2019 Michigan Spring Turkey Digest

Application Period: Jan. 1 - Feb. 1, 2019

Reminders:

A base license is required for anyone who hunts in Michigan.
It is available beginning March 1 and must be purchased before obtaining a spring turkey license.
It is not required to apply.

ANYONE can obtain a Spring Turkey hunt license – see Hunt 0234 on page 12 for details!

Drawing results posted March 4

Visit [mi.gov/turkey](http://mi.gov/turkey)

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

To receive hunting application reminders via text message, text, “MIDNR HUNTAPP” to “64468”

[mi.gov/turkey](http://mi.gov/turkey)

[Graphic: tom turkey in grass]

[Graphic: MDNR logo]
## Contents

**2019 Michigan Spring Turkey Digest** ........................................................................................................ 1

***Turkey Management*** ................................................................................................................................... 5
- Wild Turkey Cooperator Patch .................................................................................................................. 5
- Be a Mentor... Make a Difference ............................................................................................................. 5
- Wild Turkeys Make History ....................................................................................................................... 5
- Managing These Amazing Birds ................................................................................................................ 6
- What do Turkeys Need and How Can You Help? ...................................................................................... 6
- Report January Sightings of Wild Turkey .................................................................................................. 6
- Report Sightings of Diseased Wildlife ....................................................................................................... 6

**2019 Spring Turkey Hunting** .......................................................................................................................... 7

***2019 Hunting Information*** ........................................................................................................................ 7
- How to Apply for a Limited-License Hunt .................................................................................................. 7
  - Eligibility ................................................................................................................................................ 7
  - Applying for a Hunt ............................................................................................................................... 7
  - Applying with Other Hunters ................................................................................................................ 7
  - Mentored Youth Hunters ...................................................................................................................... 8

**2019 Spring Turkey Hunt Units** ................................................................................................................. 8
- Private-Land-Only License ..................................................................................................................... 8
- Limited-License Hunts ............................................................................................................................ 8
  - General Licenses ................................................................................................................................... 8
- Guaranteed-License Hunt ......................................................................................................................... 9
- License Purchase ....................................................................................................................................... 9
  - Active Duty Military Personnel and Veterans with Disabilities .......................................................... 10
- Leftover Licenses ..................................................................................................................................... 10
- Apprentice Hunting License .................................................................................................................. 11
- Mentored Youth Hunting Program ......................................................................................................... 11
- Special Hunting Opportunities for Youth and Hunters with Disabilities ................................................ 11
- Hunting Hours ......................................................................................................................................... 11
  - Zone A Hunting Hours Table ............................................................................................................... 12
- Bag Limit .................................................................................................................................................. 12
- Hunting Methods ................................................................................................................................... 12
- Baiting Prohibited ................................................................................................................................... 13
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 (NRC) is a seven-member public body whose members are appointed by the governor and subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. 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 mi.gov/nrc.

NOTICE: This brochure is not a legal notice or a complete collection of hunting regulations and laws. It is a condensed digest issued for hunters convenience. Copies of Wildlife Conservation Orders, which contain complete listings of regulations and legal descriptions, are available on our website: mi.gov/dnrlaws

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This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

You help protect Michigan’s wild places. Your licenses provide over $62 million a year to conserve wildlife, public lands. And waters. Because of you, habitats have been restored and populations of deer, elk, waterfowl and other game species have been preserved for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

Michigan Wildlife Council HereForMiOutdoors.org

Stay on top of the latest news from the Michigan DNR!

Visit us at mi.gov/dnr to sign up for e-mail updates!

[Graphic: Bull elk in the woods]
Turkey Management

Wild Turkey Cooperator Patch

Michigan’s wild turkey patch program is coordinated by the Michigan chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, in partnership with the DNR. Young hunters, up to 17 years of age, who have a valid wild turkey hunting license may receive a free patch. To receive a patch, please send name and complete address, along with a legible copy of the youth’s valid wild turkey hunting license, to National Wild Turkey Federation, Wild Turkey Patch Program, P.O. Box 45, Reed City, MI 49677. Please allow four to six weeks for delivery. If you have questions, please e-mail michiganwildturkeypatch@yahoo.com.

Adult hunters, collectors, and other interested individuals may purchase the patch for $5, including postage and handling. Only the current-year patch is available for purchase. You do not have to harvest a turkey to purchase a patch. Send orders to the address above, and please make your check or money order payable to the National Wild Turkey Federation. The NWTF 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 NWTF, working cooperatively with the DNR, contributes more than $200,000 to wild turkey and hunter-heritage programs in Michigan.

