

Season Dates

Youth Archery	March 25 - May 31
Archery	March 25 - May 31
Youth Shotgun	April 7 - May 31
Shotgun	April 14 - May 31

Hunting Area

Seasons are valid statewide, except on federal and state sanctuaries or refuges, unless otherwise authorized.

Legal Hunting Methods

Shotgun Season – Hunters must use a shotgun with shells that contain shot size 2 to 7½.

Archery Season – Hunters must use archery equipment (long bow, recurve bow, compound bow, crossbow) with arrows that have a sharpened hunting head with a blade of at least 7/16-inch radius, or a blunt (bludgeon) head with a diameter of at least 9/16-inch.

Spring Turkey Permit

A spring turkey permit allows the take of turkeys with archery equipment during the archery season and with a shotgun during the shotgun season. A person may have up to three spring turkey permits. No qualifying person may have more than one landowner permit in the spring. Permits must be signed by the permit holder and may not be transferred or loaned.

Bag Limit

One male or bearded female turkey per permit.

Habitat Stamp

Any resident age 16 or older and all nonresidents who hunt turkey in Nebraska must have a valid Nebraska Habitat Stamp, except that landowner permit holders do not need a habitat stamp. Only one stamp is needed for all hunting of any species in a calendar year.

Minimum Age to Hunt Turkey

None

Hunter Education

Hunters age 12 through 29 must have completed firearm hunter education when hunting turkeys with a firearm or crossbow. Bow hunter education is not required for bow and arrow hunting of turkeys.

Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate

An Apprentice Hunter Education Certificate provides a novice between the ages of 12 and 29 an opportunity to try hunting and receive help from an experienced hunter before completing Hunter Education. A hunter using this certificate must be accompanied at all times while hunting by a licensed adult age 19 or older. This certificate may be purchased twice – in consecutive years – in a person's lifetime for \$5 each time. It expires on Dec. 31. Applicable hunt permits are required.

Accompaniment

The following turkey hunters must be accompanied:

- Those under age 12.
- Those using an Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate.

The accompanying person must:

- Be a licensed "experienced" hunter age 19 or older.
- Be certified in hunter education if he or she is between the ages of 19 and 29.
- Not accompany more than two holders of an exemption certificate at one time.
- Be at all times in unaided visual and verbal communication with the hunter/hunters he or she is accompanying.

Shooting Hours

Thirty minutes before sunrise to sunset. Before sunrise, it is unlawful to take or attempt to take any turkey perched in a tree.

Tagging

See instructions on the permit.

Transportation

If the permit holder does not accompany the turkey during transportation, the cancelled permit must be attached to the carcass of the turkey. In the spring season, the head, beard or one leg of the turkey must remain naturally attached to the carcass until the turkey is delivered to a commercial processing facility or the hunter's home. Any bearded female turkey harvested in the spring season must have the beard naturally attached.

Unlawful Acts

- Hunting on private land without permission.
- Hunting turkeys within 100 yards of an occupied dwelling or feedlot without specific permission for that purpose.
- Shooting from the right-of-way of a public road.
- Having a loaded shotgun (magazine included) in a vehicle while on a public road.
- Baiting game birds.
- Using slugs in shotguns.
- Using electronic calls.
- Using visible laser or light-projecting sights.
- Using live decoys.

Hunter Orange

Not required for the spring season.

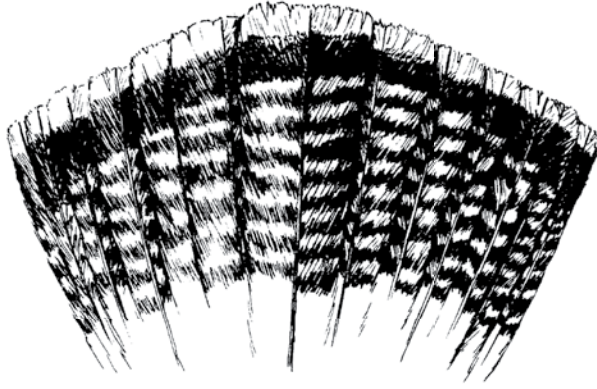
Possession

It is unlawful for any person other than a successful permit holder to possess any turkey or any portion of it. However, any person may receive as a gift any portion of the turkey, provided a statement of such gift is available for inspection. The statement shall include: the hunter's name, telephone number, permit number, species and quantity of each, signature of donor, name of recipient, and date of transfer.

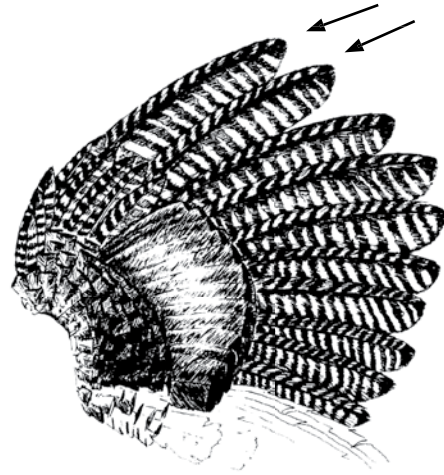
Determining Turkey Age

Adult

Tail: Adult feathers are of equal length.

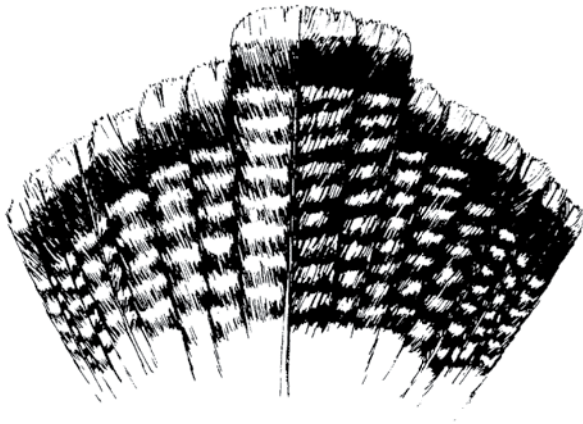


Wing: In adults, the ninth and 10th primaries are rounded and barred.



Juvenile

Tail: Juvenile turkeys have two middle feathers that are longer than the others.



Wing: In juveniles, the ninth and 10th primaries are pointed and indistinctly barred at the tip.



Hunter Survey

Following each season, hunters who provided e-mail addresses when they purchased their permits may receive an e-mail survey that is used to determine hunter success and total harvest. Those receiving surveys are asked to reply promptly. It is important when buying permits online that hunters use an updated e-mail address. View survey results at OutdoorNebraska.org.

Nebraska Wildlife Crimestoppers

If you see a game violation, report it to Nebraska Wildlife Crimestoppers toll-free at 800-742-7627. Your free call will be kept confidential and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

Purchase permits at OutdoorNebraska.org