

## 2020 Spring Turkey Digest

Application Period: Jan. 1 - Feb. 1, 2020

### 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! NEW! Season opener dates - see pg. 11 NEW! Turkeys can be hunted from a raised platform or tree stand with a firearm.

Drawing results posted March 16 Visit [Michigan.gov/Turkey](http://Michigan.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”  
[Michigan.gov/Turkey](http://Michigan.gov/Turkey)

[Graphic: two hunters holding up prize turkey]

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 [Michigan.gov/NRC](http://Michigan.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:

[Michigan.gov/DNRLaws](http://Michigan.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 nearly \$61 million a year to conserve wildlife, public lands and waters. Because of you, habitats have been restored and populations of deer, elk, waterfowl, turkey and other game species have been preserved for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

Stay on top of the latest news from the Michigan DNR! Visit us at [Michigan.gov/DNR](http://Michigan.gov/DNR) to sign up for e-mail updates!

[Graphic: Turkey in a field looking off into the distance]

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## 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: 2020 Wild Turkey Management Cooperator patch design]

### 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: Mentored youth hunter and mentor sitting against a tree hunting]

### 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.

[Graphic: Picture of wildlife Biologist Al Stewart demonstrates various turkey calls]

|       |                                  |                      |                             |
|-------|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1977  | 25% Chance of getting a license  | 10% Hunter success   | 400 turkeys harvested       |
| Today | 100% Chance of getting a license | 30% + Hunter success | 30,000 + turkeys harvested. |

[Graphic: Map of the United States with Michigan highlighted with “Michigan is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation for turkey harvest according to NWTF study results” printed over it]

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 [Michigan.gov/Hunting](http://Michigan.gov/Hunting) to find out where!

### [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: picture of a wild turkey being re-released back into the wild]

### [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 [Michigan.gov/LandOwnersGuide](http://Michigan.gov/LandOwnersGuide).

[Graphic: Outline of a male turkey]

### Essentials for Turkeys:

- Buds
- Fruits
- Nuts
- Openings
- Grass
- Trees

### [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 [Michigan.gov/Turkey](http://Michigan.gov/Turkey) or you can contact a DNR office listed on the back of this digest.

### [Report Sightings of Diseased Wildlife](#)

To maintain healthy wildlife populations, the DNR encourages individuals to report any sightings of sick or dead wildlife, including wild turkeys at [Michigan.gov/WildlifeDisease](http://Michigan.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.

### [2020 Spring Turkey Hunting](#)

#### [2020 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 [Michigan.gov/Turkey](http://Michigan.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 30 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: Hunters with harvested turkeys]

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 [Michigan.gov/Turkey](http://Michigan.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](http://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 [Michigan.gov/Turkey](http://Michigan.gov/Turkey) on March 16.

#### *2020 Spring Turkey Hunt Units*

See pages 11 and 12 for hunt options.

[Graphic: Map of state of Michigan with Spring Turkey Units outlined, call 517-284-9453 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.

## Limited-License Hunts

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

| Hunt Unit | Season Dates           | Maximum License Quota (Quotas may be adjusted based on wild turkey hunter and population surveys). | Hunt Numbers |
|-----------|------------------------|--|--------------|
| A         | April 18 – May 1       | 5,500  | 0101         |
| B         | April 18 – May 1       | 1,000  | 0102         |
| E         | April 18- April 24     | 850  | 0103         |
| E         | April 25- May 1        | 850  | 0104         |
| F         | April 18-May 1         | 5,000  | 0105         |
| J         | April 18- May 1        | 4,000  | 0107         |
| K         | April 18- April 24     | 4,000  | 0108         |
| K         | April 25- May 1        | 4,500  | 0109         |
| M         | April 18-May 31        | 6,000  | 0110         |
| ZA        | April 18-24 & June 107 | 1,200  | 0111         |
| ZA        | April 25- May 8        | 1,800  | 0112         |
| ZA        | May 9- May 31          | 1,800  | 0113         |
| ZB        | April 18-24 & June 107 | 650  | 0115         |
| ZB        | April 25-May 8         | 975  | 0116         |
| ZB        | May 9-May 31           | 975  | 0117         |
| ZC        | April 18-24 & June 1-7 | 600  | 0119         |
| ZC        | April 25- May 8        | 900  | 0120         |
| ZC        | May 9- May 31          | 900  | 0121         |
| ZD        | April 18-24 & June 1-7 | 10   | 0123         |
| ZD        | April 25- May 8        | 15   | 0124         |
| ZD        | May 9- May 31          | 15   | 0125         |
| ZE        | April 18-24 & June 1-7 | 500  | 0127         |
| ZE        | April 25- May 8        | 750  | 0128         |
| ZE        | May 9- May 31          | 750  | 0129         |
| ZF        | April 18-24 & June 1-7 | 1,300  | 0131         |
| ZF        | April 25-May 8         | 1,300  | 0132         |
| ZF        | May 9-May 31           | 3,000  | 0133         |
| ZZ        | April 18- May 31       | 50,000   | 0301         |

## Guaranteed- License Hunt

### Hunt 0234

| Hunt Unit | Season Dates | Maximum License Quota | Hunt Number |
|-----------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Statewide | May 1-May 31 | NONE                  | 0234        |

\*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.

