2026

Michigan
Fall Turkey Hunting Regulations Summary

Important

- Fall turkey harvest reporting is mandatory. Call 517-284-9453 for assistance.
- A hunter can purchase one fall turkey license per year, beginning Aug. 15 at 10 a.m. Eastern Time.
- A fall turkey license is valid for one turkey (any sex) and is valid on public and private lands within the designated fall turkey management unit.

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

Table of contents

Turkey management 3
Managing turkeys 3

Season dates and bag limits 4
Fall turkey hunting season dates and license quotas 4
Special hunting opportunities 4
Fall turkey management units 5
Bag limits 5

License types and fees 6
License types and fees by age 6
Hunter education 6
Mentored hunting 7
Apprentice hunting 8
Michigan residents 9
Treaty-authorized hunters 9
DNR Sportcard 9
Base license 10
Fall turkey license 10
Pure Michigan Hunt 11

Purchasing licenses and kill tags ... 12
Identification requirements 12
Where to buy licenses and kill tags 12
Lost licenses and kill tags 13

When and where to hunt 14
Hunting hours 14
Hunting and trapping zones 16
Safety zones 16
National forest lands 16
National wildlife refuges 16
DNR-managed public lands 17
State parks and recreation areas ... 18
Local municipalities 19
Commercial Forest lands 19
Hunting Access Program 20
Rights of way 21
Trespassing 21

Equipment regulations 22
Hunter orange 22
Elevated platforms and ground blinds 22
Bows, crossbows and firearms 23
Transporting bows, crossbows and firearms 25

Hunting methods 26
Decoys and calls 26
Baiting 26
Hunting with dogs 27

Wildlife diseases 28

Invasive species 28

After the harvest 30
Validating harvest 30
Transporting game animals 31
Mandatory turkey harvest reporting 31
Handling and processing game meat 33
Buying and selling game animals 34
Wild turkey cooperator patch 34
Turkey reporting options 35

Report all poaching 36

Glossary 37

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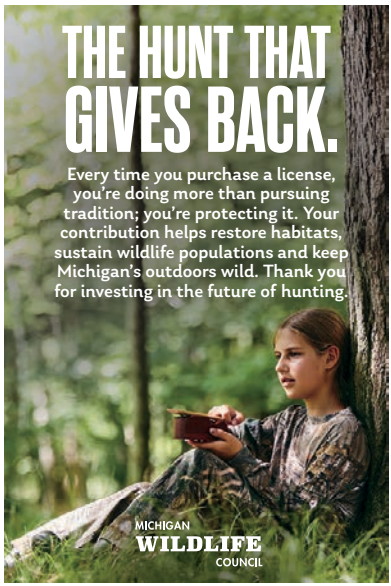
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

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.

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.



Managing turkeys

Managing turkeys in Michigan involves the complex interactions of turkey populations, their habitat and their relationship to people. Fall turkey hunting provides additional recreational opportunity in a way that is sustainable. Michigan's fall turkey regulations are designed to allow for fall turkey-related recreation without negatively impacting populations. In some special circumstances, fall turkey hunting may help reduce some undesired issues with turkeys in localized areas. Turkey populations remain healthy and stable in Michigan. For more information on turkey management in Michigan, visit Michigan.gov/Turkey.

Fall turkey hunting season dates and license quotas

How many fall turkey licenses are available in 2026?
Fall turkey licenses are valid for specific turkey management units and hunting dates. In TMU I, license availability is not subject to a license quota. In TMU M, license availability is subject to a license quota and sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Fall turkey licenses will be available for purchase beginning Aug. 15 at 10 a.m. ET.

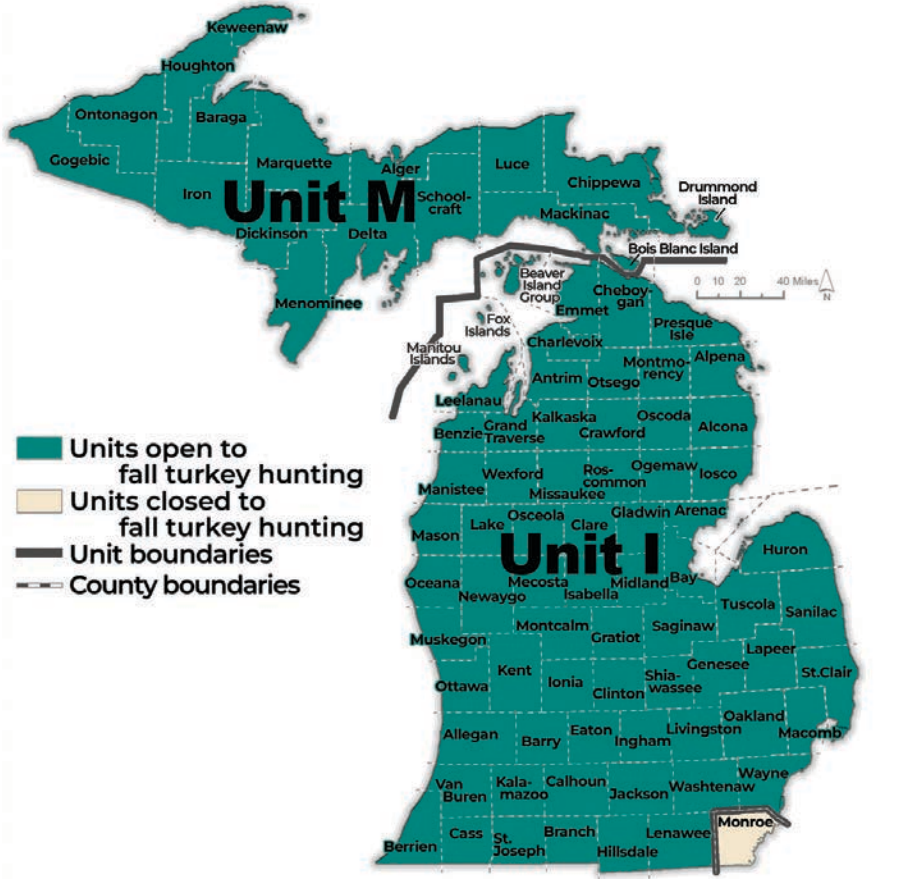
TMU	Season dates	License quota	Hunt number
I	Sept. 15 – Nov. 14	Unlimited	0401
M	Sept. 15 – Nov. 14	2,200	0402

