

## Public lands

### Where can I find public hunting lands near me?

You can find places to hunt by visiting [Michigan.gov/MiHunt](https://Michigan.gov/MiHunt). The interactive DNR map application Mi-HUNT can help you plan your hunting and other outdoor recreation adventures. It is the responsibility of the users of these maps to be aware of all regulations relevant to their hunting activities and locations. These maps show approximate boundaries of the lands open to public hunting.

### What are Turkey Tracts?

Turkey Tracts are a series of actively managed, walk-in wild turkey hunting areas across southern Michigan. With accessible walking trails and a kiosk with maps and area information, they are great places for new hunters to explore. With the help of hunters and partners such as the National Wild Turkey Federation, the DNR developed this program to highlight local wildlife management on public hunting areas and connect hunters with local business partners. Current sites are located in Allegan, Barry, Montcalm, Oakland, Tuscola and Washtenaw counties. The program will be expanded to more locations in the future. Visit [Michigan.gov/Turkey](https://Michigan.gov/Turkey) for more information.



## State lands

Over 4.5 million acres of public lands are managed by the DNR and open to hunting!

### Where do I find the rules for state lands?

You can find the state land use rules at [Michigan.gov/DNRLaws](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLaws). Please keep in mind that you cannot:

- Cut branches, limbs, trees or other vegetation for shooting lanes on public lands.
- Block any gate, road or trail on public lands.

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- Camp on public lands without a permit. Permits are free and are available online at [Michigan.gov/Camping](https://Michigan.gov/Camping) or at any DNR office. They must be posted at your campsite. A fee is charged for camping at designated campsites in state parks, recreation areas, state forest campgrounds and some state game areas.

## National forest lands

### Can I hunt on national forest lands?

Yes. Opportunities to hunt on national forest lands may be available for the Hiawatha, Huron-Manistee and Ottawa national forests. All state laws apply to national forest lands. Additional federal regulations also apply. For a complete listing of regulations, see 36 CFR 261 (Code of Federal Regulations) at [FS.USDA.gov](https://FS.USDA.gov).

## Commercial Forest lands

### What are Commercial Forest lands?

Commercial Forest lands are privately owned forests enrolled in the Commercial Forest Program. CF landowners are not required to identify the property as CF, and CF land may be fenced and/or gated. The presence of a fence or gate does not prohibit public access to CF lands for fishing or hunting. The landowner may restrict public access during periods of active commercial logging to ensure public safety. Descriptions of land in the CF program and a GIS map are available on the DNR website at [Michigan.gov/CommercialForest](https://Michigan.gov/CommercialForest). CF parcels can also be found using Mi-HUNT at [Michigan.gov/MiHunt](https://Michigan.gov/MiHunt). Contact the DNR Forest Resources Division at 517-284-5900 or visit [Michigan.gov/Forestry](https://Michigan.gov/Forestry) for more information about CF lands.

### Can I hunt on Commercial Forest lands?

Yes. Over 2.2 million acres of privately owned forests enrolled in the Commercial Forest program are accessible by foot to the public for fishing, hunting and trapping. To hunt all species, you must possess licenses that are valid for private-land hunting. Use of motorized vehicles for fishing and hunting access is at the landowner's discretion. Any activities other than the acts of fishing, hunting and trapping require landowner permission. Leaving anything unattended, other than traps, also requires landowner permission. In addition, hunters may not build structures or construct blinds other than with natural materials found on-site. The use of nails, bolts or tree steps is not allowed. The cutting of shooting lanes or destruction of brush, trees or other vegetation is prohibited. Commercial activity on CF lands is not allowed for any purpose other than forestry or oil and gas extraction.

## Hunting Access Program

### What is the Hunting Access Program?

The Hunting Access Program provides public hunting opportunities on private lands. The DNR leases lands from private landowners to allow public hunting. Private landowners determine if all hunters, or youth and apprentice hunters only, may hunt on their property. They also determine if hunters may harvest deer only, turkey only, small game only, sharp-tailed grouse only, all legal species or a combination of any of these options. Property owners specify the maximum number of hunters allowed on the land at any one time. Members of the public can use HAP lands only for hunting purposes; no other activities or recreation are permissible.