## 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 2020 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 [Michigan.gov/Turkey](http://Michigan.gov/Turkey) or from any license agent.
- Make sure the information on your license is accurate.
- Licenses may not be altered or transferred.
- In order to ensure application status accuracy, be sure to use the same form of identification to purchase your license that you used to apply. If you applied using your DNR Sportcard, do not use a nonresident driver's license to look up your drawing results or to purchase your spring turkey license. 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.

| Licenses by Age                 | Cost Age: Up to 9 | Cost Junior Age: 10-16 | Cost Resident Age: 17 + | Cost Resident Senior Age: 65+ | Cost Nonresident Age: 17+ |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mentored Youth License          | \$7.50            | -                      | -                       | -                             | -                         |
| Application for License Drawing | -                 | \$5.00                 | \$5.00                  | \$5.00                        | \$5.00                    |
| Base License                    | -                 | \$6.00                 | \$11.00                 | \$5.00                        | \$151.00                  |
| Spring Turkey License           | -                 | \$15.00                | \$15.00                 | \$6.00                        | \$15.00                   |

\*Nonresidents under 17 years of age may purchase a resident base license.

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 30. 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 23 at 10 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any limited-quota licenses that remain as of March 30 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 [Michigan.gov/MentoredHunting](http://Michigan.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](http://fortcusterhunt.org) or call (269) 731-6570.

[Graphic: Picture of gentlemen posing with harvested turkeys]

#### 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.

| Date | April AM | April PM | May AM | May PM | June AM | June PM |
|------|----------|----------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| 1    | -        | -        | 5:57   | 8:03   | 5:28    | 8:32    |
| 2    | -        | -        | 5:56   | 8:04   | 5:28    | 8:33    |
| 3    | -        | -        | 5:54   | 8:05   | 5:27    | 8:34    |
| 4    | -        | -        | 5:53   | 8:06   | 5:27    | 8:35    |
| 5    | -        | -        | 5:52   | 8:07   | 5:26    | 8:35    |
| 6    | -        | -        | 5:50   | 8:08   | 5:26    | 8:36    |
| 7    | -        | -        | 5:49   | 8:09   | 5:26    | 8:37    |
| 8    | -        | -        | 5:48   | 8:10   | -       | -       |
| 9    | -        | -        | 5:47   | 8:11   | -       | -       |
| 10   | -        | -        | 5:46   | 8:12   | -       | -       |
| 11   | -        | -        | 5:45   | 8:14   | -       | -       |
| 12   | -        | -        | 5:43   | 8:15   | -       | -       |

|    |      |      |      |      |   |   |
|----|------|------|------|------|---|---|
| 13 | -    | -    | 5:42 | 8:16 | - | - |
| 14 | -    | -    | 5:41 | 8:17 | - | - |
| 15 | -    | -    | 5:40 | 8:18 | - | - |
| 16 | -    | -    | 5:39 | 8:19 | - | - |
| 17 | -    | -    | 5:38 | 8:20 | - | - |
| 18 | 6:16 | 7:48 | 5:37 | 8:21 | - | - |
| 19 | 6:14 | 7:49 | 5:37 | 8:22 | - | - |
| 20 | 6:13 | 7:50 | 5:36 | 8:23 | - | - |
| 21 | 6:11 | 7:51 | 5:35 | 8:24 | - | - |
| 22 | 6:10 | 7:53 | 5:33 | 8:25 | - | - |
| 23 | 6:08 | 7:54 | 5:33 | 8:26 | - | - |
| 24 | 6:07 | 7:55 | 5:33 | 8:26 | - | - |
| 25 | 6:05 | 7:56 | 5:32 | 8:27 | - | - |
| 26 | 6:04 | 7:57 | 5:31 | 8:28 | - | - |
| 27 | 6:02 | 7:58 | 5:31 | 8:29 | - | - |
| 28 | 6:01 | 7:59 | 5:30 | 8:30 | - | - |
| 29 | 6:00 | 8:00 | 5:29 | 8:31 | - | - |
| 30 | 5:58 | 8:02 | 5:29 | 8:32 | - | - |
| 31 | -    | -    | 5:28 | 8:32 | - | - |

#### 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. Non-toxic 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, crossbow, or firearm on private property.