Special hunting opportunities

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.

Fall turkey management units

Where can I find descriptions of fall turkey management unit boundaries?
For detailed descriptions of fall turkey management unit boundaries, visit Michigan.gov/DNRLaws or contact a DNR customer service center, listed at Michigan.gov/ContactDNR.



Isle Royale (not pictured), part of Keweenaw County, is closed to fall turkey hunting.

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 turkey without a beard during the fall turkey season?
Yes. You can harvest a bearded turkey (any sex) or a beardless turkey (any sex) during the fall turkey season.

License types and fees by age

License type	Youth age 9 and under	Youth age 10–16	Resident age 17–64	Resident senior age 65+	Nonresident age 17+[1]
Base license* — valid through March 31, 2027	N/A	$6	$11	$5	$151
DNR Sportcard[2]	$1	$1	$1	$1	$1
Fall turkey license	N/A	$15	$15	$6	$15
Inclusive mentored license[3]	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Mentored youth license	$7.50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
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.

[1]Nonresidents under 17 years old may purchase a resident base license.

[2]The DNR Sportcard is not required if you have a valid state-issued driver's license or ID card.

[3]The inclusive mentored license package is only available for qualified individuals at DNR offices, online at Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses or through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app.

Resident active-duty military personnel and resident veterans with a 100% disability rating can obtain a fall turkey license free of charge beginning Aug. 15 at 10 a.m. ET.

Hunter education

Is hunter education required for purchasing a license?

Yes. If you were born on or after Jan. 1, 1960, you must present your hunter education certificate or previous hunting license (other than a base apprentice license) to purchase your license. Individuals who are qualified to hunt under the Mentored Hunting Program are exempt from the hunter education requirements (go to the *Mentored hunting* section for more information). A valid hunter education 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. For a replacement Michigan hunter education certificate, visit Michigan.gov/RecreationalSafety.

What are the rules for a youth hunter 10–16 years old who has a hunter education certificate?
A youth hunter 10–16 years old who has a hunter education certificate must be accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older while hunting, unless the youth is hunting on land where a parent or guardian regularly lives.

Mentored hunting

What is the Mentored Hunting Program?
The Mentored Hunting Program is a set of rules that establishes the mentored youth license package and the inclusive mentored license package.

What are the rules for a mentor participating in the Mentored Hunting Program?
A mentor is responsible for the mentored hunter's actions in the field. A mentor must ensure the hunting device (firearm, bow, etc.) used by the mentored hunter is properly fitted and appropriately suited for the mentored hunter. A mentor can only carry two hunting devices in the field. To participate as a mentor in the Mentored Hunting Program, you must meet all of the following qualifications:

- Be at least 21 years old.
- Have previous hunting experience.
- Possess a current-year Michigan base license that is not an apprentice license.

What is the mentored youth license?
The mentored youth license is a license package that allows youth hunters 9 years old and younger to hunt small game, waterfowl, turkey (spring and fall) and deer, trap furbearers and fish for all species with a qualified mentor. It also allows the mentored youth hunter to apply for or purchase additional licenses including antlerless deer, bear and elk. The mentored youth license and kill tags will remain valid for the duration of the license year, even if the mentored youth hunter turns 10 years old during the year.The fall turkey license issued with the mentored youth license is valid for one turkey (any sex) in any open fall turkey management unit on public or private lands.

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 is the inclusive mentored license?
The inclusive mentored license is a license package that allows individuals with developmental disabilities to hunt small game, waterfowl, turkey (spring and fall) and deer, trap furbearers and fish for all species with a qualified mentor. It also allows the mentored hunter to apply for or purchase additional licenses including antlerless deer, bear and elk. The fall turkey license issued with the inclusive mentored license is valid for one turkey (any sex) in any open fall turkey management unit on public or private lands.