[Graphic: Turkey hen in a field]

Be a Mentor... Make a Difference

The spring wild turkey season offers the perfect setting for experienced turkey hunters to share their knowledge and skills with other hunters or introduce the sport to new hunters. Learning the habits and behaviors of wild turkeys, scouting, practicing calling, etc., can be more rewarding when two or more people work together as a team. Hunters who fill their tag can get that same enjoyment and satisfaction by helping a youngster or apprentice hunter with his or her first turkey hunting experience.

[Graphic: Two successful turkey hunters]

Wild Turkeys Make History

The comeback of the wild turkey is one of the greatest wildlife conservation stories. Today, there are more than 7 million wild turkeys in the United States; however, there was a time when the sighting of a wild turkey in this country was rare. Wild turkeys can now be found in parts of every county in Michigan’s Lower Peninsula, plus areas of the Upper Peninsula. The expansion of wild turkeys in Michigan did not happen overnight but has unfolded over the last half-century. Wild turkeys had been a common element in Michigan prior to the arrival of settlers. In fact, before settlement, it is estimated that more than 94,000 wild turkeys roamed the state. As habitat changed and turkey harvest went unregulated, turkeys disappeared, and conservationists set out to re-establish the bird. Many attempts to release birds were made in various locations. By 1937, a national coalition of conservationists, virtually all of them hunters, backed by the sporting arms and ammunition industries, persuaded Congress to direct the receipts from an excise tax on those items into a special fund to be distributed to the state for wildlife restoration. Because of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (also known as the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937), wild turkeys and other wildlife gained nationwide support and habitat management began. Since the 1980’s, the DNR, working together with many partners, completed numerous releases of wild trapped birds and improved wild turkey habitat. Due to these
efforts, the turkey population has expanded to historic levels. Today, turkeys inhabit most counties, and there are more areas open to spring hunting than at any time in the history of Michigan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Chance of Getting a License</th>
<th>Hunter Success</th>
<th>Turkeys Harvested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Today</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>30%+</td>
<td>30,000+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Michigan is ranked 8th in the nation for turkey harvest according to NWTF 2014 study results.

Over 4.5 million acres of public land is managed by the DNR and open to hunting! Millions of additional private-land acres are leased or enrolled in programs to allow hunting by all. Visit [mi.gov/hunting](http://mi.gov/hunting) to find out where!

[Graphic: United States map with Michigan highlighted]

Managing These Amazing Birds
Managing wild turkeys in Michigan involves the complex interactions of turkey populations, their habitat, and their relationship to people. Hunting plays an important role in managing turkeys by regulating their numbers. The goal of the spring wild turkey hunting season is to maximize hunter opportunity while maintaining a satisfactory hunting experience. Limited to bearded turkeys only, this conservative harvest approach has allowed the continued growth and expansion of the wild turkey population in Michigan. Wild turkey hunting in the fall enables the DNR to stabilize or reduce wild turkey numbers in certain areas of the state to meet local goals based on biological, social, and economic considerations. License quotas are developed to harvest the desired number of turkeys to meet the management goal. To help reach these goals, hunters are encouraged to harvest female turkeys during the fall season.

[Graphic: MDNR employee holding a turkey]

What do Turkeys Need and How Can You Help?
Providing natural, year-round food sources is a great way to manage for turkeys. Public land is managed for all wildlife species! For help managing your land for turkeys, visit [mi.gov/landownersguide](http://mi.gov/landownersguide). Essentials for Turkeys: buds, fruits, nuts, trees, grass and openings.

Report January Sightings of Wild Turkey
Hunters can assist the DNR by reporting any sightings of wild turkeys during January. This information, which is kept confidential, is used to manage the turkey resource. You can make your report online at [mi.gov/turkey](http://mi.gov/turkey) or you can contact a DNR office listed on the back of this digest.

Report Sightings of Diseased Wildlife
In an effort to maintain healthy wildlife populations, the DNR encourages individuals to report any sightings of sick or dead wildlife, including wild turkeys at [mi.gov/wildlifedisease](http://mi.gov/wildlifedisease). Information about the location, number of animals, and animal condition should be provided. Contact the Wildlife Health Disease Laboratory at (517) 336-5030 if you have any questions.

