

2021

# MICHIGAN SPRING TURKEY DIGEST



**Application Period: Jan. 1 - Feb. 1, 2021**

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

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Managing Wild Turkeys

Managing Turkeys .....	3
------------------------	---

## 2021 Hunting Information

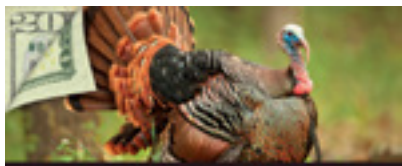
How to Apply for a Limited License Hunt .....	5
2021 Spring Turkey Hunt Units .....	6
Limited-License Hunts .....	7
Guaranteed-License Hunt.....	9
Leftover Licenses .....	9
License Purchase .....	10
Apprentice Hunting License .....	11
Mentored Youth Hunting.....	12
Special Hunting Opportunities for Youth and Hunters with Disabilities.....	12
Hunting Hours .....	13
Bag Limit.....	16
Hunting Methods.....	16
Baiting.....	17
Decoys and Calls .....	18
Validating Kills.....	18
Turkey Reporting Options .....	18
Using Spur Length to Age a Turkey .....	20
Wild Turkey Cooperator Patch .....	20

## General Information

Dioxin Advisory Information.....	22
Reporting Sightings of Diseased Wildlife .....	22
Commercial Hunting Guides on State Land .....	23
Where Can I Hunt in Michigan? .....	23
Poachers Beware: Hunters are Watching.....	23
2021 Spring Turkey Workshops .....	23

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

Visit us at [Michigan.gov/DNR](https://Michigan.gov/DNR) to sign up for e-mail updates!



### YOU HELP PROTECT MICHIGAN'S WILD PLACES.

Your licenses help 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.

MICHIGAN  
**WILDLIFE**  
COUNCIL     HereForMIOutdoors.org

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 [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).

## Managing Wild Turkeys

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



## 2021 Hunting Information

### **How many licenses can I apply for?**

From Jan. 1 - Feb. 1, you can apply for one limited-quota license valid for a specific spring turkey hunt unit during specific season dates. You must be at least 10 years of age to apply.

### **How much is an application?**

Applications are \$5.

### **What happens if I'm selected in the drawing?**

If you're selected in the drawing, you may then purchase one limited-quota license. See the license purchase section for more information.

### **What happens if I'm not selected in the drawing?**

After the drawing, beginning March 8, unsuccessful applicants have the opportunity to purchase a license for another hunt period, with leftover licenses available 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.

### **What happens if I didn't apply for the drawing?**

If you didn't apply for the drawing, you may purchase a leftover license, if available, beginning March 15. See the leftover licenses section for more information.

### **Where can I buy a license?**

You can buy a license from a local retailer, or online at [Michigan.gov/Turkey](https://Michigan.gov/Turkey).

### **How many licenses can I buy?**

You can purchase one spring turkey license.

### **How many turkeys can I harvest with a license?**

You can harvest one bearded turkey.

### **I'm a mentored youth hunter. Can I get a spring turkey license?**

If you are licensed under the Mentored Youth Hunting Program, you automatically receive a spring turkey license.

## How to Apply for a Limited-License Hunt

### **What identification do I need to apply for the drawing?**

You will need a valid driver's license issued by the state where you live OR a State of Michigan ID card (issued by the Secretary of State) OR a DNR Sportcard (issued by retail license agents or at [Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses)).

### **I'm only 9 years old. Can I apply for a spring turkey license?**

If you are licensed under the Mentored Youth Hunting Program, you automatically receive a spring turkey license, so there is no need to apply. See the Mentored Youth Hunting Program section for more information.

### **How do I actually apply for the hunt?**

First, look at the hunt unit map and choose the unit you want to hunt. Next, look at the table that shows the hunt units and season dates to find the number for the hunt unit you chose. Then, purchase an application for the hunt number(s) you chose (you can select two hunt numbers - first and second choice). You can purchase an application at a retail license agent or online at [Michigan.gov/Turkey](https://Michigan.gov/Turkey). Finally, check your receipt for accuracy and retain it as proof of your application.

