

# MICHIGAN FALL TURKEY HUNTING REGULATIONS SUMMARY



## Important

- There is no longer a drawing for fall turkey licenses.
- Changes to fall turkey management unit boundaries have been implemented.
- A hunter can purchase one fall turkey license per year, beginning Aug. 15 at 10 a.m. Eastern Time.
- TMU M will have a limited quota and will be available for purchase on a first-come, first-served basis. TMU I will not have a limited quota and will be available for purchase over the counter.
- A fall turkey license is valid for one turkey (any sex) and is valid on public and private lands within the designated fall TMU.



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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).



Revenue from hunting licenses funds wildlife conservation in Michigan.

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### 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](https://Michigan.gov/Turkey).

Healthy habitat is an important part of managing turkeys, including preventing the spread of invasive species. Protect habitats by starting each day with clean gear and equipment and decontaminate before leaving the location.







Fall turkey hunting season dates and license quotas

How many fall turkey licenses are available in 2025?

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	None	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](https://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](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLaws) or contact a DNR customer service center, listed at [Michigan.gov/ContactDNR](https://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.

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+ <sup>1</sup>
Base license* — valid through March 31, 2026	N/A	\$6	\$11	\$5	\$151
DNR Sportcard <sup>2</sup>	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1
Fall turkey license	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$6	\$15
Inclusive mentored license <sup>3</sup>	\$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.

<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.

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

**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 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. 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](https://Michigan.gov/HunterEducation). For a replacement Michigan hunter education certificate, visit [Michigan.gov/RecreationalSafety](https://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 (shotgun, rifle, 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. 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 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 hunting license, but it does not have to be for the same TMU 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 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. 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.

### **When can I purchase a 2025 base license?**

The 2025 base license is currently available for purchase. A 2025 base license is valid through March 31, 2026.

## **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. See the Where to buy licenses and kill tags section on page 15 for more information.

### **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. 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 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.

## 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 2026 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 2026 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 2026 Pure Michigan Hunt drawing?**

The application period is Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2025.

### **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.

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

You can purchase as many Pure Michigan Hunt applications as you wish until Dec. 31, 2025.

### **When will the 2026 Pure Michigan Hunt winners be announced?**

Three lucky hunters will be drawn in January 2026, 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 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 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 paper kill tag?**

If you purchased your fall turkey license online, your paper kill tag will be mailed to you seven to 10 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. 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 through [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses) or through the Michigan DNR Hunt Fish app.



## 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.

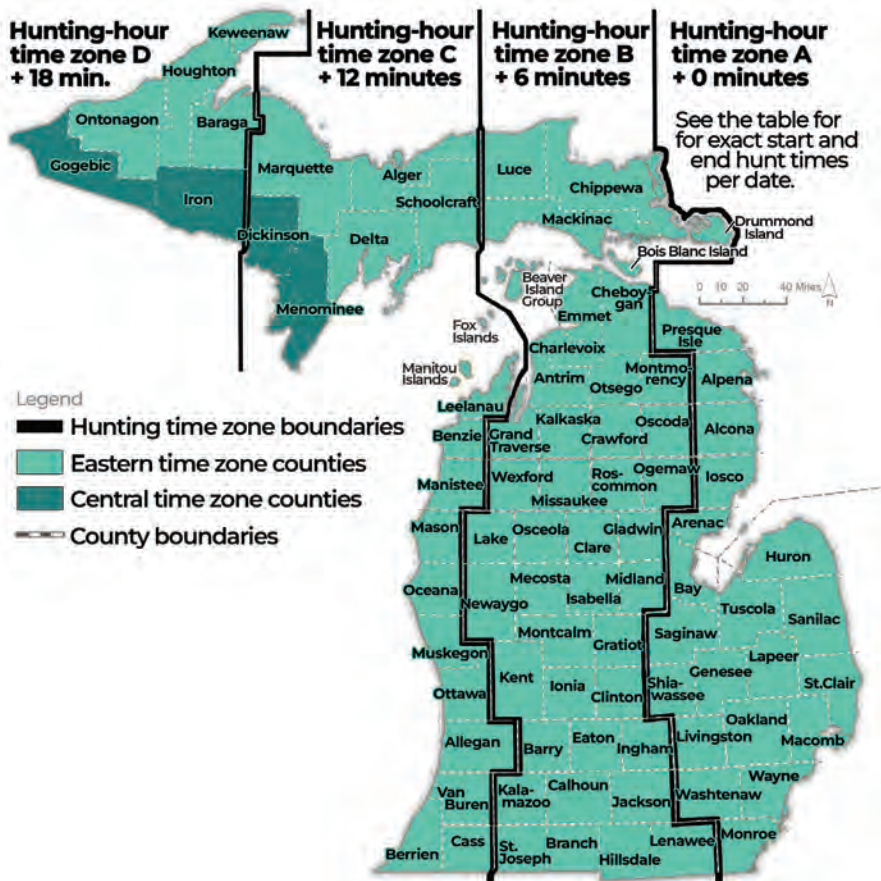


Hunting hours

When is it legal for me to hunt fall 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