### How do I hunt on HAP lands?

If you utilize a HAP property, you are a guest of the landowner. Respect for the landowner and landowner's privacy is vital. You should use the types of registration service provided. Appropriate conduct is expected and helps ensure a good experience for both you and the landowner. All rules and regulations enforced by the DNR apply while hunting on HAP lands. Lands enrolled in HAP are available each day on a first-come, first-served basis. Hunters must register at each property headquarters to hunt for that day. To help hunters locate and scout HAP lands, aerial photographs of HAP properties are available at [Michigan.gov/MiHunt](https://Michigan.gov/MiHunt).

### Where can I find more information on HAP?

For more information on HAP, including a current listing of enrolled lands, property details, registration details, HAP rules and enrollment applications, visit [Michigan.gov/HAP](https://Michigan.gov/HAP).



## Local municipalities

### Are there any local municipalities with hunting or trapping restrictions?

Yes. Some local municipalities may be closed to hunting, trapping or the discharge of firearms. Please contact the local municipality office or local law enforcement agency to find out about restrictions.

## Rights of way

### Can I hunt within a road right of way?

You can hunt within a road right of way where the adjoining property is publicly owned. If the adjacent property is privately owned, you must have permission from the landowner.



### **Can I hunt within a railroad right of way?**

Railroad rights of way are private property. **Trespassing on railroad property is a misdemeanor.** You must have written permission from the railroad company to be exempt from trespass.

## Trespassing

### **Do I need permission to hunt on someone's private land?**

Yes. Trespassing is unlawful and erodes support for recreational hunting. Written or verbal permission is required from the landowner or leaseholder before you hunt on any farmlands, connected woodlots, private land or property that is fenced or enclosed. Hunters are required to show their hunting licenses to landowners upon request. Unless previously prohibited by the landowner, a person not possessing a firearm may enter on foot upon the property of another person for the sole purpose of retrieving a hunting dog. The person cannot remain on the property beyond the reasonable time necessary to retrieve the dog.

### **What if the turkey I wounded goes onto private land?**

If you wound a turkey and it goes onto private property, you have no legal right to pursue it without permission of the landowner and would be subject to prosecution.

## 2024 fall turkey workshops

### **I am new to turkey hunting. Is there a program to help new hunters like me?**

Yes. The DNR, Michigan Wild Turkey Hunters Association, National Wild Turkey Federation and other groups may offer wild turkey hunter orientation courses. A fee may be charged, and space may be limited. For details about events, visit [Michigan.gov/Turkey](https://Michigan.gov/Turkey).



### **Are there any types of equipment I cannot use to hunt a turkey?**

Yes. You cannot use any of the following types of equipment to hunt a turkey in Michigan:

- Snares, traps, cages, nets, pitfalls or deadfalls.
- Spears, slingshots, fully automatic firearms, airbows or mechanical devices other than bows, crossbows and firearms.
- Cartridges containing tracer or explosive bullets.
- Drugs, poisons, anticoagulants, stupefying substances, smoke, gas or explosives.

## Hunter orange

### **Do I need to wear hunter orange while fall turkey hunting?**

No. If you are fall turkey hunting, you are exempt from the hunter orange requirement.

## Elevated platforms and ground blinds

### **Can I hunt turkeys from an elevated platform?**

Yes. You can hunt turkeys from an elevated platform using a bow, crossbow or firearm on public and private lands during the fall turkey season. Elevated platforms are only permitted to be used on public lands from Sept. 1 through March 1. A fall arrest system is recommended.

### **Can I use a ground blind on public lands during the fall turkey season?**

Yes. You can use ground blinds on public land in the TMU for which you have a license. Ground blinds used to hunt turkeys during the fall turkey season can be placed on public lands Sept. 15 through Nov. 14.

### **What type of ground blinds are legal on public lands?**

**Type 1 (portable ground blind):** This blind must be clearly portable and removed at the end of each day's hunt (if you wish to leave your blind out overnight, see Type 3 below). Fasteners, if used to attach or anchor the blind, cannot penetrate the cambium of a tree and must be removed daily. No identification is required. These blinds may be used for legal hunting on public land, including all state game areas, state parks and state recreation areas in Zone 3.