Who qualifies for the inclusive mentored license?
To qualify for the inclusive mentored license, one of the following must apply:

- The mentored individual is a minor child with a developmental disability and is unable to complete hunter education.
- The mentored individual is an adult with a developmental disability, has a guardian appointed under chapter 6 of the mental health code (1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1600 to 330.1644) and is unable to complete hunter education.

Apprentice hunting

What is the Apprentice Hunting Program?
The Apprentice Hunting Program allows a person who does not have a hunter education certificate and is 10 years old or older to hunt during the current hunting seasons with a qualified mentor. An apprentice hunter will need to purchase a base apprentice license to participate. Additional licenses are required to hunt big game, furbearers and waterfowl. Apprentice hunters can hunt on public lands and private or Commercial Forest lands for turkeys.

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 education 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 education course and purchase a regular base license.

I am an apprentice hunter. Can I hunt by myself?
No. If you are licensed under the Apprentice Hunting Program, you must be accompanied by someone 21 years old or older who has a regular base license and a 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 TMU or season dates as me?
For hunting fall turkey, your accompanying mentor needs a current-year fall turkey license, but it does not have to be for the same TMU 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 auditory 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.

I own land in Michigan but live in a different state. Can I purchase a resident hunting 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. You must follow all applicable state fall turkey hunting regulations.

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. A 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 and trapping practices are followed. A 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 licenses when hunting.

Armadillos, porcupines and Russian boars may be taken year-round, statewide with a valid base license.

When can I purchase a 2026 base license?
The 2026 base license is currently available for purchase from any license agent, online at Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses or through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app. A 2026 base license is valid through March 31, 2027.

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 during the fall turkey season.

What kill tag options do I have when I purchase a fall turkey license?
When you purchase a fall turkey license, you will have the option to receive an electronic kill tag (eHarvest tag) or a traditional paper kill tag, depending on where you purchase your fall turkey license. Go to the *Where to buy licenses and kill tags* section for more information.

Which types 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. You must have permission from the landowner to hunt on private property.

Can I purchase more than one fall turkey license?
No. You cannot purchase more than one fall turkey license per year.

Can I allow someone else to 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 a hunter to harvest or attempt to harvest a turkey unless the hunter has 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 use my kill tag on a turkey someone else harvested?
No. You cannot use your kill tag on a turkey you did not harvest.

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 will receive one elk (resident only), bear, antlerless deer, spring turkey, fall turkey and base hunting license at no cost. 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 will be valid for the applicable 2027 species hunting season and in any open hunt area for that species, except bear hunting on Drummond Island. Licenses will be subject to all 2027 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 2027 Pure Michigan Hunt drawing?
The application period is Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2026.

How many Pure Michigan Hunt applications can I purchase?
You can purchase as many Pure Michigan Hunt applications as you wish until Dec. 31, 2026.

I am an apprentice hunter. Can I apply in the drawing?
No. You must be eligible to purchase a regular, nonapprentice base license to apply in the Pure Michigan Hunt drawing.

I am not a resident of Michigan. Can I apply in the drawing?
Yes. You can apply in the Pure Michigan Hunt drawing as a nonresident. However, if you are selected, you will not be eligible to receive the PMH elk license.

When will the 2027 Pure Michigan Hunt winners be announced?
Three lucky hunters will be drawn in January 2027, 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.

Identification requirements

Which identification do I need to purchase a license?
To purchase a hunting 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).
- Michigan DNR Sportcard.

Do I have to carry my hunting license(s) when hunting?
Yes. When hunting, you must carry your applicable hunting license(s) and the identification used to purchase the license(s) and present them upon demand of a Michigan conservation officer, a tribal conservation officer or any law enforcement officer. If you are using an electronic kill tag, you must be able to present the electronic kill tag on your mobile device.

Where to buy licenses and kill tags

Where can I purchase a Michigan hunting license?
You can purchase a Michigan hunting license from any license agent, online at 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.

I purchased my fall turkey license online. When will I get my paper kill tag?
If you purchased your fall turkey license online, your paper kill tag will be mailed to you 10 to 15 business days after your purchase. You cannot go hunting without the paper kill tag in your possession.

I purchased my fall turkey license through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app. When will I get my eHarvest tag?
If you purchased your fall turkey license through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app, your eHarvest tag will be available on your mobile device immediately after purchase. You must be able to present the eHarvest tag on a mobile device while in the field. You will not receive a paper kill tag.

Where can I purchase the inclusive mentored license package?
You can purchase an inclusive mentored license package from any DNR office, online at Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses or through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app.