# Zone A hunting hours table (September – November 2025)

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.	Date	Time Zone A a.m.	Time Zone A p.m.	Date	Time Zone A a.m.	Time Zone A p.m.
Sept. 15	6:42	8:11	Oct. 1	7:00	7:43	Nov. 1	7:36	6:55
Sept. 16	6:44	8:09	Oct. 2	7:01	7:41	Nov. 2	6:37	5:54
Sept. 17	6:45	8:08	Oct. 3	7:02	7:40	Nov. 3	6:38	5:53
Sept. 18	6:46	8:06	Oct. 4	7:03	7:38	Nov. 4	6:40	5:51
Sept. 19	6:47	8:04	Oct. 5	7:04	7:36	Nov. 5	6:41	5:50
Sept. 20	6:48	8:02	Oct. 6	7:05	7:35	Nov. 6	6:42	5:49
Sept. 21	6:49	8:01	Oct. 7	7:06	7:33	Nov. 7	6:43	5:48
Sept. 22	6:50	7:59	Oct. 8	7:07	7:31	Nov. 8	6:45	5:47
Sept. 23	6:51	7:57	Oct. 9	7:09	7:29	Nov. 9	6:46	5:46
Sept. 24	6:52	7:55	Oct. 10	7:10	7:28	Nov. 10	6:47	5:45
Sept. 25	6:53	7:54	Oct. 11	7:11	7:26	Nov. 11	6:48	5:44
Sept. 26	6:54	7:52	Oct. 12	7:12	7:24	Nov. 12	6:50	5:43
Sept. 27	6:55	7:50	Oct. 13	7:13	7:23	Nov. 13	6:51	5:42
Sept. 28	6:56	7:48	Oct. 14	7:14	7:21	Nov. 14	6:52	5:41
Sept. 29	6:57	7:47	Oct. 15	7:15	7:20			
Sept. 30	6:59	7:45	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	7:21	7:12			
			Oct. 21	7:22	7:10			
			Oct. 22	7:24	7:09			
			Oct. 23	7:25	7:07			
			Oct. 24	7:26	7:06			
			Oct. 25	7:27	7:04			
			Oct. 26	7:28	7:03			
			Oct. 27	7:30	7:02			
			Oct. 28	7:31	7:00			
			Oct. 29	7:32	6:59			
			Oct. 30	7:33	6:58			
			Oct. 31	7:35	6:56			





## 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 Au Gres River, southerly along the center line of 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](https://www.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 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](https://www.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](https://www.fws.gov).

## WHEN AND WHERE TO HUNT

Please consult the appropriate national wildlife refuge office for refuge-specific regulations.

- **Harbor Island National Wildlife Refuge:** Managed by Seney National Wildlife Refuge, 906-586-9851. Limited turkey hunting allowed. More information can be found at [FWS.gov/Refuge/Harbor\\_Island](https://www.fws.gov/Refuge/Harbor_Island).
- **Huron National Wildlife Refuge:** Managed by Seney National Wildlife Refuge, 906-586-9851. Closed to hunting. See [FWS.gov/Refuge/Huron](https://www.fws.gov/Refuge/Huron).
- **Kirtland's Warbler Wildlife Management Area:** Managed by Seney National Wildlife Refuge, 906-586-9851. Limited turkey hunting 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. More information can be found at [FWS.gov/Refuge/Kirtlands\\_Warbler](https://www.fws.gov/Refuge/Kirtlands_Warbler).
- **Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge:** Managed by Seney and Shiawassee national wildlife refuges. Closed to public access. More information is available online at [FWS.gov/Refuge/Michigan\\_Islands](https://www.fws.gov/Refuge/Michigan_Islands).
- **Michigan Wetland Management District:** Managed by Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, 989-777-5930. Limited turkey hunting allowed. Hunting information is available online at [FWS.gov/Refuge/Michigan\\_WMD](https://www.fws.gov/Refuge/Michigan_WMD).
- **Seney National Wildlife Refuge:** Managed locally, 906-586-9851. Refuge-specific regulations apply; closed to turkey hunting. See [FWS.gov/Refuge/Seney/Visit-us/Activities/Hunting](https://www.fws.gov/Refuge/Seney/Visit-us/Activities/Hunting).
- **Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge:** Managed locally, 989-777-5930. Limited turkey hunting is allowed. Refuge-specific regulations apply. See [FWS.gov/Refuge/Shiawassee/Visit-us/Activities/Hunting](https://www.fws.gov/Refuge/Shiawassee/Visit-us/Activities/Hunting).

