

Turkey

Fall season 1 bird, either sex

Oct. 29 to Nov. 5

- WMU 1B

Oct. 29 to Nov. 5; Nov. 24 to 26

- WMUs 1A & 2A

Oct. 29 to Nov. 12; Nov. 24 to 26

- WMUs 2D, 2E, 2F, 2G, 2H, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4C & 4D

Oct. 29 to Nov. 18; Nov. 24 to 26

- WMUs 2B, 2C & 4E

Nov. 3 to 5

- WMU 5A

Closed to fall hunting

- WMUs 5B, 5C & 5D

Arms & Ammunition

1) Manually operated rifles and handguns, including rimfires; 2) Manually operated and semi-automatic shotguns limited to a three-shell capacity in the chamber and magazine combined; 3) Muzzleloading shotguns, rifles and handguns; and 4) Long, recurve, compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds) or crossbows with a broadhead that has a fixed or mechanical tip affixed to the fore end of an arrow or bolt having sharpened cutting edges consisting of metal or naturally occurring stone. The broadhead must have an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 of an inch, and the length of the cutting surface may not exceed 3.25 inches.

Single-projectile ammunition or shot no larger than No. 4 lead, No. 2 steel or No. 4 of any other U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service-approved nontoxic shot. **The fall seasons in WMU 2B (and the Allegheny County portion of 2A)** are limited to shotguns and long, recurve, compound bows or crossbows.

Fluorescent Orange

Fall turkey hunters must wear at least 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest and back combined, visible 360 degrees at all times when moving. Orange material may be removed at a stationary calling location, providing a minimum of 100 square inches of fluorescent orange is posted within 15 feet of the location and is visible 360 degrees.

• **Exception:** In WMU 2B, which is limited to hunting with shotguns and archery equipment, hunters must wear a hat containing a minimum of 100 square inches of solid fluorescent orange material, visible 360 degrees at all times when moving. While fluorescent orange is not required in this zone at stationary calling locations, it is strongly recommended.

Mentored Hunters

Mentored Youth and Mentored Adult hunters may participate. Birds taken by any mentored hunter must be tagged with harvest tag transferred from his or her mentor.

Dogs

Dogs may be used during the fall season.

Spring season Up to 2 bearded birds, (1 per day) with proper licenses.

SPRING TURKEY HUNTING IS OPEN STATEWIDE

YOUTH HUNT

April 22, 2017

STATEWIDE SEASON

April 29 to May 31, 2017

Hunting Hours

Hunting hours during the **April 22** youth hunt, and from **April 29 to May 13** of the statewide season begin one-half hour before sunrise and end at noon. Hunters are asked to be out of the woods by 1 p.m. during those periods. From **May 15 to May 31**, hunting hours begin one-half hour before sunrise and end one-half hour after sunset.

Arms & Ammunition

1) Manually operated and semi-automatic shotguns limited to a three-shell capacity in the chamber and magazine combined; 2) Muzzleloading shotguns of all types and gauges; 3) Long, recurve, compound bows (minimum draw weight of 35 pounds) or crossbows with legal broadheads (see broadhead requirements in fall season section).

Fine shot no larger than No. 4 lead, No. 2 steel or No. 4 of any other approved nontoxic shot. Rifle/shotgun combination guns may be used if ammunition is limited to shotgun shells. Carrying or using single-projectile ammunition, rifles or handguns is unlawful.

Mentored Hunters

Mentored Youth and Mentored Adult hunters may participate. Harvest tags are provided to Mentored Adults and Mentored Youth older than 7. Birds taken by Mentored Youth younger than 7 must be tagged with a harvest tag transferred from the youth's mentor. Each mentored hunter may take only one turkey during the spring.

Youth Hunt

Only licensed junior hunters and properly permitted Mentored Youth may participate, and must be accompanied by an adult as required by law (see License Information section). Each hunter may harvest only one bearded bird during the Youth Hunt. Birds harvested by Mentored Youth under age 7 must be tagged with a harvest tag transferred to the Mentored Youth from his or her adult mentor.

No Stalking

Hunting by calling only.