Help stop the illegal killing of wildlife. Report all poaching at (800) 292-7800.
2019 Spring Turkey Hunting

2019 Hunting Information
From Jan. 1 - Feb. 1, hunters may apply for one limited-quota license, for a specific spring turkey hunt unit and season dates. Application fee is $5. Applicants selected in the drawing may then purchase a limited-quota license (see License Cost table on pg. 13) online at mi.gov/turkey or at a license agent. After the drawing, any leftover licenses will be sold until quotas are met. It is unlawful to obtain or purchase more than one spring turkey hunting license. Depending on how many hunters apply, leftover licenses may or may not be available for some hunt units and/or dates.

Hunters who do not apply for the drawing may purchase a leftover license, if available, beginning March 18 at 10 a.m. (see pg. 13). The $5 application fee will not be charged (only applies to drawing participants). For information on the guaranteed license Hunt 0234, see page 12.

[Graphic: Successful female hunter]

How to Apply for a Limited-License Hunt

Eligibility
- You must be at least 10 years of age when the spring turkey license is purchased, unless purchasing a mentored youth hunting license which can be bought by hunters 9 years of age and younger.
- You will need one of the following forms of customer identification:
  - Valid Michigan driver’s license
  - State of Michigan ID card (issued by the Secretary of State)
  - DNR Sportcard (issued through license agents or at mi.gov/turkey).

Applying for a Hunt
1. Look at the map on pg. 10 and choose a hunt unit.
2. Look at the tables on pgs. 11-12 to find the corresponding hunt number for the hunt unit you chose. You may choose to apply for two hunt numbers - one as your first hunt choice and the other as your second hunt choice.
3. Purchase an application for the hunt number(s) you chose at a license agent, or online at mi.gov/turkey. (It is unlawful to apply more than once).
4. Check your receipt for accuracy, and retain as proof of application.

Applying with Other Hunters
- You may apply in a partnership with one other person. Applicants who apply with more than one partner will be ineligible for the drawing.
- The first applicant of each partnership chooses a hunt unit(s) and receives a “party ID” number, which is printed on his or her receipt. A new party ID number is issued each year. The other partner must provide this party ID number when applying and should verify the party ID number is identical on the receipt.
Mentored Youth Hunters
A spring turkey kill tag will be issued to youth hunters participating in the Mentored Youth Program. No application is required. See pg. 14 for details.

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

For application assistance, call (517) 284-WILD (9453.)

Drawings results will be posted at mi.gov/turkey on March 4.

2019 Spring Turkey Hunt Units
See pages 11 and 12 for hunt options.

[Graphic: Complex map of spring turkey hunt units please call 51-284-9453 for assistance]

Private-Land-Only License
The private-land-only license, Hunt 0301 (Unit ZZ), is not valid on county, state, or federal lands, except to hunt Fort Custer military lands with permission. Hunters should have permission to hunt private lands before applying for one of these licenses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hunt Unit</th>
<th>Season Dates</th>
<th>Maximum License Quota</th>
<th>Hunt Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ZZ</td>
<td>April 22- May 5</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>0301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Limited-License Hunts
General Licenses
The general licenses listed below are valid on all public and private land within the unit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hunt Unit</th>
<th>Season Dates</th>
<th>Maximum License Quota</th>
<th>Hunt Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>April 22-May 5</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td>0101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>April 22-May 5</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>0102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>April 22-April 28</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>0103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>April 29-May 5</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>0104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>April 22-April 28</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>0105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>April 29-May 5</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>0106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>April 22-May 5</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>0107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>April 22-April 28</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>0108</td>
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<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>April 29-May 5</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>0109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>April 22-May 31</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>0110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZA</td>
<td>April 22-April 28</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>0111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunt Unit</td>
<td>Season Dates</td>
<td>Maximum License Quota</td>
<td>Hunt Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZA</td>
<td>April 29-May 5</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>0112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZA</td>
<td>May 6-May 12</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>0113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZA</td>
<td>May 13-May 31</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>0114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZB</td>
<td>April 22-April 28</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>0115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZB</td>
<td>April 29-May 5</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>0116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZB</td>
<td>May 6-May 12</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>0117</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZB</td>
<td>May 13-May 31</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>0118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZC</td>
<td>April 22-April 28</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>0119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZC</td>
<td>April 29-May 5</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>0120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZC</td>
<td>May 6-May 12</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>0121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZC</td>
<td>May 13-May 31</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>0122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZD</td>
<td>April 22-April 28</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZD</td>
<td>April 29-May 5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZD</td>
<td>May 6-May 12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZD</td>
<td>May 13-May 31</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZE</td>
<td>April 22-April 28</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>0127</td>
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<td>ZE</td>
<td>April 29-May 5</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>0128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZE</td>
<td>May 6-May 12</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>0129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZE</td>
<td>May 13-May 31</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>0130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZF</td>
<td>April 22-April 28</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>0131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZF</td>
<td>April 29-May 5</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>0132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZF</td>
<td>May 6-May 31</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>0133</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guaranteed-License Hunt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hunt Unit</th>
<th>Season Dates</th>
<th>Maximum License Quota</th>
<th>Hunt Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statewide*</td>
<td>May 6-31</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>0234</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Hunt 0234 is a statewide hunting license valid for public and private lands, except public lands in Unit ZZ (southern Lower Peninsula). This license is valid to hunt Fort Custer military lands with permission.

