

2018 Michigan Fall Turkey Digest

Application Period: July 1 - Aug. 1, 2018

Reminders

- If licenses still remain by Aug. 27 hunters may purchase one license a day until quotas are met.

Drawing Results Posted Aug. 13

Visit mi.gov/turkey

Michigan Department of Natural Resources logo

RAP (Report All Poaching) 800-292-7800

[Graphic: Michigan Department of Natural Resources logo]

[Graphic: Wild turkey in a field]

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

mi.gov/turkey

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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 (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 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 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 hunter's convenience. Copies of Wildlife Conservation Orders, which contain complete listings of regulations and legal descriptions, are available on our website: mi.gov/dnrlaws

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunities for employment and access to Michigan's natural resources. Both state and federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex, height, weight or marital status under the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 as amended (MI PA 453 and MI PA 220, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire additional information, please write: Human Resources, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909-7528 or the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Cadillac Place, Suite 3-600, 3054 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202 or the Division of Federal Assistance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Thank you, hunters and anglers for your help protecting Michigan's wild places. Your licenses provide nearly \$40 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 preserved for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

Michigan Wildlife Council

HereForMiOutdoors.org

[Graphic: Wild Turkey]

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

Visit us at mi.gov/dnr and click on the red envelope to sign up for e-mail updates!

[Graphic: Red govdelivery envelope]

Turkey Management

Be a Mentor... Make a Difference

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

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

Over 4.5 million acres of public land are 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 to find out where!

[Graphic: Map of United States with state of Michigan highlighted.]

Why a Fall Turkey Season?

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. Fall turkey hunting allows the DNR to stabilize or reduce wild turkey numbers in certain areas of the state to meet local goals based on habitat conditions and public attitudes. To help reach these goals, hunters are encouraged to harvest female turkeys during the fall season and are able to harvest more than one bird.

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. License quotas are developed to harvest the desired number of turkeys to meet the management goal.

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.

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 been restored. Today, turkeys inhabit most counties, and there are more areas open to spring hunting than at any time in the history of Michigan.

Visit Michigan's Turkey Tracts

With the help of hunters and partners, such as the National Wild Turkey Federation, the DNR is developing a series of actively managed walk-in wild turkey hunting areas across southern Michigan. These areas are called Turkey Tracts. This new program is designed to highlight local wildlife management on public hunting areas and connect hunters with local business partners. Current sites are located in Allegan, Barry and Montcalm counties. The program will be expanded to more locations in the future. Visit mi.gov/turkey for further information.

Today:

- ~45,000 Square miles open for fall turkey hunt
- 28% Hunter success
- ~30,500 Fall Licenses purchased

[Graphic: Turkey tracts logo]

Wild Turkey Timeline

[Graphic: Complex timeline depicting turkey populations in Michigan as well as important turkey events from 1880's to now. For assistance please call 517-284-9453]

Turkey Hunting

2018 Hunting Information

From July 1 - Aug. 1, hunters may apply for one limited-quota license, for a specific fall 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. 10) online at mi.gov/turkey or at a license agent. After the drawing, any leftover licenses will be sold until quotas are met. Depending on how many hunters apply, leftover licenses may or may not be available for some hunt units and/or dates.

Hunters, including young hunters licensed under the mentored youth hunting program, may apply for or purchase a fall turkey license. Hunters who do not apply for the drawing may purchase a leftover license, if available; beginning Aug. 27 (see pg. 10).

Hunters may purchase one license a day until quotas are met, and may harvest one turkey per license.

[Graphic: Pure Michigan hunt advertisement. Visit mi.gov/pmh for more info]

How to Apply for a Limited-License Hunt

Eligibility

- 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 mdnr-elicence.com)

- Hunters under 10 years old must be licensed under the mentored youth hunting program to apply for a fall turkey license (see pg. 10).

Applying for a Hunt

1. Look at the map on pg. 8 and choose a hunt unit.
2. Look at the tables on pg. 9 to find the corresponding hunt number for the hunt unit you chose.
3. Purchase an application for the hunt number(s) you chose at a license agent, DNR Customer Service Center, 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 for a Hunt 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 will need this party ID number when applying to complete the partnership. The other partner must provide this party ID number when applying and should verify the party ID number is identical on the receipt.

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.

- You are responsible for obtaining your drawing results online.
- For application assistance, call (517) 284-WILD (9453).

Drawing results will be posted at mi.gov/turkey on Aug. 13.