**Type 2 (dead natural materials ground blind):** This blind must be constructed exclusively of dead and natural materials found on the ground in the area of the blind, except that a hunter can add netting, cloth, plastic or other materials for concealment or protection from the weather if these materials are not permanently fastened to the blind and are removed at the end of each day's hunt. These items can be tied to the blind but cannot be stapled, nailed, glued or fastened in any permanent manner. No identification is required. Fasteners

(nails, screws, etc.) cannot be used in construction. These blinds may be used for legal hunting on public land, including all state game areas, state parks and state recreation areas in Zone 3.

**Type 3 (constructed ground blind):** This includes all other blinds not meeting the requirements of either Type 1 or Type 2, including portable ground blinds, if not removed daily. Identification is required. Fasteners, if used to anchor or attach the blind, cannot penetrate the cambium of a tree and must be removed with the blind. These blinds are not legal in state game areas, state parks and state recreation areas in Zone 3. Fall turkey hunters can place constructed ground blinds on all Zone 1 and Zone 2 public lands from Sept. 15 through Nov. 14.

For detailed descriptions of hunting and trapping zone boundaries, visit [Michigan.gov/DNRLaws](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLaws) or contact a DNR customer service center, listed at [Michigan.gov/ContactDNR](https://Michigan.gov/ContactDNR).

### **What information must I tag my elevated platform or ground blind with?**

In legible English, you must permanently affix your name and address or Michigan driver's license number or DNR Sportcard number to the elevated platform or Type 3 ground blind if it is placed on public lands.

### **Can someone else use my elevated platform or ground blind that is on public lands?**

No. However, placing an elevated platform or ground blind on public lands does not guarantee exclusive use of the area. You cannot use an illegal elevated platform or ground blind regardless of who placed it on public lands.

## **Bows, crossbows and firearms**

### **What equipment can I use to hunt a turkey?**

You can use a bow, a crossbow or a firearm per regulations explained in this section.

### **What equipment can a mentored youth hunter use?**

Mentored youth hunters can use a bow, a crossbow or a firearm. Any hunting device possessed by a mentored youth must be sized appropriately to fit the physical abilities of the youth.

### **What equipment can a mentor carry in the field when mentoring?**

A mentor is limited to two hunting devices (shotgun, bow or crossbow) in the field while mentoring, and the mentored youth hunter must always be within arm's length of the mentor. The mentor will be held responsible for all actions of the youth hunter while in the field.

### **I hunt with a crossbow. Are there any restrictions on which arrows, bolts or quarrels I can use?**

Yes. If you are hunting with a crossbow, you can only use arrows, bolts and quarrels at least 14 inches in length, tipped with a broadhead point at least 7/8 inch wide.

### **Are there firearm restrictions for hunting turkeys?**

Yes. While hunting turkeys with a firearm, you must use a firearm that fires a fixed shotgun shell or a muzzleloading shotgun. It is illegal to use or carry afield any other firearm.

### **Can I use a pneumatic gun for hunting turkeys?**

Yes. You can use a pneumatic gun to hunt turkeys if it is muzzleloading or designed to fire a fixed shotgun shell.

### **Are there ammunition restrictions for hunting turkeys?**

Yes. When hunting turkeys, you can only use or carry afield No. 4 shot or smaller.

### **Do I have to use nontoxic shot when hunting turkeys?**

While not required by law, it is recommended that you use nontoxic shot when hunting turkeys.

### **I have a concealed pistol license. Can I carry my pistol while hunting?**

Yes. The prohibition on carrying any other type of firearm does not apply to pistols carried under authority of a concealed pistol license, or under a specific exception from the CPL requirement.

### **I am not a resident of Michigan. What documentation do I need to carry a handgun in Michigan?**

You must own and have in your possession either a concealed pistol license or a license to purchase, carry or transport issued by your home state to legally carry or transport a handgun in Michigan. For more information about statewide handgun regulations, obtaining a CPL, or concealed weapons and firearms laws, contact your local police department.

## Transporting bows, crossbows and firearms

### **How should I transport my bow, crossbow or firearm when afield outside the legal hunting hours?**

Firearms must be unloaded in the barrel and all arrows must be in a quiver when you are afield outside the legal hunting hours.