### **How many times can I apply?**

You can only apply one time. It is unlawful to apply more than once.

### **Can I apply to hunt with other hunters?**

Yes, you may apply in a partnership with one other person. If you apply with more than one partner, you will be ineligible for the drawing.

### **How do I apply with someone else as a partnership?**

The first person to apply (either you or your hunting partner) chooses a hunt unit and receives a "party ID" number, which is printed on the receipt. A new party ID number is issued each year. Then, the other partner uses the party ID number when applying to complete the partnership. Make sure to verify the party ID number is identical on both receipts.

### **The receipt I received is not printed clearly or has an error. What do I do?**

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. If you submit an invalid application, you will be ineligible for the drawing.

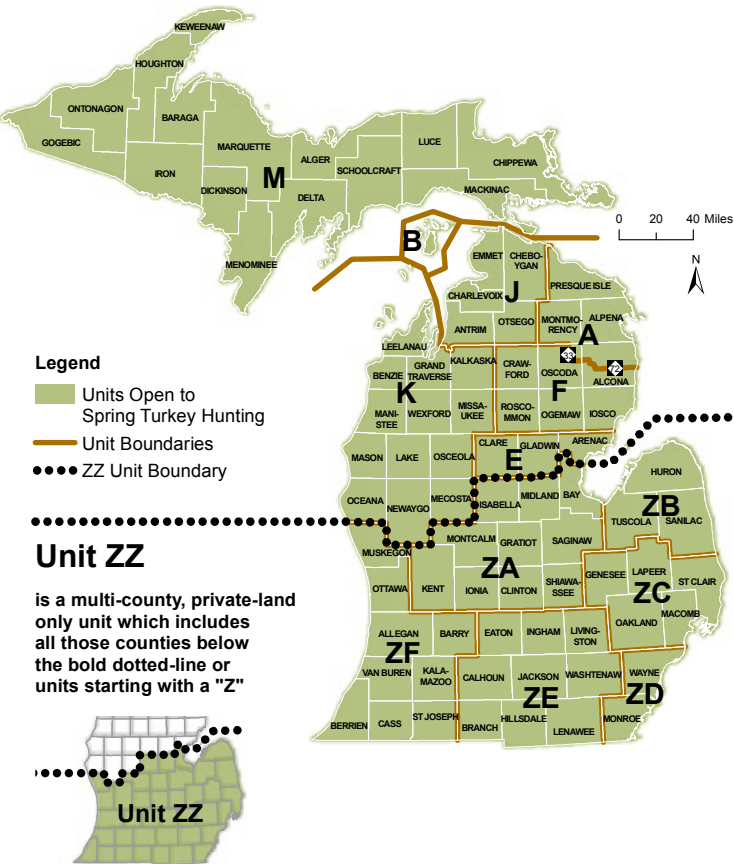
### **I'm having trouble applying. What do I do?**

Call 517-284-9453 (WILD) for assistance.

### **How do I know if I was successful in the drawing?**

You are responsible for obtaining your drawing results online. They will be available at [Michigan.gov/Turkey](https://Michigan.gov/Turkey) on March 1.

2021 Spring Turkey Hunt Units



Private-land-only licenses

If I get a private-land-only license, are there any exceptions that allow hunting on public land?

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.