## DNR-managed 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](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



Turkey Tracts

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.

### **Where do I find the rules for DNR-managed lands?**

You can find the DNR-managed 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.
- 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.

## **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 (more details available at [Michigan.gov/DNRLaws](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLaws)). 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](https://MiDNRReservations.com).

### **Do I need a Recreation Passport to use state parks and recreation areas?**

Yes. If you are hunting or camping in state parks or recreation areas, 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 boat launches in Michigan. Camping fees remain in effect. For more information, please visit our website at [Michigan.gov/RecreationPassport](https://Michigan.gov/RecreationPassport) or call 517-284-7275. Michigan residents have the opportunity to buy a Recreation Passport for \$14 when renewing their vehicle registration with the Secretary of



State. Vehicles registered in other states will require a daily (\$11) or annual (\$41) 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.

### 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 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 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).

## 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

## WHEN AND WHERE TO HUNT

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.



### 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.

See the Bows, crossbows and firearms section for more information on equipment restrictions.

## 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).

### **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.

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

Yes. Your name and address or Michigan driver's license number or DNR Sportcard number on an elevated platform or ground blind placed on public lands does not guarantee exclusive use.

## **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 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 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.

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

Mentored hunters licensed under the Mentored Hunting Program can use a bow, a crossbow or a shotgun. Any hunting device possessed by a mentored hunter must be sized appropriately to fit the physical abilities of the mentored hunter.

### **What equipment can an apprentice hunter use?**

Apprentice hunters 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 shotgun 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 muzzleloading or designed to fire a fixed shotgun shell.

**Are there ammunition restrictions to hunt a turkey?**

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

**Do I have to use nontoxic ammunition when hunting a turkey?**

While not required by law, it is recommended that you use nontoxic ammunition when hunting a turkey.

**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.



## HUNTING METHODS

### **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).

### **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.



## WILDLIFE DISEASES

### 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 at [Michigan.gov/EyesInTheField](https://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](https://Michigan.gov/WildlifeDisease) for more information.

### Am I at risk when hunting turkeys?

Although human risk is considered to be low, precautions should be taken when handling wild birds (see the Handling and processing game meat section on page 33). 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](https://MISIN.MSU.edu). For more information on invasive species management or your local cooperative invasive species management area, visit [Michigan.gov/Invasives](https://Michigan.gov/Invasives).

### How can I help stop the spread of invasive species?

Prevention is the best way to manage invasive species! Practice [PlayCleanGo](https://PlayCleanGo.org) 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/FeralSwine](https://Michigan.gov/FeralSwine) 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](https://Michigan.gov/Invasives).

### Validating harvest

#### **I have a paper kill tag. Can I tag my turkey after I take some photos first?**

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 have in your possession a turkey unless the validated paper kill tag is attached to the leg of the turkey.

#### **I have an eHarvest tag. Can I validate my turkey harvest after I take photos first?**

No. Immediately after harvesting and before moving a turkey, you must validate your eHarvest tag. You cannot transport or have in your possession a turkey unless the eHarvest tag validation has been completed.

#### **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 should I tag my harvested turkey if I have a paper kill tag?**

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](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses) is to put a wire or cord through the pre-punched 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.

#### **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?**

No. If you have an eHarvest tag for your harvested turkey, you do not need to attach a tag to the harvested turkey.

## 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.

## 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 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.

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://www.michigan.gov/Dioxin).

### Should I be concerned about lead in game meat?

Ammunition used to shoot wildlife, including traditional lead birdshot or rounds containing lead bullets, may fragment, leaving particles remaining in game meat, even after processing. Some of these lead particles may be too small to be seen or felt when 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.

- Use lead-free ammunition: Opt for shotgun shells with nontoxic shot and nontoxic rifle bullets. If nontoxic ammunition is unavailable, avoid rapidly expanding bullets that tend to fragment.
- Aim carefully: Avoid shooting through large bones, like the front shoulder, as bullets passing through these bones are more likely to fragment. Aim for areas



with softer tissue to minimize lead fragmentation.

- Trim around wound channels: Cut away the meat around the wound channel to remove lead fragments that may have entered the meat.
- Avoid acidic cooking ingredients: Refrain from using vinegar or wine when cooking wild game shot with lead ammunition, as acids can increase lead absorption in the body.

## Buying and selling game animals

### Can I buy or sell game animals?

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

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

**Electronic kill tag** — an electronic license, also known as an eHarvest 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 weapon 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, 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.

**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 a wild turkey.

**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/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**

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](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.**