Lost licenses and kill tags

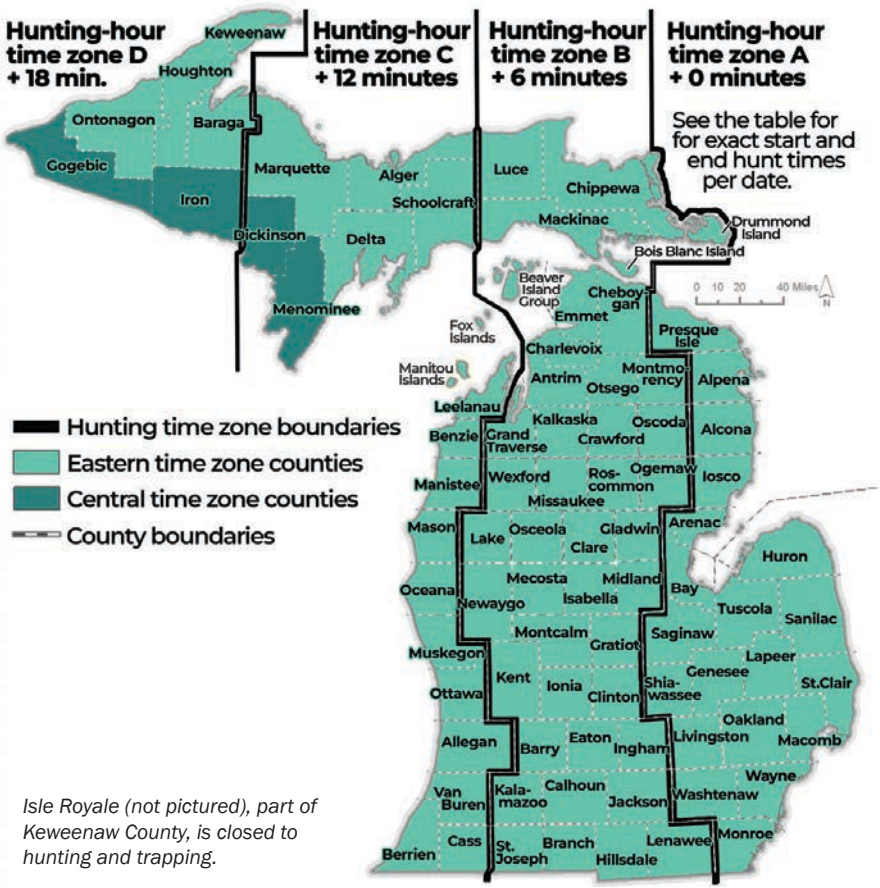
What if I lost my hunting license?
If you originally purchased your hunting license at a license agent or online, you can visit a license agent and have your license(s) reprinted ($3 for non-kill tag replacement and full price for kill tag replacement). You must provide the identification number used to purchase the original license.

If you originally purchased your hunting license online, you received an email containing a PDF file of printable licenses (those without kill tags), including your base license. Save your PDF so it can be reprinted if misplaced. If you have an eLicense account, you may log in at Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses to reprint your non-kill tag items. Access your purchase history to reprint current licenses. Call 517-284-6057 for licensing assistance.

Hunting hours

When is it legal for me to hunt fall turkey?
Legal hunting hours for fall turkey (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



Isle Royale (not pictured), part of Keweenaw County, is closed to hunting and trapping.

Zone A hunting hours table (September – November 2026)

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	6:42	8:12
Sept. 16	6:43	8:11
Sept. 17	6:44	8:09
Sept. 18	6:45	8:07
Sept. 19	6:46	8:06
Sept. 20	6:48	8:04
Sept. 21	6:49	8:02
Sept. 22	6:50	8:01
Sept. 23	6:51	7:59
Sept. 24	6:52	7:57
Sept. 25	6:53	7:56
Sept. 26	6:54	7:54
Sept. 27	6:55	7:53
Sept. 28	6:56	7:51
Sept. 29	6:57	7:49
Sept. 30	6:58	7:48

Date	Time Zone A a.m.	Time Zone A p.m.
Oct. 1	6:59	7:46
Oct. 2	7:00	7:44
Oct. 3	7:02	7:43
Oct. 4	7:03	7:41
Oct. 5	7:04	7:40
Oct. 6	7:05	7:38
Oct. 7	7:06	7:37
Oct. 8	7:07	7:35
Oct. 9	7:08	7:33
Oct. 10	7:09	7:32
Oct. 11	7:11	7:30
Oct. 12	7:12	7:29
Oct. 13	7:13	7:27
Oct. 14	7:14	7:26
Oct. 15	7:15	7:24
Oct. 16	7:16	7:23
Oct. 17	7:17	7:21
Oct. 18	7:19	7:20
Oct. 19	7:20	7:19
Oct. 20	7:21	7:17
Oct. 21	7:22	7:16
Oct. 22	7:23	7:14
Oct. 23	7:25	7:13
Oct. 24	7:26	7:12
Oct. 25	7:27	7:10
Oct. 26	7:28	7:09
Oct. 27	7:29	7:08
Oct. 28	7:31	7:06
Oct. 29	7:32	7:05
Oct. 30	7:33	7:04
Oct. 31	7:34	7:03

Date	Time Zone A a.m.	Time Zone A p.m.
Nov. 1	6:36	6:02
Nov. 2	6:37	6:01
Nov. 3	6:38	5:59
Nov. 4	6:39	5:58
Nov. 5	6:41	5:57
Nov. 6	6:42	5:56
Nov. 7	6:43	5:55
Nov. 8	6:44	5:54
Nov. 9	6:46	5:53
Nov. 10	6:47	5:52
Nov. 11	6:48	5:51
Nov. 12	6:49	5:50
Nov. 13	6:51	5:50
Nov. 14	6:52	5:49