Hunt 0234 license will be sold as a leftover license with no quota and can be purchased throughout the entire spring turkey hunting season. See Leftover Licenses on the following page.

[Graphic: Complex map of hunting lands for 0234 for assistance please call 517-284-9453]

License Purchase

Hunting and fishing licenses may be purchased online or from a retail license agent (locations available online at [mi.gov/dnr](http://mi.gov/dnr)).

- A base license is required for everyone who hunts in Michigan. Hunters may purchase their spring turkey license only after they have obtained a base license for the year. The 2019 base license is available beginning March 1 and is not required to apply.

- If selected in the drawing or wishing to purchase a leftover license, including a Hunt 0234 license, hunters may purchase their hunting license online at [mi.gov/turkey](http://mi.gov/turkey) or from any license agent.

- Make sure the information on your license is accurate.
• Licenses may not be altered or transferred.

It is unlawful to obtain or purchase more than one spring turkey hunting license. When hunting, you must carry your spring turkey license and the identification used to purchase that license and present both upon demand of a Michigan conservation officer, a tribal conservation officer or any law enforcement officer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licenses by Age</th>
<th>Cost: Up to Age 9</th>
<th>Cost: Junior Age 10-16</th>
<th>Cost: Resident Age 17+</th>
<th>Cost: Resident Senior Age 65+</th>
<th>Cost: Nonresident 17+, Nonresidents under 17 years of age may purchase a resident base license.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mentored Youth License</td>
<td>$7.50</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application for License Drawing</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base License</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td>$151.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Turkey License</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Active Duty Military Personnel and Veterans with Disabilities**

Resident active-duty military personnel and resident veterans with a 100% disability rating may obtain a leftover spring turkey license free of charge beginning March 18. Licenses are full-price for those who apply for a license and are selected in the drawing.

**Leftover Licenses**

There is no guarantee that leftover licenses will be available for any hunt unit, except Hunt 0234 (see pg. 12). If any licenses remain after the drawing, unsuccessful applicants may purchase one leftover license online or from any license agent on a first-come, first-served basis for a one-week period beginning March 11 at 10 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any limited-quota licenses that remain as of March 18 at 10 a.m. EST may be purchased by any hunter, including those who did not apply for a spring turkey license.
Apprentice Hunting License
A person who does not have a hunter safety certificate and is 10 years of age or older may purchase a base apprentice hunting license. An apprentice hunter may purchase this license for two license years before he or she must successfully complete a hunter safety course. The base apprentice hunting license is available to residents and nonresidents.

When afield, an apprentice hunter must be accompanied by someone 21 years of age or older who possesses a regular current-year hunting license for the same game as the apprentice. For apprentices 10-16 years of age, the accompanying hunter must be the apprentice’s parent, guardian, or someone designated by the parent or guardian. “Accompanied by” requires the accompanying hunter to be able to come to the immediate aid of the apprentice and stay within a distance that permits uninterrupted, unaided visual and verbal contact.

For hunting wild turkey, the accompanying hunter needs a current year turkey hunting license, but it does not have to be for the same hunt unit and season date as the apprentice. A person may accompany no more than two apprentice hunters.

Mentored Youth Hunting Program
The Mentored Youth Program allows youth hunters 9 years of age and younger to hunt with a mentor who is at least 21 years of age, has hunting experience, and possesses a valid Michigan license to hunt other than an apprentice license. The mentored youth license is a “package” license to hunt small game including waterfowl, turkey (spring and fall), deer, trap furbearers, and fish for all species. Additional restrictions apply; complete program details can be found in the Michigan Hunting and Trapping Digest, or online at mi.gov/mentoredhunting.

A spring turkey kill tag issued under the mentored youth hunting license is valid for one bearded turkey during any hunt period, in any open hunt unit, on private or public land. No application is required for the mentored youth license.