Hunting Hours

Actual legal hunting hours (one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset) for Zone A are printed in the table. To determine the opening (a.m.) or closing (p.m.) time in another zone, add the minutes shown on the map for the zone to the time from the Zone A Hunting Hours Table. The hunting 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.

Zone A Hunting Hours Table

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

[Graphic: Complex table detailing hunting dates and times September-October for assistance call 517-284-9453]

[Graphic: Complex map of time zone boundaries in Michigan for assistance call 517-284-9453]

2017 Fall Turkey Hunt Units

[Graphic: Complex map of fall turkey hunt units for assistance call 517-284-9453]

For detailed descriptions of hunt unit boundaries, go online to mi.gov/dnr/laws or contact a DNR Customer Service Center.

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	Hunt number
G	Sept. 15-Nov. 14	200	0401
GB	Sept. 15-Nov. 14	250	0402
GC	Sept. 15-Nov. 14	200	0403
J	Sept. 15-Nov. 14	1,500	0404
L	Sept. 15-Nov. 14	500	0405
M	Sept. 15-Nov. 14	1,500	0406
T	Sept. 15-Nov. 14	200	0407
W	Sept. 15-Nov. 14	200	0408
WA	Sept. 15-Nov. 14	100	0409

Private-Land-Only Licenses

The private-land licenses listed below are not valid on county, state, or federal lands, except hunt unit YY may be used to hunt Fort Custer military lands with permission. You are encouraged to have permission to hunt private lands before applying for one of these licenses.

Hunt Unit	Season Dates	Maximum License Quota	Hunt Number
HA	Sept. 15-Nov. 14	1,700	0410
YY	Sept. 15-Nov. 14	45,000	0501

Fall hunt unit YY encompasses only private lands in southern Michigan and on Beaver Island.

Report Sightings of Diseased Wildlife

In an effort to maintain healthy wildlife populations, the DNR encourages people to report any sightings of sick or dead wildlife, including wild turkeys. Information about the location, number of animals, and animal condition should be provided. Contact the Wildlife Health Disease Laboratory at 517-336-5030 or mi.gov/eyesinthefield if you have any questions.

Leftover Licenses

There is no guarantee that leftover licenses will be available for any hunt unit.

If any licenses remain after the drawing, unsuccessful applicants who possess a current base license may purchase a leftover turkey license online or from any license agent on a first-come, first-served basis for a one-week period beginning Aug. 20 at 10 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any limited-quota licenses that remain as of Aug. 27 at 10 a.m. EST may be purchased by any hunter, with a current base license or mentored youth license, including those who did not apply for a fall turkey license. Hunters may purchase one license a day until quotas are met.

License Purchase

Hunting and fishing licenses may be purchased online (mdnr-eligence.com) or from a retail license agent (locations available online at mi.gov/dnr).

- A base license is required for everyone who hunts in Michigan. Hunters may purchase their fall turkey license only after they have obtained a base license for the year. An application may be purchased prior to obtaining a base license.
- If selected in the drawing or to purchase a leftover license, hunters may purchase their hunting license online at mi.gov/turkey or from any license agent.
- Hunters may purchase one license a day until quotas are met.
- Make sure the information on your license(s) is accurate.
- Licenses may not be altered or transferred.

When hunting, you must carry your fall turkey license and present it upon demand of a Michigan conservation officer, a Tribal conservation officer or any law enforcement officer. If you have any license questions, please call (517) 284-6057.

Licenses Type	Cost Up to Age 9	Cost Junior Age: 10-16	Cost Resident Age: 17+	Cost Resident Senior Age: 65+	Nonresident Age: 17+
Mentored Youth License	\$7.50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Application for License Drawing	N/A	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
Base license	N/A	\$6.00	\$11.00	\$5.00	\$151.00
Turkey Fall License	N/A	\$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 federal active-duty military personnel and resident, qualifying veterans with disabilities may obtain a leftover fall turkey license free of charge beginning Aug. 27. Licenses are full-price for those who apply for a license and are selected in the drawing.

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 fall 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 Hunting 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.

Mentored youth receive one fall turkey kill tag with their mentored youth license, valid for one turkey in any open fall turkey hunt unit. A licensed mentored youth hunter can also apply for the fall turkey license drawing, or purchase leftover licenses after the drawing. An application is not required for the mentored youth license.