Hunting and trapping zones

What are the hunting and trapping zone boundaries?
Michigan is divided into three hunting and trapping zones: Zone 1, Zone 2 and Zone 3. Zone 1 includes all of the Upper Peninsula. The dividing line between Zone 2 and Zone 3 is from the Lake Michigan shoreline north of Muskegon Lake easterly on Memorial Drive to Ruddiman Drive to Lake Avenue, easterly on Lake Avenue to M-120 in North Muskegon, northeasterly on M-120 to M-20, easterly on M-20 to U.S. 10, easterly on U.S. 10 to Garfield Road in Bay County, northerly on Garfield Road to Pinconning Road, easterly on Pinconning Road to Seven Mile Road, northerly on Seven Mile Road to Lincoln School Road (County Road 25) in Arenac County, northerly on Lincoln School Road to M-61, easterly on M-61 to U.S. 23, easterly on U.S. 23 to the center line of the Au Gres River, southerly along the center line of the Au Gres River to Saginaw Bay, easterly 90 degrees east for 7 miles into Saginaw Bay, then northerly 78 degrees east to the International Boundary. For a map of hunting and trapping zone boundaries, visit Michigan.gov/DNRLaws.

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 in, shoot through 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.

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.

National wildlife refuges

Can I hunt on national wildlife refuges?
National wildlife refuges are closed to hunting unless expressly permitted. All state laws apply to national wildlife refuge lands. Additional federal regulations

also apply and can be found in 50 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) at FWS.gov. Please consult the appropriate national wildlife refuge office for refuge-specific regulations.

- **Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge:** Managed locally, 734-365-0219. Limited turkey hunting is allowed. Visit FWS.gov/Refuge/Detroit_River for more information.
- **Harbor Island National Wildlife Refuge:** Managed by Seney National Wildlife Refuge, 906-586-9851. Limited turkey hunting is allowed. Visit FWS.gov/Refuge/Harbor_Island for more information.
- **Huron National Wildlife Refuge:** Managed by Seney National Wildlife Refuge, 906-586-9851. Closed to hunting. Visit FWS.gov/Refuge/Huron for more information.
- **Kirtland's Warbler Wildlife Management Area:** Managed by Seney National Wildlife Refuge, 906-586-9851. Limited turkey hunting is allowed. Parcels of property occupied by Kirtland's warblers are closed to all entry during the bird's breeding season (May 1 – Aug. 15). Closed parcels will be posted. Visit FWS.gov/Refuge/Kirtlands_Warbler for more information.
- **Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge:** Managed by Seney and Shiawassee national wildlife refuges. Closed to public access. Visit FWS.gov/Refuge/Michigan_Islands for more information.
- **Michigan Wetland Management District:** Managed by Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, 989-777-5930. Limited turkey hunting is allowed. Visit FWS.gov/Refuge/Michigan_WMD for more information.
- **Seney National Wildlife Refuge:** Managed locally, 906-586-9851. Closed to fall turkey hunting. Visit FWS.gov/Refuge/Seney/Visit-us/Activities/Hunting for more information.
- **Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge:** Managed locally, 989-777-5930. Closed to fall turkey hunting. Visit FWS.gov/Refuge/Shiawassee/Visit-us/Activities/Hunting for more information.

DNR-managed public lands

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

Where can I find public hunting lands near me?
You can find places to hunt by visiting 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. Please note that Mi-HUNT may be unavailable due to maintenance.

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 for more information.

Where do I find the rules for DNR-managed public lands?
You can find the DNR-managed public land use rules at 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.
- Camp on public lands without a permit. Free permits and applicable rules are available online at Michigan.gov/Camping or at most DNR offices. Permits must be posted at your campsite. Dispersed camping is not allowed in state parks, state recreation areas, state forest campgrounds and some state game areas. A fee is charged for camping at designated campsites in state parks, state recreation areas, state forest campgrounds and some state game areas.

State parks and recreation areas

Can I hunt in state parks and recreation areas?
Yes. Some state parks and recreation areas are open to hunting. State parks are closed to hunting unless opened by law (visit Michigan.gov/DNRLaws for more information). State recreation areas are open to hunting unless closed by law. Approximately 92% of state park and state recreation area lands are open to hunting.

Are there restrictions on hunting in state parks and recreation areas?
Yes. Contact individual parks or recreation areas for current hunting regulations and any restrictions for those areas prior to hunting. You cannot target shoot in a state park or recreation area, except on designated shooting ranges located at Algonac State Park and Bald Mountain, Island Lake, Ortonville and Pontiac Lake recreation areas.

Can I camp at a state park or recreation area while hunting?
Yes. Camping is allowed only on designated campsites. Some state parks and recreation areas have seasonal closures. To make camping reservations, go to MiDNRReservations.com.

Do I need a Recreation Passport to use state parks and recreation areas?
Yes. If you are accessing a state park, recreation area or boating access site by motor vehicle, you must have a Recreation Passport. The Recreation Passport gives you access to all 103 state parks and recreation areas as well as all state forest campgrounds and DNR-administered boating access sites in Michigan. Camping fees remain in effect. For more information, visit Michigan.gov/RecreationPassport or call 517-284-7275. Michigan residents have the opportunity to buy a Recreation Passport for $15 when renewing their vehicle registration with the Secretary of State. Vehicles registered in other states will require a daily ($12) or annual ($42) fee to enter any state park or DNR-administered boating access site. State forests and state game areas do not require a Recreation Passport.