HUNT UNIT	SEASON DATES	MAXIMUM LICENSE QUOTA	HUNT NUMBER
ZZ	April 17 – May 31	50,000	0301

## Limited-License Hunts

### General licenses

#### What type of land can I hunt with a general license?

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

HUNT UNIT	SEASON DATES	MAXIMUM LICENSE QUOTA	HUNT NUMBERS
<b>A</b>	April 17 – April 30	5,500	0101
<b>B</b>	April 17 – April 30	1,000	0102
<b>E</b>	April 17 – April 23	850	0103
<b>E</b>	April 24 – April 30	850	0104
<b>F</b>	April 17 – April 30	5,000	0105
<b>J</b>	April 17 – April 30	4,000	0107
<b>K</b>	April 17 – April 23	4,000	0108
<b>K</b>	April 24 – April 30	4,500	0109
<b>M</b>	April 17 – May 31	6,000	0110
<b>ZA</b>	April 17-23 & June 1-7	1,200	0111
<b>ZA</b>	April 24 – May 7	1,800	0112
<b>ZA</b>	May 8 – May 31	1,800	0113
<b>ZB</b>	April 17-23 & June 1-7	650	0115
<b>ZB</b>	April 24 – May 7	975	0116
<b>ZB</b>	May 8 – May 31	975	0117
<b>ZC</b>	April 17-23 & June 1-7	600	0119
<b>ZC</b>	April 24 – May 7	900	0120
<b>ZC</b>	May 8 – May 31	900	0121
<b>ZD</b>	April 17-23 & June 1-7	10	0123
<b>ZD</b>	April 24 – May 7	15	0124
<b>ZD</b>	May 8 – May 31	15	0125
<b>ZE</b>	April 17-23 & June 1-7	500	0127
<b>ZE</b>	April 24 – May 7	750	0128
<b>ZE</b>	May 8 – May 31	750	0129
<b>ZF</b>	April 17-23 & June 1-7	1,300	0131
<b>ZF</b>	April 24 – May 7	1,300	0132
<b>ZF</b>	May 8 – May 31	3,000	0133







## Guaranteed-License Hunt (No Application Required)

### Hunt 0234

#### Where can I hunt with a Hunt 0234 license?

You can hunt on public and private lands statewide with a Hunt 0234 license, except public lands in Unit ZZ (southern Lower Peninsula). You may use this license to hunt Fort Custer military lands with permission.

#### How do I purchase a Hunt 0234 license?

You can buy a Hunt 0234 license when leftover licenses go on sale March 15. This license can be purchased throughout the entire spring turkey hunting season. See “Leftover licenses” below.

#### Can I purchase both a limited-license hunt and a Hunt 0234 license?

No. You may only purchase one Spring Turkey license.

HUNT UNIT	SEASON DATES	MAXIMUM LICENSE QUOTA	HUNT NUMBER
Statewide	May 1 - May 31	NONE	0234

## Leftover Licenses

#### Are there always leftover licenses available?

There is no guarantee that leftover licenses will be available for any hunt unit, except Hunt 0234, which has no quota.

#### How do I purchase a leftover license if I was unsuccessful in the drawing?

If any licenses remain after the drawing and you have a current base license, you 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 March 8 at 10 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST).

#### How do I purchase a leftover license if I didn't apply in the drawing?

You may purchase any limited-quota licenses that remain as of March 15 at 10 a.m. EST if you have a current base license.

#### How many leftover licenses can I buy?

You may purchase only one spring turkey license.

#### Where can I buy my hunting license?

Hunting and fishing licenses may be purchased online at [Michigan.gov DNRLicenses](https://Michigan.gov/DNRLicenses) or from a retail license agent.

## License Purchase

### I purchased my license online. When will I get my kill tag?

If you purchase your spring turkey licenses online, your kill tag will be mailed to you seven to 10 business days after your purchase.

### I was selected in the drawing, but can't buy my license. Why not?

A base license is required for everyone who hunts in Michigan. While an application may be purchased prior to obtaining a base license, you must purchase a 2021 base license before you can purchase a spring turkey license.

### When can I purchase a 2021 base license?

2021 base licenses go on sale March 1.

### Can I buy more than one spring turkey license?

No. It is unlawful to obtain or purchase more than one spring turkey hunting license per hunter.

### Do I have to carry my hunting license when hunting?

Yes, 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 when hunting.