#### 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 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 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

| Spur Length (in.) | Curvature       | Sharpness | Age of Gobbler      |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Less than 0.5"    | None            | Rounded   | Younger than 1 year |
| 0.5" to 1"        | Straight        | Blunt     | 1 to 2 years        |
| 1" to 1.25"       | Slightly Curved | Pointed   | 2 to 3 years        |
| Over 1.25"        | Curved          | Sharp     | Older than 3 years  |

## 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 [Michigan.gov/Turkey](http://Michigan.gov/Turkey). Information you provide will improve management and ensure that decisions regarding hunting seasons are based on the best information available.

[Graphic: Two turkey hunters holding up prized turkey]

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.

"The freedom of being able to go (into the woods) with dignity deserves my words of gratitude. These hunts give us unity and with unity we give each other strength, understanding, and compassion." - Ray Norris, MiOFO Hunter

To help get people back to the outdoors, visit [www.miofo.org](http://www.miofo.org)

## 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 [Michigan.gov/Dioxin](http://Michigan.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 [Michigan.gov/StateLandPermission](http://Michigan.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.

2020 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:

| Workshop Dates | Workshop Information and Contact   |
|----------------|--|
| April 4        | Williams Gun Sight Company, Davison, MI Flint River Chapter, NWTf (1 p.m. – 5 p.m.) Jim Miller, <a href="mailto:jmmturkey@att.net">jmmturkey@att.net</a> , 810-513-9820  |
| April 4        | Rose Lake Shooting Range, East Lansing, MI Michigan State Chapter, NWTf (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.) Learn to Hunt Wild Turkey and Shotgun Patterning Day Steve Sharp, <a href="mailto:ssharp@nwtf.net">ssharp@nwtf.net</a> , 517-930-0947 Must register online at <a href="http://www.nwtf.org/events">www.nwtf.org/events</a> |
| April 11       | Carl T. Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center, Cadillac, MI 3 Corners Habitat Chapter, NWTf (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.) Outdoor Skills Academy – Wild Turkey Workshop Ed Shaw (231) 779-1321  |
| April 18       | Bellevue Conservation Club, Bellevue, MI Eaton County Strutting Toms Chapter, NWTf (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.) Wild Turkey Workshop and Youth Event Phil Rolfe, 517-983-9370 Must register online at <a href="http://www.nwtf.org/events">www.nwtf.org/events</a>  |
| May 8-110      | Pierce Cedar Creek Institute, Hastings, MI (5:30 p.m. Fri to 11 a.m. Sun) Learn to Hunt Wild Turkey (Mentored Hunt) Steve Sharp, <a href="mailto:ssharp@nwtf.net">ssharp@nwtf.net</a> , 517-930-0947 Must register online at <a href="http://www.nwtf.org/events">www.nwtf.org/events</a>                            |

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 CSC

PO Box 798, 4131 S. M-129 Hwy., Sault St. Marie, MI 49783

906-635-6161

Traverse City CSC

2122 South M-37 Traverse City, MI 49685

231-922-5280

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division 525 W. Allegan Street P.O. Box 30444

Lansing, MI 48933 517-284-WILD (9453) Contact hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The State of Michigan allows appropriate advertising in its annual hunting and trapping digest to reduce the cost of printing. Many states have adopted a similar strategy. Promotional advertising does not constitute endorsement by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Helpful URLs

Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/michigandnr](http://www.facebook.com/michigandnr)

Follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/mdnr\\_wildlife](http://www.twitter.com/mdnr_wildlife)

Follow us on Youtube at [www.youtube.com/MichiganDNR](http://www.youtube.com/MichiganDNR)

Direct DNR website URLs

Hunting: [www.Michigan.gov/Hunting](http://www.Michigan.gov/Hunting)

Trapping/Fur Harvesting: [www.Michigan.gov/Trapping](http://www.Michigan.gov/Trapping)

Pure Michigan Hunt: [www.Michigan.gov/PureMichiganHunt](http://www.Michigan.gov/PureMichiganHunt)

DNR Digests and Guides: [www.Michigan.gov/DNRDigests](http://www.Michigan.gov/DNRDigests)

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

Explore Michigan's Wetland Wonders: [www.Michigan.gov/WetlandWonders](http://www.Michigan.gov/WetlandWonders)

Invasive Species: [www.Michigan.gov/InvasiveSpecies](http://www.Michigan.gov/InvasiveSpecies)

Shooting Ranges: [www.Michigan.gov/ShootingRanges](http://www.Michigan.gov/ShootingRanges)

Emerging Diseases: [www.Michigan.gov/EmergingDiseases](http://www.Michigan.gov/EmergingDiseases)