Special Hunting Opportunities for Youth and Hunters with Disabilities
The Fort Custer Training Center near Battle Creek offers turkey hunting opportunities for properly licensed youth (Hunt 0301). A mentor is available for each participant. Free housing is available, along with range time. Special hunting opportunities are also available for properly licensed hunters with a disability during May (Hunt 0234). For hunt dates and more information, please visit fortcusterhunt.org or call (269) 731-6570.

Hunting Hours
Actual legal hunting hours (one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour before 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 hour listed in the table reflects EST adjusted for daylight-saving time where appropriate. If you are hunting in Gogebic, Iron, Dickinson or Menominee counties (Central Standard Time), you must make an additional adjustment to the printed time by subtracting one hour.

[Graphic: Complex map of time zone boundaries in Michigan for assistance please call 517-284-9453]
**Zone A Hunting Hours Table**

One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour before sunset (adjusted for daylight-saving time)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019, Date</th>
<th>April A.M</th>
<th>April P.M</th>
<th>May A.M</th>
<th>May P.M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>5:56</td>
<td>8:02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>5:55</td>
<td>8:03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>5:53</td>
<td>8:04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>5:52</td>
<td>8:05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>5:51</td>
<td>8:06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>5:49</td>
<td>8:07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>5:48</td>
<td>8:08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>Not Applicable</td>
<td>5:47</td>
<td>8:09</td>
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<tr>
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**Bag Limit**

One bearded turkey per licensed hunter. It is unlawful to take or possess a turkey that does not have a beard, or tag a bird you did not kill. Turkeys may not be taken while they are in a tree.

**Hunting Methods**

Turkey hunters may use a bow and arrow, a crossbow, a firearm that fires a fixed shotgun shell, or a muzzleloading shotgun. Pneumatic guns are legal when using ammunition containing no. 4 shot or smaller. It is illegal to use or carry afield any other firearm. 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.

When hunting wild turkey, a person shall not use or carry afield any ammunition except shotgun shells loaded with no. 4 or smaller shot or no. 4 or smaller loose shot for use in muzzleloading shotguns. Nontoxic shot is recommended for the hunting of wild turkey.

For taking a turkey, crossbow hunters may only use arrows, bolts and quarrels at least 14 inches in length, tipped with a broadhead point at least 7/8 inch wide. You may hunt turkeys from an elevated stand or tree using a bow and arrow or crossbow on private property. You cannot hunt turkeys from an elevated stand or tree with a firearm.

Baiting Prohibited
It is unlawful to use bait to aid in the taking of a wild turkey. For the purpose of this regulation, “bait” means a substance composed of grain, fruit, 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.

Decoys and Calls
Mechanical, electronic or live decoys are prohibited. Mechanical decoy means any device that by design or construction uses motion as a visual stimulus to attract a wild turkey. A wind sock 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 legal. Stalking with a handheld decoy/silhouette is illegal. The use or possession of electronic devices that imitate calls is illegal.

Validating Kills
Immediately upon killing a turkey, a person shall validate his or her license by notching out the appropriate information as instructed on the license and securely attaching the license around a leg of the bird. A person shall not transport or have in his or her possession a turkey unless the validated license is attached to a leg of the bird.

Using Spur Length to Age a Turkey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spur Length (in.)</th>
<th>Curvature</th>
<th>Sharpness</th>
<th>Age of Gobbler</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than .5”</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Rounded</td>
<td>Younger than 1 year</td>
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<tr>
<td>.5” to 1”</td>
<td>Straight</td>
<td>Blunt</td>
<td>1 to 2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1” to 1.25”</td>
<td>Slightly Curved</td>
<td>Pointed</td>
<td>2 to 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 1.25”</td>
<td>Curved</td>
<td>Sharp</td>
<td>Older than 3 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Turkey Hunting Reporting Option
Turkey hunters, we need your help. After your hunting season has ended, please report your hunting activity on the Internet by visiting mi.gov/turkey. Information you provide will improve management and ensure that decisions regarding hunting seasons are based on the best information available.

MiOFO is a cooperative partnership which provides outdoor recreation opportunities for individuals with health challenges; and coordinates support networks that facilitate recovery through connecting with nature.
“There’s a lot of therapeutic value that goes into hunting and being in nature. It’s not all about the harvest of animals. I think it’s a lot about the comradery that you get in hunting. There’s more to hunting than the harvest. I think that gets overlooked a lot.”