Licenses by Age	Age: Up to 9	Junior Age: 10-16	Resident Age: 17+	Resident Senior Age: 65+	Nonresident* Age: 17+
<b>Mentored Youth License</b>	\$7.50	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Application for License Drawing</b>	NA	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
<b>Base License</b>	NA	\$6.00	\$11.00	\$5.00	\$151.00
<b>Spring Turkey License</b>	NA	\$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 15. Licenses are full-price for those who apply for a license and are selected in the drawing.

## Apprentice Hunting License

### **Can I purchase an apprentice hunting license?**

If you do not have a hunter safety certificate and are 10 years of age or older, you may purchase a base apprentice hunting license.

### **How many times can I purchase an apprentice hunting license?**

As an apprentice hunter, you may purchase this license for two license years before you must successfully complete a hunter safety course.

### **I'm not a resident of Michigan. Can I purchase an apprentice license?**

Yes. The base apprentice hunting license is available to residents and nonresidents.

### **Can I hunt by myself with an apprentice license, or do I need to hunt with someone else?**

When hunting as an apprentice hunter, you must be accompanied by someone 21 years of age or older who has a regular, current-year hunting license for the same game species that you are hunting.

### **I'm a youth apprentice hunter. Do I have to hunt with my parents?**

If you are an apprentice hunter who is 10-16 years of age, your accompanying hunter must be your parent, guardian or someone designated by your parent or guardian who is at least 21 years of age. The accompanying hunter must have a regular, current-year hunting license for the same game species that you are hunting.

### **How close do I need to be to my accompanying hunter during the hunt?**

Your accompanying hunter must be able to come to your immediate aid and stay within a distance that permits uninterrupted, unaided visual and verbal contact.

### **Does my accompanying hunter need to have a turkey license for the same unit and hunt period as me?**

For hunting wild turkey, your accompanying hunter needs a current-year spring turkey hunting license, but it does not have to be for the same hunt unit and season dates as your apprentice hunting license.

### **I'm an accompanying hunter. How many apprentice hunters can I supervise?**

You may accompany no more than two apprentice hunters.

## Mentored Youth Hunting

### What is the 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 has a valid Michigan hunting license other than an apprentice license.

### What can mentored youth hunt with their license?

The mentored youth license is a “package” license to hunt small game, waterfowl, turkey (spring and fall) and deer, trap furbearers, and fish for all species. Additional restrictions apply; complete program details can be found in the Michigan Hunting Digest or online at [Michigan.gov/MentoredHunting](https://Michigan.gov/MentoredHunting).

### I'm a mentored youth hunter. How many turkeys can I kill in the spring, and where can I hunt?

As a mentored youth hunter, you get one spring turkey kill tag, which is valid for one bearded turkey in any open spring turkey hunt unit on public or private land.

### As a mentored youth hunter, can I apply for the spring turkey license?

No. You will receive one spring turkey kill tag with your mentored youth license. All hunters are allowed only one spring turkey tag.

### As a mentored youth hunter, do I need an application for the mentored youth license?

No. An application is not required for the mentored youth license.

## Special Hunting Opportunities for Youth and Hunters with Disabilities

### Are there special opportunities for youth or hunters with disabilities?

Yes. 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](https://FortCusterHunt.org) or call 269-731-6570.