### **How should I transport my bow, crossbow or firearm while in or on a motor vehicle?**

These rules apply whether your vehicle is parked, stopped or moving. At all times when carried in or on a motor vehicle:

- Shotguns, muzzleloaders and other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine and enclosed in a case or carried in the trunk of a vehicle on private or public property.
- Crossbows and bows must be unloaded and uncocked or enclosed in a case or carried in the trunk of a vehicle while that vehicle is operated on public land or on a highway, road or street.
- A person holding a valid permit to hunt from a standing vehicle may transport



or possess an uncased firearm with a loaded magazine on a personal assistive mobility device if the action is open.

### **How should I transport my bow, crossbow or firearm while in or on an off-road vehicle?**

These rules apply whether your off-road vehicle is parked, stopped or moving. At all times, when carried in or on an off-road vehicle:

- Shotguns, muzzleloaders and other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine and enclosed in a case or equipped with and made inoperative by a manufactured, key-locked, trigger-housing mechanism.
- Crossbows and bows must be unloaded and uncocked or enclosed in a case or carried in the trunk of a vehicle while that vehicle is operated on public land or on a highway, road or street.
- A person holding a valid permit to hunt from a standing vehicle may transport or possess an uncased firearm with a loaded magazine on a personal assistive mobility device if the action is open.

### **How should I transport my firearm while in or on a boat?**

These rules apply when the vessel is under power and until forward motion has ceased. Once the vessel is no longer under power and forward motion has ceased, firearms can be loaded. When carried in or on a motor-propelled boat or sailboat, while the vessel is under power or forward motion is occurring:

- Shotguns, muzzleloaders and all other firearms must be unloaded in both barrel and magazine.



### **Can I harvest a turkey while it is in a tree?**

No. You cannot harvest a turkey while it is in a tree.

### **Can I set fires to drive out turkeys?**

No. You cannot set fires to drive out game animals, including turkeys.

### **Can I hunt turkeys while under the influence of intoxicating alcohol or controlled substances?**

No. You cannot hunt turkeys while under the influence of intoxicating alcohol or controlled substances.

## Decoys and calls

### **Can I use mechanical, electronic or live decoys to hunt turkeys during the fall season?**

No. You cannot use mechanical, electronic or live decoys to hunt turkeys during the fall season.

### **Is a decoy moved by the wind considered mechanical?**

No. A windsock or similar decoy body anchored at a fixed point into the ground, and whose only motion is derived exclusively by power of the natural wind, is not considered a mechanical decoy.

### **Can I stalk turkeys using handheld decoys or silhouettes during the fall season?**

No. You cannot stalk turkeys with a handheld decoy or silhouette during the fall season.

### **Can I use electronic turkey calls to hunt turkeys during the fall season?**

No. You cannot use or possess electronic devices that imitate turkey calls while hunting turkeys during the fall season.

## Baiting

### **Can I use bait while hunting turkeys during the fall season?**

No. You cannot use bait to aid in the taking of a turkey during the fall season. This does not apply to standing farm crops (normal agricultural practices) or other naturally growing grains, fruits or vegetables.

## Hunting with dogs

### **Can I use my hunting dog to hunt turkeys during the fall season?**

Yes. You can hunt turkeys with dogs during the fall season.

### **Can I retrieve my hunting dog if it runs on to private property?**

Yes. **Unless previously prohibited by the landowner**, you can enter on foot the property of another person for the sole purpose of retrieving a hunting dog. You

cannot be in possession of a firearm when retrieving a dog from private property. You should not remain on the property beyond the reasonable time necessary to retrieve the dog.

## Commercial hunting guides

### Can I hire a hunting guide for fall turkey hunting?

Yes. You can hire a commercial hunting guide for fall turkey hunting in Michigan. A list of licensed commercial hunting guides is available at [Michigan.gov/WildlifePermits](https://Michigan.gov/WildlifePermits).





### What if I see a sick-looking turkey while scouting or hunting?

The DNR encourages you to report any sightings of sick or dead wildlife, including turkeys, at [Michigan.gov/EyesInTheField](https://www.michigan.gov/EyesInTheField). You should provide information about the location, number and condition of the animals you observed. Contact the DNR Wildlife Health Section at 517-336-5030 if you have any questions.