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.

Are there townships with hunting restrictions?
Yes. Townships or parts of townships in these counties are closed to hunting or restricted to types of firearms or the discharge of firearms as posted: Alcona, Arenac, Barry, Berrien, Crawford, Dickinson, Eaton, Emmet, Genesee, Iosco, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Livingston, Mackinac, Macomb, Manistee, Oakland, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle, Saginaw, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne. These areas are posted with the restrictions. For descriptions, contact the appropriate township clerk or township police department. Find county-specific rules at Michigan.gov/DNRLaws.

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, hunting or trapping. 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. CF parcels can also be found using Mi-HUNT at Michigan.gov/MiHunt. Contact the DNR Forest Resources Division at 517-284-5900 or visit the Commercial Forest webpage 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, hunting or trapping 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 hunting lands. The DNR leases lands from private landowners to allow public hunting. This program is now one of the oldest dedicated private-lands, public-access programs in the nation. Private landowners determine whether all hunters, or youth and apprentice hunters only, may hunt on their property. They also determine whether 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.

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.

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.

Can I hunt within a utility right of way on private property?
No. Utility rights of way, such as underground gas lines and overhead power lines, on private property are closed to public access. You must have written permission from the utility 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 produce their hunting licenses for 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 from the landowner and would be subject to prosecution for trespassing.

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.

Go to the *Bows, crossbows and firearms* section for more information on equipment restrictions.

Hunter orange

Do I need to wear hunter orange while turkey hunting?
No. If you are hunting turkeys, 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. A fall arrest system is recommended.

Can I use a ground blind on public lands during the fall turkey hunting season?
Yes. You can use a ground blind on public lands to hunt turkeys during the fall turkey hunting season. However, only the following three types 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 or contact a DNR customer service center, listed at Michigan.gov/ContactDNR.

I am placing an elevated platform or ground blind on public lands. What information must I tag the 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.

Bows, crossbows and firearms

Which equipment can I use to hunt a turkey?
You can use a bow, a crossbow or a firearm per the regulations explained in this section.

Which equipment can a mentor carry in the field when mentoring?
A mentor is limited to two hunting devices (firearm, bow or crossbow) in the field while mentoring, and the mentored hunter must always be within arm's length of the mentor. The mentor will be held responsible for all actions of the mentored hunter while in the field.

Which equipment can a mentored hunter use?
A licensed mentored hunter can use a bow, a crossbow or a firearm. Any hunting device possessed by a mentored hunter must be sized appropriately to fit the physical abilities of the mentored hunter.

Which equipment can an apprentice hunter use?
An apprentice hunter can use a bow, a crossbow or a firearm.

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.

What are the firearm restrictions I must follow when hunting a turkey during the fall turkey season?
If you are turkey hunting during the fall turkey season, you must abide by the following firearm restrictions or use a crossbow or a bow. Legal firearms are as follows:

- A firearm designed to fire a fixed shotgun shell.
- A muzzleloading shotgun loaded with black powder or a commercially manufactured black powder substitute.

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

Are there ammunition size restrictions for hunting a turkey with a shotgun?
Yes. When hunting a turkey with a shotgun, you can only use or carry afield No. 4 shot or smaller.

Are there shell capacity restrictions for hunting a turkey with a shotgun?
No. When hunting a turkey with a shotgun, there are no shell capacity restrictions.

Do I have to use lead-free ammunition when hunting a turkey?
While not required by law, it is recommended that you use lead-free ammunition when hunting a turkey. Some national wildlife refuges require the use of lead-free ammunition. Please consult the appropriate national wildlife refuge office for refuge-specific regulations.

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 all 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 all 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 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.

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

Decoys and calls

Can I use mechanical, electronic or live decoys to hunt a turkey during the fall turkey season?
No. You cannot use mechanical, electronic or live decoys to hunt a turkey during the fall turkey 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 a turkey using handheld decoys or silhouettes during the fall turkey season?
No. You cannot stalk a turkey with a handheld decoy or silhouette during the fall turkey season.

Can I use electronic turkey calls to hunt a turkey during the fall turkey season?
No. You cannot use or possess electronic devices that imitate turkey calls while hunting a turkey during the fall turkey season.

Baiting

Can I use bait while hunting a turkey during the fall turkey season?
No. You cannot use bait to aid in the taking of a turkey during the fall turkey 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 a dog to hunt a turkey during the fall turkey season?
Yes. You can hunt a turkey with a dog during the fall turkey 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.

How can I prevent the spread of invasive species when hunting a fall turkey with a dog?
Before leaving the hunting location, remove plant debris, dirt and mud from your dog to protect its health and habitat quality.

What if I see a sick-looking animal while scouting or hunting?
The DNR encourages you to report any sightings of sick or dead wildlife at 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.