# Hunting Hours

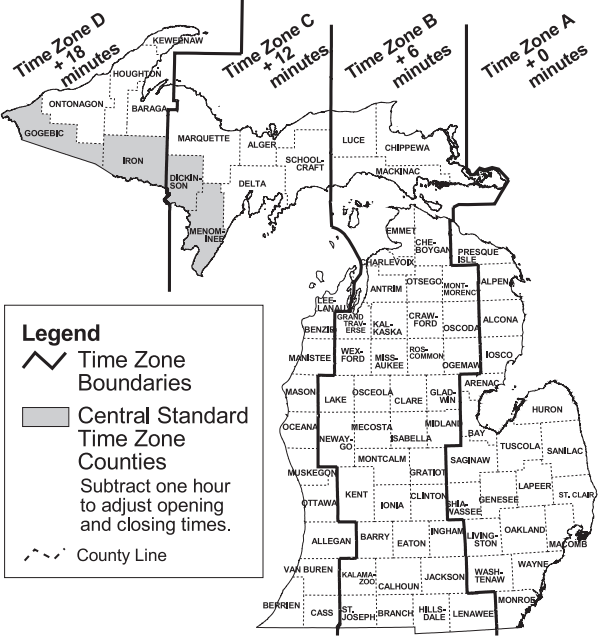
## When is it legal for me to hunt during the day?

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 hours listed in the table reflect Eastern Standard Time 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 (April)

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

Date	Time Zone A a.m.	Time Zone A p.m.
April 17	6:18	7:46
April 18	6:17	7:47
April 19	6:15	7:48
April 20	6:14	7:49
April 21	6:12	7:50
April 22	6:11	7:51
April 23	6:09	7:52
April 24	6:08	7:53
April 25	6:06	7:55
April 26	6:05	7:56
April 27	6:03	7:57
April 28	6:02	7:58
April 29	6:01	7:59
April 30	5:59	8:00

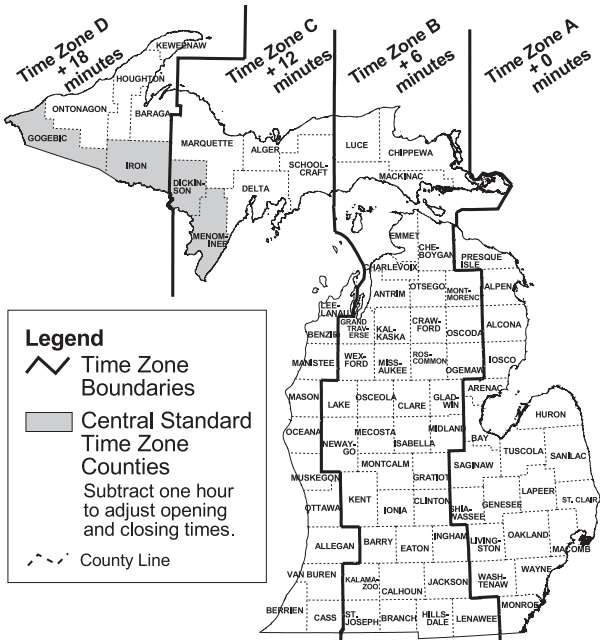


Zone A Hunting Hours Table (May - June)

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

Date	Time Zone A a.m.	Time Zone A p.m.
May 1	5:58	8:01
May 2	5:56	8:02
May 3	5:55	8:04
May 4	5:54	8:05
May 5	5:52	8:06
May 6	5:51	8:07
May 7	5:50	8:08
May 8	5:49	8:09
May 9	5:48	8:10
May 10	5:46	8:11
May 11	5:45	8:12
May 12	5:44	8:13
May 13	5:43	8:14
May 14	5:42	8:15
May 15	5:41	8:16
May 16	5:40	8:18
May 17	5:39	8:19
May 18	5:38	8:20
May 19	5:37	8:21
May 20	5:36	8:22
May 21	5:35	8:23
May 22	5:35	8:23
May 23	5:34	8:24
May 24	5:33	8:25
May 25	5:32	8:26
May 26	5:32	8:27
May 27	5:31	8:28
May 28	5:30	8:29
May 29	5:30	8:30
May 30	5:29	8:31
May 31	5:29	8:31

Date	Time Zone A a.m.	Time Zone A p.m.
June 1	5:28	8:32
June 2	5:28	8:33
June 3	5:27	8:34
June 4	5:27	8:35
June 5	5:26	8:35
June 6	5:26	8:36
June 7	5:26	8:37







### Bag Limit

**How many turkeys can I kill with my license?**

You are allowed to kill one bearded turkey per spring turkey license.