## Validating harvest

### Can I tag my turkey after I take some photos with it first?

No. Immediately after harvesting and before moving a turkey, you must validate your kill tag and securely attach the kill tag to the leg of the turkey.

### How do I validate my kill tag?

To validate your kill tag, you must notch out the appropriate information as instructed on the kill tag.

### How should I tag my harvested turkey?

You must securely and permanently attach the entire kill tag to the turkey's leg. The best way to attach a kill tag is to lay a strong piece of wire or cord across the back of it (after removing backing), so the tag can be folded in half, and to tape it in place as needed. Tie the wire or cord to the turkey's leg in such a manner that the kill tag remains securely attached. Do not stick or wrap the kill tag directly onto the leg of a turkey. Make sure the kill tag is completely legible and visible for inspection.

## Transporting game animals

### What are the rules for transporting game animals?

You can transport your own and another person's lawfully taken game. You cannot transport or possess a turkey unless a validated kill tag is attached to the leg of the turkey. You cannot destroy the identity or evidence of the sex of a turkey while in the field or when transported in a motor vehicle.

## Handling and processing turkey meat

### Should I be concerned about dioxin?

Health assessors from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Michigan DNR determined that samples of wild game from the floodplains of the Tittabawassee River and Saginaw River downstream of Midland contained high levels of dioxin and dioxin-like compounds. Wild game tested include deer, turkey, cottontail rabbit, squirrel, wood duck and Canada goose. As a result, the MDHHS advises hunters and their families to follow these recommendations related to turkey:

- Do not eat turkey harvested in or near the floodplain of the Tittabawassee River downstream of Midland. If you choose to eat turkey taken from this area anyway, at a minimum the skin, liver and gizzard should be removed and discarded.
- Other wild game species that have not been tested in this area may also contain dioxins at levels that are a concern. To reduce general dioxin exposure from other wild game, trim any visible fat from the meat before cooking. Do not consume organ meats such as the liver or brains, and do not eat the skin.

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For additional information regarding dioxin, dioxin-like compounds and wild game advisories for the Tittabawassee River and Saginaw River floodplains, including a map of the area covered by these advisories, go to the MDHHS website at [Michigan.gov/Dioxin](https://Michigan.gov/Dioxin).

### **Should I be concerned about lead in turkey meat?**

Turkeys shot with shotguns using lead shot can have particles of lead remaining in the meat, some too small to be seen or felt. Lead can be harmful to humans and wildlife, even in very low amounts. If you have questions about the health effects of lead exposure from lead shot, call the DNR Wildlife Health Section at 517-336-5030 or find information at [Michigan.gov/WDM](https://Michigan.gov/WDM). You can also contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services at 517-241-3740 or visit [Michigan.gov/MDHHS](https://Michigan.gov/MDHHS).

## Buying and selling game animals

### **Can I buy or sell game animals?**

You cannot buy or sell game animals, except as provided by Wildlife Conservation Order 4.3, available at [Michigan.gov/DNRLaws](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLaws).

## Wild turkey cooperators patch

### **Who coordinates the Wild Turkey Cooperator Patch Program?**

Michigan's Wild Turkey Cooperator Patch Program is coordinated by the Michigan chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, in partnership with the DNR.

### **What is the National Wild Turkey Federation?**

The National Wild Turkey Federation is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of the American wild turkey and the preservation of the hunting tradition. Proceeds from patch sales are used to fund wild turkey-related projects and management in Michigan. Each year the National Wild Turkey Federation, working cooperatively with the DNR, contributes more than \$300,000 to wild turkey and hunter-heritage programs in Michigan.

### **How do I submit my design for the wild turkey patch contest?**

You must be a K-12 student at a public, private or home school in Michigan to submit a design to the wild turkey patch contest. Visit [MINWTF.org](https://MINWTF.org) to learn how to submit your design.

### **Do I need to harvest a turkey to purchase a wild turkey patch?**

No. You do not have to harvest a turkey to purchase a patch.

### **How much does a wild turkey patch cost for adults?**

Adult hunters, collectors and other interested individuals can purchase a wild turkey patch for \$7, including postage and handling.