Bearded Birds

Only turkeys with visible beards are legal. It is suggested, though, that hunters refrain from knowingly harvesting bearded hens because they nest and raise broods.

Dogs

Dogs may not be used during the spring season.

Blinds

The use of turkey blinds is legal under the following definition: Any artificial or manufactured turkey blind consisting of all manmade materials of sufficient density to block the detection of movement within the blind from an observer outside the blind.

Artificial or manufactured turkey blinds consisting of all manmade materials means blinds must be constructed of plastic, nylon, canvas, cotton cloth, plywood or other manmade materials.

Blinds made by piling rocks, logs, branches, etc. are unlawful. The blind must completely enclose the hunter on all four sides and from above to block the detection of movement within the blind.

A new turkey-hunting blind available for online purchase is illegal to use in Pennsylvania. The new blind incorporates the fanned tail of a gobbler to hide a hunter's form, but because it does not hide all hunter movement from behind or within, it cannot be used legally to hunt turkeys.

When fluorescent orange is required at a stationary calling location in fall seasons, at least 100 square inches must be displayed outside the blind and within 15 feet of the blind, visible 360 degrees.

Portable hunting blinds left on state game lands and other Hunter Access properties under the Game Commission's management now need to be conspicuously marked with a durable and legible identification tag that includes the owner's first and last name and legal home address, or bears the CID number that appears on the owner's hunting license or a number issued by the Game Commission to the blind owner. Identification numbers can be obtained at The Outdoor Shop on the Game Commission's website.

Tagging, Reporting Requirements

Successful turkey hunters must follow all instructions printed on tags supplied with licenses.

Separate tags are provided for fall and spring seasons. The turkey must be tagged immediately after harvest and before the carcass is moved. The tag must be securely attached to a leg until the bird is

A **2ND SPRING TURKEY LICENSE** can be purchased **BEFORE** the start of the regular spring turkey season (by April 28, 2017) from any issuing agent or at the Game Commission's website. While the second license allows hunters to harvest up to two gobblers, only one turkey may be taken per day.

prepared for consumption or mounting. Once you have used your tag, it is unlawful to possess it in the field. Also, please remember to remove your old hunting license from your possession while in the field. It is unlawful to possess old licenses while hunting.

Within 10 days of harvest (five days for mentored hunters), turkey hunters must report harvests to the Game Commission, either by going online to the Game Commission's website, www.pgc.pa.gov, or by using a postage-paid report card supplied in this digest, or calling toll-free

Hunters reporting their turkey harvests over the telephone through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system can call 1-855-PAHUNT1 (1-855-724-8681). Hunters will need to have their license and their copy of the carcass tag attached to the harvested turkey available to complete the call.

Hunters should record the confirmation number supplied by the IVR system for the turkey reported.

All hunters reporting harvests are asked to identify the WMU, county and township where the bird was taken.

Hunters who purchase a second spring gobbler license have a mandatory reporting requirement, regardless of whether they harvest a bird using this special license. For more details, see the "Tagging, Transporting & Reporting" section under "Big Game Regulations" in this digest.

Live Decoys, Drives and Electronic Calls

In both spring and fall turkey seasons, it is unlawful to possess or use live turkeys as decoys, or conduct drives for turkeys or use electronic callers or devices.

PENNSYLVANIA'S BIG GAME SCORING PROGRAM

Each year, deer, bear and elk that are among the largest ever to be harvested in Pennsylvania are added to the Pennsylvania Big Game Records book.

Now those hunters and trophy owners who have a listing in the record book also may purchase an Exclusive Member Big Game Records patch.

Patches are \$9.43, plus shipping, plus sales tax. Funds from the sale of these patches are used to support the state's Big Game Scoring Program.

To order, call 1-888-888-3459.

The 2016 records book becomes available in October, and costs \$6, plus shipping, plus 6 percent sales tax.

To enter a big game animal, or for more information about the Game Commission's Big Game Scoring Program, contact Boone & Crockett Club certified scorer and coordinator of Pennsylvania's program Bob D'Angelo at rdangelo@pa.gov or call the Game Commission Harrisburg Headquarters.