**Can I kill a turkey without a beard?**

No. Only bearded turkeys may be killed during the spring turkey hunting season.

**Can I buy more than one spring turkey license (kill tag)?**

No. You may only purchase one spring turkey license per hunter.

**Can I put my kill tag on a turkey someone else shot?**

No. It is unlawful to tag a turkey you did not kill.

**Can I use the same kill tag on more than one turkey?**

No. It is unlawful to use a tag more than once.

**Can I use my friend's kill tag, or can they use mine?**

No. It is unlawful to use another person's tag or allow another person to use your tag.

### Hunting Methods

**What equipment can I use to kill a turkey?**

You 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. Pneumatic guns are legal when using ammunition containing No. 4 shot or smaller.

**I have a concealed pistol license. Am I allowed to carry my pistol while hunting?**

Yes. 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.

**What kind of ammunition am I allowed to use in my firearm while hunting?**

When hunting wild turkey, you may 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.

**Do I have to use nontoxic shot (i.e., not lead) when hunting turkey?**

While not required by law, it is recommended that you use nontoxic shot when hunting turkey.

**I hunt with a crossbow. Are there any restrictions on which arrows I can use?**

You may only use arrows, bolts and quarrels at least 14 inches in length, tipped with a broadhead point at least 7/8 inch wide.

### **Can I hunt turkeys from a tree stand?**

You may hunt turkeys from an elevated stand or tree using a bow and arrow, a crossbow or a firearm. Tree stands or any other device to assist in climbing a tree are not permitted to be used on state lands for the spring turkey hunting season. Tree stands or any other device to assist in climbing a tree are only permitted to be used on state lands from Sept. 1 through March 1.

### **Can I use my hunting dogs to hunt turkeys during the spring season?**

No. Turkeys may not be hunted with dogs during the spring season.

### **Can I shoot a turkey if it is in a tree?**

No. Turkeys may not be taken while they are in a tree.



## **Baiting**

### **Am I allowed to bait turkeys?**

No. It is unlawful to use bait to aid in the taking of a wild turkey.

### **Can you define “bait” for me?**

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

### **Can I use mechanical, electronic or live decoys?**

No. Mechanical, electronic or live decoys are prohibited.

### **Can you define “mechanical decoy” for me?**

Mechanical decoy means any device that, by design or construction, uses motion as a visual stimulus to attract a wild turkey.

### **Is a decoy moved by the wind considered mechanical?**

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.

### **Can I stalk turkeys using handheld decoys/silhouettes?**

No. Stalking turkeys with a handheld decoy/silhouette is illegal.

### **Can I use electronic turkey calls to hunt?**

No. The use or possession of electronic devices that imitate calls is illegal.

## Validating Kills

### **Can I tag my turkey after I take some photos with it first?**

No. Immediately upon killing a turkey, you need to validate your license by notching out the appropriate information as instructed on the license and securely attaching the license around a leg of the bird. You may not transport or have in your possession a turkey unless the validated license is attached to a leg of the bird.

## Turkey Reporting Options

### **Is there a way for me to give the DNR feedback about my hunting experience?**

Yes! We need your help. After your hunting season has ended, please report your hunting activity online by visiting [Michigan.gov/Turkey](https://Michigan.gov/Turkey). Information you provide will improve management and ensure that decisions regarding hunting seasons are based on the best information available.

### **Are there any other ways I can help the DNR with feedback or reporting?**

You can assist the DNR by reporting any sightings of wild turkeys in January. This information, which is kept confidential, is used to manage the turkey population. You can make your report online at [Michigan.gov/Turkey](https://Michigan.gov/Turkey) or contact a DNR office listed on the back of this digest.