### **How much does a wild turkey patch cost for young turkey hunters?**

Young hunters, 17 years old and younger, who have a valid turkey hunting license can get a free wild turkey patch by sending their name and complete address, along with a legible copy of their valid turkey hunting license, to National Wild Turkey Federation, Wild Turkey Patch Program, P.O. Box 471, Schoolcraft, MI 49087. If you have questions, please email [MichiganWildTurkeyPatch@yahoo.com](mailto:MichiganWildTurkeyPatch@yahoo.com).

### **Can I order wild turkey patches from previous years?**

No. You can only purchase the current-year wild turkey patch.

### **How do I order a wild turkey patch?**

Wild turkey patches must be ordered online at [MINWTF.org](http://MINWTF.org). Mail-in patch orders will no longer be accepted, except for the free wild turkey patch for young hunters.

### **How long will it take to receive my patch?**

You should receive your wild turkey patch in four to six weeks.



## **Turkey reporting options**

### **Is there a way for me to give the DNR feedback about my hunting experience?**

Yes! We need your help. After your hunting season has ended, please report your hunting activity online at [Michigan.gov/Turkey](http://Michigan.gov/Turkey). Information you provide will improve management and ensure that decisions regarding hunting seasons are based on the best information available.

### **Are there any other ways I can help the DNR with feedback or reporting?**

Yes. You can assist the DNR by reporting sightings of wild turkey young and adults July 1 – Aug. 1. This information, which is kept confidential, is used to assess how well turkeys are reproducing and provides information to manage the turkey population. You can make your report online at [Michigan.gov/Turkey](http://Michigan.gov/Turkey) or contact a DNR office listed on the back of this publication.

### Can I possess a live wild animal?

No. It is unlawful to possess live game or protected animals taken from the wild except under a permit issued by the DNR. Visit [Michigan.gov/WildlifePermits](https://Michigan.gov/WildlifePermits) for more information.

### What is the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact?

Michigan is a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, an agreement where participating states share information about fish and game violators and honor each other's decision to deny licenses and permits. If your hunting, fishing or trapping license is revoked in Michigan, you may lose your privileges in the other 45 participating states as well. And, if your license is revoked in any of those states, it also may be revoked in Michigan.

### What are the penalties for turkey hunting violations?

Violations of turkey hunting regulations, including application violations, are misdemeanors, and the following penalties may apply. Misdemeanors may be punishable by up to 90 days of imprisonment, up to \$1,000 in fines and license revocation for up to five years. Reimbursement to the state for unlawful taking of wild turkey is \$1,000 per animal plus an additional \$1,000 for a turkey with a beard.

### How do I report suspected poaching?

If you witness a natural resource violation or have information on the illegal killing of turkeys in Michigan, report it immediately. You can do this by texting or calling 800-292-7800. Phone lines are open 24/7. You may remain anonymous.

# REPORT ALL POACHING



Report poaching immediately.

Tipsters may remain anonymous.

Tipsters may be eligible for a cash reward.

CALL OR TEXT  
**1-800-292-7800**

**Accompany** - to go along with another individual under circumstances that allow one to come to the immediate aid of the other individual while staying within a distance from the other individual that permits uninterrupted, unaided visual and auditory communication.

**Apprentice hunter** - a person 10 years old or older without a hunter safety certificate who is licensed under the apprentice program.

**Bag limit** - the number of animals that may be taken and possessed as determined by the DNR.

**Bait** - a substance composed of grains, fruits, vegetables or other food placed to lure or entice wild turkeys. This does not apply to standing farm crops (normal agricultural practices) or other naturally growing grains, fruits or vegetables.

**Bow** - a device for propelling an arrow from a string drawn, held and released by hand if the force used to hold the string in the drawn position is provided by the archer's muscles.

**Buy/sell** - an exchange or attempt or offer to exchange for money, barter or anything of value.

**Chase** - to follow animals with dogs or other wild or domestic animals trained for that purpose.

**Crossbow** - a weapon consisting of a bow, with a draw weight of 100 pounds or more, mounted transversely on a stock or frame and designed to fire an arrow, bolt or quarrel by the release of a bow string controlled by a mechanical or electric trigger with a working safety.