What is avian influenza?
Avian influenza, or "bird flu," is caused by viruses that infect both wild and domestic birds and mammals. These viruses impact poultry and wild birds in different ways. In poultry, avian influenza is typically extremely contagious, resulting in high death loss and associated economic losses to poultry producers. Wild birds can carry the viruses but don't always get sick or die. Visit Michigan.gov/WildlifeDisease or Michigan.gov/BirdFlu for more information.

Am I at risk of avian influenza when hunting turkeys?
Although human risk is considered to be low, precautions should be taken when handling wild birds (go to the *Handling and processing game meat* section for more information). Wild birds can carry bird flu without appearing sick. As a general precaution, people should not harvest or handle wild birds that are obviously sick or found dead. Hunters who handle wild birds should dress game birds in the field when possible and practice good biosecurity to prevent any potential disease spread.

INVASIVE SPECIES

What if I see an invasive species while scouting or hunting?
The DNR encourages you to learn how to identify and report invasive species at MISIN.MSU.edu. For more information on invasive species management or your local cooperative invasive species management area, visit Michigan.gov/Invasives.

How can I help stop the spread of invasive species?
Prevention is the best way to manage invasive species! Practice PlayCleanGo by checking yourself and your gear. Arrive clean and remove any plant debris, dirt and mud before leaving your hunting location.

Can I harvest Russian boar?
Yes. Russian boar can be hunted and trapped year-round, statewide with a valid base license. Russian boar can be taken on public land by anyone possessing a valid hunting license or a concealed pistol license, or on private land with the landowner's permission. You are encouraged to report all Russian boar seen or taken at Michigan.gov/RussianBoar or by calling 517-336-1928.

Can I possess invasive plants in Michigan?
No. You cannot move or possess invasive plants. For a complete list of prohibited and restricted species, visit Michigan.gov/Invasives.

Validating harvest

I have a paper kill tag. Can I tag my turkey after I take photos?
No. Immediately after harvesting and before moving a turkey, you must validate your paper kill tag and securely attach the paper kill tag to the leg of the turkey. You cannot transport or possess a turkey unless the validated paper kill tag is attached to the leg of the turkey.

How do I validate my paper kill tag?
To validate your paper kill tag, you must notch out the appropriate information as instructed on the paper kill tag.

How must I tag my harvested turkey if I have a paper kill tag?
You must securely and permanently attach the entire paper kill tag to the leg of the turkey. The best way to attach a paper kill tag that was purchased at a license agent is to lay a strong piece of wire or cord across the back of the paper kill tag so the tag can be folded in half and to tape it in place as needed. Do not stick or wrap the paper kill tag directly onto the leg of the turkey. The best way to attach a paper kill tag that was purchased at Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses is to put a wire or cord through the prepunched holes on the paper kill tag. Tie the wire or cord to the turkey's leg in such a manner that the paper kill tag remains securely attached. Make sure the paper kill tag is completely legible and visible for inspection. The paper kill tag must remain attached until you process or butcher the turkey or until the turkey is accepted for processing and recorded by a commercial processor or taxidermist.

I have an eHarvest tag. Can I validate my turkey harvest after I take photos?
No. Immediately after harvesting and before moving a turkey, you must validate your eHarvest tag. You cannot transport or possess a turkey unless the eHarvest tag validation has been completed.

How do I validate my eHarvest tag?
To validate your eHarvest tag, you must use your mobile device to access the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app and complete the following steps:

1. Select your eHarvest tag within the app.
2. Select the validate button.
3. Enter the harvest date.
4. Select the confirm button once you have ensured the entered date is correct.

Do I need to tag my turkey if I have an eHarvest tag?
If you have an eHarvest tag, you do not need to attach a tag to the harvested turkey if the turkey remains in your possession or is physically stored at your primary residence. However, a durable tag with a license number must be attached to the turkey if you are no longer present with the turkey to display your eHarvest kill tag data on your phone.

I have an eHarvest tag for a turkey. When do I need to tag my turkey with a durable material?
You must attach a tag made of durable material to your turkey when you are no longer personally attending the turkey and unavailable to display your eHarvest tag data on your phone. A durable tag must include your license number legibly written in permanent ink and be attached to your turkey in a secure and permanent manner. A durable tag must remain attached to the turkey until the turkey has been processed.

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 or you have validated your eHarvest tag. You cannot destroy the identity or evidence of the sex of a turkey while in the field or when transported in a motor vehicle.

Mandatory turkey harvest reporting

A harvested turkey must be reported within 72 hours of harvest or before you transfer possession, whichever comes first.

What is mandatory turkey harvest reporting and when did it take effect?
Beginning in 2026, there is a new requirement of all successful turkey hunters to

report their turkey harvest through the DNR's website or mobile app. The system will allow a near real-time estimate of turkey harvest as it occurs.

Who is required to report their turkey harvest?
All successful turkey hunters with a state-issued turkey license are required to report their turkey harvest.

How do I report my harvest?
Each paper kill tag and eHarvest tag has a unique, underlined license number that must be used for the harvest report. You must use the correct license number from the paper kill tag or eHarvest tag you used to harvest the turkey with. You can report your harvest through eLicense (Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses) or the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app. Once your harvest report is completed, you will be given a confirmation number and the option to receive a copy by email.