-Casey Leonard, MiOFO Guide

To help get people back to the outdoors, visit www.miofo.org

[Graphic: Two successful turkey hunters]

**General Information**

**Dioxin Advisory Information**

Health assessors from the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and Michigan Department of Natural Resources 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 MDCH advises that hunters and their families 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 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 MDCH website at mi.gov/dioxin.

**Commercial Hunting Guides on State Land**

All commercial hunting guides utilizing state-owned lands must receive written authorization. Guides are required to meet the conditions of the written authorization. If you are a guide who utilizes state-owned lands, please visit mi.gov/statelandpermission or contact a DNR Customer Service Center for more information. Commercial guiding on National Forest (NF) lands requires a special use permit. Applications can be obtained through any office or by calling - Hiawatha NF: (906) 428-5800; Huron-Manistee NF (231) 775-5023; Ottawa NF: (906) 932-1330.
Poachers Beware: Hunters are Watching
Violations of turkey hunting regulations, including application violations, are misdemeanors. Misdemeanors may be punishable by up to 90 days imprisonment, up to $1,000 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.

2019 Spring Turkey Workshops
The DNR, Michigan Wild Turkey Hunters Association (MWTHA), National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), and other groups are offering wild turkey hunter orientation courses. A fee may be charged, and space may be limited. For details contact:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Workshop Information and Contacts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 6</td>
<td>Williams Gun Sight Company, Davison, MI (1 p.m-5 p.m.)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flint River Chapter, NWTF</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jim Miller, <a href="mailto:jmmturkey@att.net">jmmturkey@att.net</a>, 810-513-9829</td>
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<td>April 13</td>
<td>Carl T. Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center, Cadillac, MI (10 a.m-3 p.m.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Outdoor Skills Academy-Wild Turkey Workshop</td>
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<td>Ed shaw (231)-779-1321</td>
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<td>April 26-28</td>
<td>Yankee Springs Recreation Area, Middleville, MI (5 p.m. Fri to Noon Sun)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Advanced Learn to Hunt Wild Turkey Semi-Mentored Hunt</td>
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<td>Steve Sharp, <a href="mailto:ssharp@nwtf.net">ssharp@nwtf.net</a>, 517-930-0947</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 10-12</td>
<td>Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, Hastings, MI (5 p.m. Fri to Noon Sun)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beginner Learn to Hunt Spring Wild Turkey (Adult Mentored Hunt)</td>
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<td>Steve Sharp, <a href="mailto:ssharp@nwtf.net">ssharp@nwtf.net</a>, 517-930-0947</td>
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[Graphic: Group of hunters attending a workshop]

Need information?
Contact a DNR office listed below or visit us online. Customer Service Centers (CSC) are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Baraga CSC
427 US-41 North
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. US-2
Crystal Falls, MI 49920
(906) 875-6622

Detroit Metro CSC
1801 Atwater St.
Detroit, MI 48207
(313) 396-6890

Escanaba CSC
6833 US-2 41 & 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 US-41 South
Marquette, MI 49855
(906) 228-6561

**Naubinway Field Office**
PO Box 287
W11569 US 2E.
Naubinway, MI 49762
(906) 477-6048

**Newberry CSC**
5100 M-123
Newberry, MI 49868
(906) 293-5131

**Norway Field Office**
520 W. US-Hwy 2
Norway, MI 49870
(906) 563-9247

**Plainwell CSC**
621 N. 10th St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
(269) 685-6851

**Roscommon CSC**
I-75 & M-18 South,
8717 N. Roscommon Rd.
Roscommon, MI 48653
(989) 275-5151

**Sault Ste. Marie Field Office**
PO Box 798
2001 Ashmun
Sault St. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 635-6161

**Traverse City CSC**
2122 South M-37
Traverse City, MI 49685
(231) 922-5280

Helpful URLs:
Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/michigandnr
Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/mdnr_wildlife
Hunter Education: mi.gov/huntereducation

Direct DNR website URLs:
DNR Digests and Guides: mi.gov/dnrdigests
Emerging Diseases: mi.gov/emergingdiseases
Explore Michigan’s Wetland Wonders: mi.gov/wetlandwonders
Hunting and Trapping: mi.gov/hunting
Invasive Species: mi.gov/invasivespecies
Mi-HUNT: mi.gov/mihunt
Pure Michigan Hunt: mi.gov/puremichiganhunt
Shooting Ranges: mi.gov/shootingranges

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Division
525 W. Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30444
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 284-WILD (9453)
Contact hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.