PURE MICHIGAN HUNT

ENTER TODAY  
**TO WIN**  
THE HUNT  
OF A  
**LIFETIME**

Michigan.gov/PMH

Multi-species hunt  
and prize package  
valued at over  
**\$4,000!**  
Each application only \$5

PURE MICHIGAN HUNT



## Using Spur Length to Age a Turkey

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

## Wild Cooperator Turkey Patch

### Who coordinates the wild turkey patch program?

Michigan's wild turkey patch program is coordinated by the Michigan chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, in partnership with the DNR.

### I heard that youth hunters get a free patch. Is that true?

Yes, that is true. Young hunters, 17 years of age and younger, who have a valid wild turkey hunting license may get a free patch by sending their name and complete address, along with a legible copy of their valid wild turkey hunting license, to National Wild Turkey Federation, Wild Turkey Patch Program, P.O. Box 45, Reed City, MI 49677. If you have questions, please email [MichiganWildTurkeyPatch@yahoo.com](mailto:MichiganWildTurkeyPatch@yahoo.com).

### How long will it take to receive my patch?

You should receive your patch in four to six weeks.

### How much do patches cost for adults?

Adult hunters, collectors and other interested individuals may purchase the patch for \$5, including postage and handling.

### Can I order patches from previous years?

No. Only the current-year patch is available for purchase.

### Do I need to shoot a turkey to purchase a patch?

No. 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.

### What is the NWTF?

The National Wild Turkey Federation 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.





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)**

### Dioxin Advisory Information

#### Should I be concerned about dioxin?

Health assessors from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services 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 to 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 [Michigan.gov/Dioxin](https://Michigan.gov/Dioxin).

### Report Sightings of Diseased Wildlife

#### What if I see a sick-looking turkey while scouting or hunting?

The DNR encourages you to report any sightings of sick or dead wildlife, including wild turkeys, at [Michigan.gov/EyesInTheField](https://Michigan.gov/EyesInTheField). You should provide information about the location, number of animals and condition of the animals you observed. Contact the Wildlife Health Disease Laboratory at 517-336-5030 if you have any questions.

## Commercial Hunting Guides on State Land

### What do I need to do to guide turkey hunters on state-owned lands?

All commercial hunting guides utilizing state-owned lands must get 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](https://Michigan.gov/StateLandPermission) or contact a DNR customer service center for more information.

### What do I need to do to guide turkey hunters on National Forest lands?

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.

## Where can I Hunt in Michigan?

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

## Poachers Beware: Hunters are Watching

### What are the consequences of poaching?

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 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.

### How do I report suspected poaching?

If you witness a natural resource violation, report it immediately. You can do this by texting or calling 800-292-7800 -- phone lines are open 24/7. You may remain anonymous!

## 2021 Spring Turkey Workshops

### I'm new to turkey hunting. Is there any program to help new hunters like me?

Yes. 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, visit [Michigan.gov/Turkey](https://Michigan.gov/Turkey).

## 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 U.S. 41 N.  
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. U.S. 2  
Crystal Falls, MI 49920  
906-875-6622

### **Detroit Metro CSC**

1801 Atwater St.  
Detroit, MI 48207  
313-396-6890

### **Escanaba CSC**

6833 U.S. 2 41 and 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 U.S. 41 S  
Marquette, MI 49855  
906-228-6561

### **Naubinway Field Office**

P.O. 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. U.S. 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**

P.O. Box 798  
4131 S. M-129 .  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
906-635-5281

### **Traverse City CSC**

2122 S. M-37  
Traverse City, MI 49685  
231-922-5280

## Helpful URLs:

Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/michiganDNR](https://facebook.com/michiganDNR)

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

Hunter Education: [Michigan.gov/HunterEducation](https://Michigan.gov/HunterEducation)

### **Direct DNR website URLs:**

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

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

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

Hunting: [Michigan.gov/Hunting](https://Michigan.gov/Hunting)

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

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

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

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

Shooting Ranges: [Michigan.gov/ShootingRanges](https://Michigan.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 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**