To report your harvest through eLicense:

- Visit Michigan.gov/DNRHarvestReport on a computer or mobile device to go directly to the reporting page.
- Enter the license number for the kill tag or eHarvest tag you used and your date of birth to begin the harvest report.
    - ◊ If you don't have your fall turkey license number, you can log in to eLicense (using your driver's license and birthdate, or user ID and password), then select the *Harvest Reports* tab to review the tags available for harvest reporting.
    - ◊ If you don't already have an eLicense account, you will have the chance to create one to enter your harvest report.
- Enter the harvest report information.

To report your harvest through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app:

- Download or open the app on a mobile device. You must sign in or create an account to use the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app. The app is available for download at the Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. Scan the QR code here to download the app.
    - ◊ If you complete your eHarvest tag validation within the app, you will be provided with an option on the tag validation screen to complete your harvest report for the eHarvest tag. You will select the *Go to Harvest Report* button on the bottom of your validation screen to continue with the harvest report.
    - ◊ If you previously completed your tag validation and need to return to complete your harvest report, you will select the kill tag or eHarvest tag you used and then select *Harvest Report Available*.
- Enter the harvest report information.

Do I still need to tag my turkey?
If you have a paper kill tag, you must continue to attach a paper kill tag to a harvested turkey. The paper kill tag should remain attached to the turkey until it is processed. If you have an eHarvest tag, you must ensure your eHarvest tag validation has been completed. Anyone in possession of a turkey after the harvest reporting timeframe expires should be able to present the confirmation number.

Handling and processing game 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, 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.

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.

Should I be concerned about lead in game meat?
Traditional ammunition containing lead may fragment, leaving small lead particles remaining in game meat. Some of these particles may be too small to be seen or felt when field-dressing and processing game. Being exposed to any lead can be a serious issue for developing bodies and nervous systems, so those most at risk of health effects from eating wild game meat that contains lead are young children and women who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. Wildlife consuming discarded meat and internal organs from animals harvested with lead ammunition may be affected as well.

How can I help mitigate concerns about lead while hunting a turkey?
Select lead-free ammunition such as steel, bismuth or tungsten. When hunting a turkey with a shotgun, you can only use or carry afield No. 4 shot or smaller. It is important to pattern your shotgun with the ammunition you will hunt with. If you are using lead ammunition:

- Select the appropriate ammunition and pattern your shotgun with the same

ammunition you will hunt with.
- Inspect the meat around wound channels to remove lead shot or pellets that may have entered the meat.
- Make every effort to recover the turkey.
- Remove the entire turkey from the field.
- Avoid cooking the meat with acidic ingredients, such as vinegar or wine. Cooking meat harvested with lead ammunition in acidic ingredients can increase the absorption of lead in the body.

How should I handle and process game meat?
Keep yourself and others healthy by taking care of your harvested meat. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recommends proper food safety practices when handling and processing game meat, as well as any other meat or poultry.

Buying and selling game animals

Can I buy or sell game animals?
No. You cannot buy or sell game animals, dead or alive, except as provided by Wildlife Conservation Order 4.3, available at Michigan.gov/DNRLaws.

Wild turkey cooperator 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 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 $8, 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, email miturkeypatch@gmail.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. Mail-in patch orders will no longer be accepted, except for the free wild turkey patch for young hunters.

When will I receive my wild turkey patch?
You should receive your wild turkey patch six to eight weeks after purchase.

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 at 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 any 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 at 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 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 game animals 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.

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 education certificate who is licensed under the Apprentice Hunting 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 device 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.

Developmental disability — a severe, chronic condition as defined in section 100a of the mental health code, 16 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1100a.

eHarvest tag — an electronic license, also known as an electronic kill tag, that is displayed as an electronic copy and validated through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app.

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 device that will, is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by action of an explosive.

Fixed shotgun shell — a self-contained shotgun shell consisting of the case, primer, propellant charge, and projective or projectiles.

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, sharp-tailed 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.

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.

Hunter education/safety — a certification course used to train hunters on understanding wildlife management, wildlife identification, ethics, laws and regulations, and firearms safety and handling.

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

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 bear, bobcat, deer, elk, fisher, marten, otter or turkey.

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 an animal.

Mentor — a person at least 21 years old who has a valid license to hunt and previous hunting experience and is participating in the Mentored 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.

Turkey management unit or TMU — a geographical area, as defined in the Michigan Wildlife Conservation Order, used to set turkey hunting regulations.

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/ContactDNR.

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
5666 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 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
Follow us on Threads at Threads.com/@MichiganDNR
Follow us on Instagram at Instagram.com/MichiganDNR

Direct DNR website URLs:
DNR hunting regulations: Michigan.gov/DNRRegs
Wildlife diseases: Michigan.gov/WildlifeDisease
Hunter education: Michigan.gov/HunterEducation
Hunting: Michigan.gov/Hunting
Invasive species: Michigan.gov/InvasiveSpecies
Mi-HUNT: Michigan.gov/MiHunt
Pure Michigan Hunt: Michigan.gov/PMH
Shooting ranges: Michigan.gov/ShootingRanges
Trapping/fur harvesting: 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.