**Elevated platform** - any horizontal surface, constructed or manufactured by a person, that increases the field of vision of a person using it beyond the field of vision that normally would be attained by that person standing on the ground. Elevated platforms include scaffolds, raised platforms, ladders, steps and any other device that is used to assist in climbing a tree.

**Firearm** - any weapon which will, is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by action of an explosive.

**Game animal** - any species of wildlife designated by the Legislature or the Natural Resources Commission as game under Section 40110 of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and any of the following animals: badger, bear, beaver, bobcat, brant, coot, coyote, crow, deer, duck, elk, fisher, Florida gallinule, fox, goose, hare, Hungarian partridge, marten, mink, muskrat, opossum, otter, pheasant, quail, rabbit, raccoon, ruffed grouse, sharptailed grouse, skunk, snipe, sora rail, squirrel, Virginia rail, weasel, wild turkey, woodchuck and woodcock.

**Ground blind** - a structure, enclosure or any material, natural or manufactured, placed on the ground to assist in concealing or disguising a person for the purpose of harvesting an animal.

**Hunter orange** - the highly visible color commonly referred to as hunter orange that includes blaze orange, flame orange and fluorescent blaze orange.

**Hunt or hunting** - to pursue, capture, shoot, kill, chase, follow, harass, harm, rob or trap a wild animal, or to attempt to engage in such an activity.

**Identification** - a driver license issued by Michigan, another state or a Canadian province as accepted by the DNR, a State of Michigan identification card issued by the Secretary of State, or a Sportcard issued by the DNR.

**Kill tag** - a license that is affixed to a harvested deer, turkey, bear, elk, otter, fisher, marten or bobcat.

**License** - a document or a tag, stamp, plastic card or other device that may include a stamp or a tag that authorizes the licensee to hunt, fish, trap or possess wild animals or aquatic species and other identification required by the DNR.

**Mechanical decoy** - any device that, by design or construction, uses motion as a visual stimulus to attract a wild turkey.

**Mentor** - a person at least 21 years old who has a valid license to hunt or previous hunting experience and is participating in the Mentored Youth Hunting Program.

**Nonresident** - a person who is not a resident of Michigan.

**Pneumatic gun** - any implement, designed as a gun, that will expel a BB or pellet by spring, gas or air.

**Poaching** - the illegal shooting, trapping or taking of game, fish or other natural resources from private or public property.

**Protected wildlife** - bear cubs, bear sows accompanied by cubs, cougars, eagles, flying squirrels, hawks, lynx, moose, nongame birds (except starlings, house sparrows and feral pigeons), owls, spruce grouse and wolverines. Protected wildlife cannot be taken at any time.

**Residence** - a permanent building serving as a temporary or permanent home. Residence may include a cottage, cabin or mobile home, but does not include a structure designed primarily for taking game, a tree blind, a tent, a recreational or other vehicle, or a camper.

**Resident** - a person who resides in a settled or permanent home or domicile within the boundaries of this state with the intention of remaining in this state; a student who is enrolled in a full-time course at a college or university within this state and who resides in the state during the school year; a person regularly enlisted or commissioned as an officer in the armed forces of the United States and officially stationed in this state; or a person regularly enlisted or commissioned as an officer in the armed forces of the United States who, at the time of enlistment, was a resident of this state and has maintained his or her residence in this state for purposes of obtaining a driver license or voter registration, or both.

**Safety zone** - all areas within 150 yards (450 feet) of an occupied building, dwelling, house, residence, cabin or any barn or other building used in a farm operation.

**Season dates** - the legal dates that may be hunted or trapped.

**Shotgun** - a firearm designed to be fired from the shoulder that uses the energy of the explosive in a fixed shotgun shell to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball shot or a single projectile for each single function of the trigger.

**Take** - to hunt with any weapon, dog, raptor or other wild or domestic animal trained for that purpose; kill; chase; follow; harass; harm; pursue; shoot; rob; trap; capture or collect animals, or to attempt to engage in such an activity.