Invasive Species

- Invasive species can destroy wildlife habitat.
- You can protect prime hunting areas by cleaning your gear to assure seeds and debris from invasive plants aren't hitchhiking with you.
- Find out more about preventing the spread of invasive species at mi.gov/invasivespecies.

- Report invasive species at [misin.msu.edu](https://www.misin.msu.edu).

Bag Limit

One turkey (any sex) per fall turkey license. Hunters may purchase one license a day until quotas are met. It is unlawful to tag a turkey you did not kill, use a tag more than once, use another person's tag, or allow another person to use your tag.

Hunting Methods

Turkey hunters may use a bow and arrow, a crossbow, a firearm that fires a fixed shotgun shell, or a muzzleloading shotgun. 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 taking 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 or crossbow. Turkeys may be hunted with dogs during the fall season. Turkeys may not be taken while they are in a tree.

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.

[Graphic: HAP advertisement. For more information go to [mi.gov/HAP](https://www.mi.gov/HAP)]

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.

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.

Wild Turkey Cooperator Patch

Michigan's wild turkey patch program is coordinated by the Michigan chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), in partnership with the DNR. Young hunters, 17 years of age and younger, 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 8, Orleans, MI 48865. 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 NWTF. 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 \$300,000 to wild turkey and hunter-heritage programs in Michigan.

[Graphic: 2018 Wild Turkey Cooperators patch]

General Information

2018 Fall Turkey Workshops

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 not listed below, contact: Bernard Tobianski at 586-264-8053.

Workshop Information and Contacts

Sept 20-21- National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) Learn To Hunt Fall Turkeys, Adult Mentored Hunt. Yankee Springs Recreation Area - Middleville, MI. Contact Steve Sharp, 517-930-0947, ssharp@nwtf.net for more information.

Wild Turkey Hunting Tips, Ethics and Safety

A key component of successful fall turkey hunting is locating birds. Good areas for sighting flocks include idle fields, woodlands and around logging trails. Scout for tracks, fresh droppings and feathers.

Locate a good food source, around which birds are congregating – in the fall, for instance, turkeys feed on insects and mast crops like acorns – and learn the habits of the birds. Listen for the sounds of birds scratching in the leaves or for their “flock talk” as they come and go to roost. Roosting flocks may produce a wide variety of yelps, clucks, “kee-kees” and gobbles.

Once you have located a flock, one hunting tactic is to scatter the flock. Approach the flock within 50 yards and flush the birds so they will scatter. A dispersed flock normally will begin to regroup near the original point of separation within 15 to 30 minutes. Quickly set up at this spot and, as the flock begins to reassemble, begin calling the turkeys by imitating the same sounds they make. Answer every turkey call you hear with similar tone, pitch and rhythm. Using a decoy also may help fool birds into approaching your location.

Successful hunters sit still and allow the birds to come to them. Because a turkey can detect and react to movement 10 times faster than a human, movement is a turkey hunter’s greatest enemy. And remember that camouflage does not make you invisible – even though camouflaged, you are still an unnatural form in the woods that birds will notice.

Do not attempt to stalk a turkey. Your chances of success are poor and, at best, you might get a glimpse of tail feathers. More importantly, that gobbler or hen you are stalking may turn out to be another hunter, a potentially dangerous situation. Many turkey hunters are very convincing callers, so assume that another person is making every sound you hear and always keep a safe distance. If another hunter is working a flock, give that person the same respect that you would expect and do not interfere by calling or spooking the birds.

Do not jump and turn at a turkey approaching from behind. The chance of getting a good shot is very slim. Instead be patient, remain still and let the bird pass.

Know the capabilities of your gun, crossbow, or bow and use it safely. Be positive of your target, make sure the bird is within range, and shoot at the neck and head only.

Dioxin Advisory Information

Health assessors from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) 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 MDHHS 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 MDHHS website at mi.gov/dioxin.

Poachers Beware: Hunters are Watching

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 imprisonment, up to \$1,000 in fines, and license revocation for up to 5 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.

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

Direct DNR website URLs:

Hunting and Trapping: mi.gov/hunting

Pure Michigan Hunt: mi.gov/puremichiganhunt

DNR Digests and Guides: mi.gov/dnrdigests

Mi-HUNT: mi.gov/mihunt

Explore Michigan's Wetland Wonders: mi.gov/wetlandwonders

Invasive Species: mi.gov/invasivespecies

Shooting Ranges: mi.gov/shootingranges

Emerging Diseases: mi.gov/emergingdiseases

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.