**Transport** - to carry or ship animals within this state or to points outside this state.

**Uncocked bow** - a bow that is not in the drawn position.

**Uncocked crossbow** - a crossbow that is not in the cocked position.

**Unloaded bow** - a bow that does not have an arrow nocked.

**Unloaded crossbow** - a crossbow that does not have a bolt in the flight groove.

**Unloaded firearm** - a firearm that does not have ammunition in the barrel, chamber, cylinder, clip or magazine when the barrel, chamber, cylinder, clip or magazine is part of or attached to the firearm. Muzzleloading firearms are considered unloaded when the cap is removed or priming powder is removed from the pan, or when the battery is removed on electronic systems. The ball and powder can remain in the barrel.

**Wild animal** - a mammal, bird, fish, reptile, amphibian or crustacean of a wild nature indigenous to this state or introduced to this state by the DNR or a species determined by the DNR to be of public benefit.

## Need information?

Contact a DNR office listed below or visit us online.

Customer service center (CSC) hours of operation can be found at [Michigan.gov/DNR](https://Michigan.gov/DNR).

### **Baraga CSC**

427 U.S. 41 N.  
Baraga, MI 49908  
906-353-6651

### **Bay City CSC**

3580 State Park Drive  
Bay City, MI 48706  
989-684-9141

### **Cadillac CSC**

8015 Mackinaw Trail  
Cadillac, MI 49601  
231-775-9727

### **Crystal Falls Field Office**

1420 W. U.S. 2  
Crystal Falls, MI 49920  
906-875-6622

### **Detroit Metro CSC**

1801 Atwater St.  
Detroit, MI 48207  
313-396-6890

### **Escanaba CSC**

6833 U.S. 2, U.S. 41 and M-35  
Gladstone, MI 49837  
906-786-2351

### **Gaylord CSC**

1732 W. M-32  
Gaylord, MI 49735  
989-732-3541

### **Lansing CSC**

4166 Legacy Parkway  
Lansing, MI 48911  
517-284-4720

### **Marquette CSC**

1990 U.S. 41 S.  
Marquette, MI 49855  
906-228-6561

### **Naubinway Field Office**

P.O. Box 287  
W11569 U.S. 2 E.  
Naubinway, MI 49762  
906-477-6048

### **Newberry CSC**

5100 M-123  
Newberry, MI 49868  
906-293-5131

### **Norway Field Office**

520 W. U.S. 2  
Norway, MI 49870  
906-563-9247

### **Plainwell CSC**

621 N. 10th St.  
Plainwell, MI 49080  
269-685-6851

### **Roscommon CSC**

I-75 and M-18 S.  
8717 N. Roscommon Road  
Roscommon, MI 48653  
989-275-5151

### **Sault Ste. Marie CSC**

4131 S. M-129  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
906-635-6161

### **Traverse City CSC**

2122 S. M-37  
Traverse City, MI 49685  
231-922-5280

## Helpful URLs:

Find us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/MichiganDNR](https://Facebook.com/MichiganDNR)

Follow us on X at [Twitter.com/MichiganDNR](https://Twitter.com/MichiganDNR)

Follow us on Instagram at [Instagram.com/MichiganDNR](https://Instagram.com/MichiganDNR)

### **Direct DNR website URLs:**

DNR hunting regulations: [Michigan.gov/DNRRegs](https://Michigan.gov/DNRRegs)

Wildlife diseases: [Michigan.gov/WildlifeDisease](https://Michigan.gov/WildlifeDisease)

Hunter education: [Michigan.gov/HunterEducation](https://Michigan.gov/HunterEducation)

Hunting: [Michigan.gov/Hunting](https://Michigan.gov/Hunting)

Invasive species: [Michigan.gov/InvasiveSpecies](https://Michigan.gov/InvasiveSpecies)

Mi-HUNT: [Michigan.gov/MiHunt](https://Michigan.gov/MiHunt)

Pure Michigan Hunt: [Michigan.gov/PMH](https://Michigan.gov/PMH)

Shooting ranges: [Michigan.gov/ShootingRanges](https://Michigan.gov/ShootingRanges)

Trapping/fur harvesting: [Michigan.gov/Trapping](https://Michigan.gov/Trapping)

## **Michigan Department of Natural Resources**

### **Wildlife Division**

**525 W. Allegan St.**

**P.O. Box 30444**

**Lansing, MI 48933**

**517-284-9453**

**Contact hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**