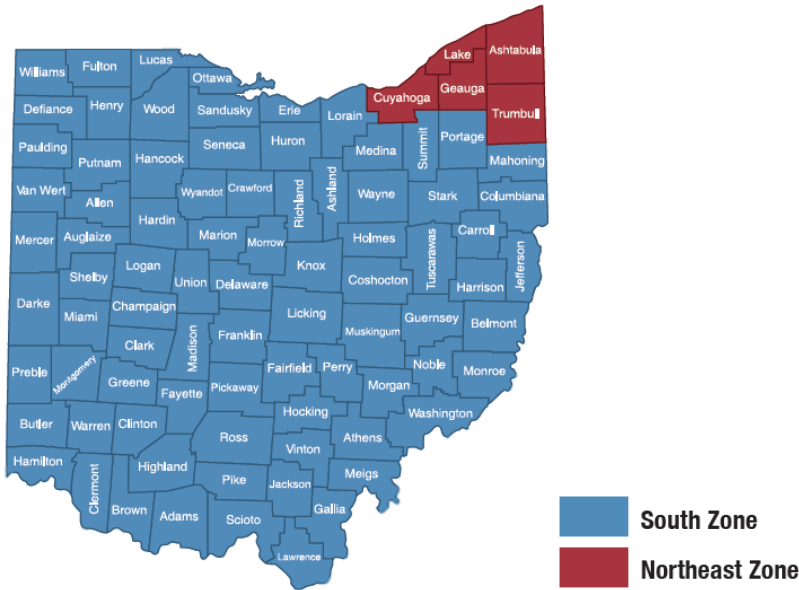




2024 SPRING WILD TURKEY SEASON RESULTS

Ohio’s 2024 spring wild turkey season included two regular season zones (Figure 1) with offset dates. The south zone was open April 20 to May 19. The northeast zone was open April 27 to May 26. The two-day youth season was open statewide during April 13-14. A spring turkey permit was required of residents and nonresidents in addition to a valid Ohio hunting license. Neither a permit nor license was required for landowners hunting on property they own. All turkeys harvested in Ohio were required to be reported to the Division of Wildlife by 11:30 p.m. on the day of harvest. The bag limit for the 2024 spring season was one bearded turkey. Hunting hours were 30 minutes before sunrise to noon during the first nine days of each zone and 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset during the last 21 days of the regular season.

Figure 1. Ohio’s spring wild turkey zone map in 2024.



In total, 51,530 spring wild turkey permits were issued in 2024. This total is a 3% increase from the 2023 spring season total (50,174). The bag limit was reduced from two to one in prior to the 2022 season, which likely explains the notable drop in permits issued between 2021 and 2022. Of all 2024 spring permits, 64%, 8%, and 16% were resident, nonresident, and youth permits, respectively. Approximately 12% of all permits issued were reduced cost or free permits (Table 1).

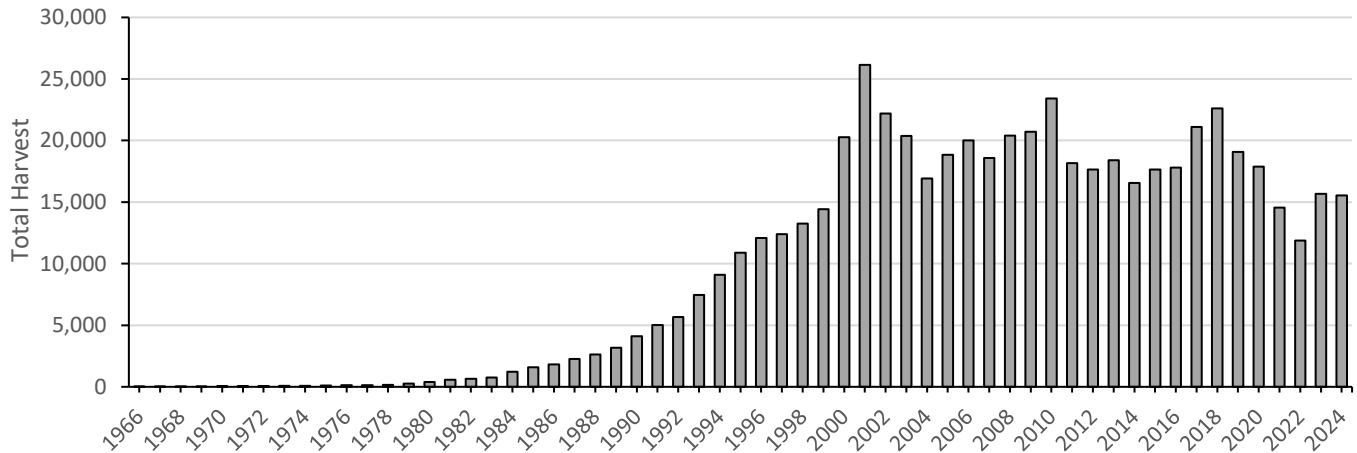
Table 1. Total spring wild turkey permits issued in Ohio during 2020-2024.

Year	Resident		Nonresident		Youth		Reduced Cost		Free		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2020	47,471	69.7	1,863	2.7	10,954	16.1	5,546	8.1	2,314	3.4	68,148
2021	39,398	64.4	4,859	7.9	9,005	14.7	5,703	9.3	2,170	3.5	61,135
2022 ^a	31,695	64.9	3,499	7.2	7,533	15.4	4,637	9.5	1,451	3.0	48,815
2023 ^a	32,458	64.7	3,638	7.3	7,886	15.7	4,798	9.6	1,394	2.8	50,174
2024 ^a	32,789	63.6	4,033	7.8	8,274	16.1	5,058	9.8	1,376	2.7	51,530

^a The statewide bag limit was reduced from two to one in 2022.

Total turkey harvest during Ohio’s combined spring hunting seasons was 15,536 in 2024, a 1% decrease from 2023 (15,673). Total spring harvest increased annually from 1980-1999, a period when both hunting opportunity and the turkey population were expanding. Spring turkey season opened statewide in 2000 and spring harvest total peaked in 2001. Spring harvest total has fluctuated between 23,421 and 11,872 over the past two decades (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Total spring wild turkey harvest in Ohio during 1966-2024.



In 2024, Ohio turkey hunters reported 91% of the spring turkey harvest on private land and 9% of turkey harvest on public land. Landowner tags were used to take 2,429 turkeys, or 16% of the total spring harvest. The percentage of adult males in the total harvest (82%) was above the 5-year average (81%) while the percentage of juvenile males (17%) was below the 5-year average (18%). The percentage of bearded hens in the spring harvest was similar to previous years (Table 2). The percentages of turkeys taken by shotgun, vertical bow (compound, recurve, etc.), and crossbow were similar to 2023 (Table 3). The percentage of harvested male turkeys reported to have spurs 1 inch or greater was higher in 2024 than previous years (Table 4).

Table 2. Summary of spring wild turkey harvest by turkey type during 2020-2024 in Ohio.

Year	Adult male		Juvenile male		Bearded female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2020	14,875	83.1	2,686	15.0	333	1.9	17,894
2021	11,976	82.3	2,397	16.5	173	1.2	14,546
2022 ^a	8,791	74.1	2,950	24.8	131	1.1	11,872
2023 ^a	13,153	83.9	2,354	15.0	166	1.1	15,673
2024 ^a	12,780	82.3	2,594	16.7	162	1.0	15,536

^a The statewide bag limit was reduced from two to one in 2022.

Table 3. Summary spring wild turkey harvest by hunting implement during 2020-2024 in Ohio.

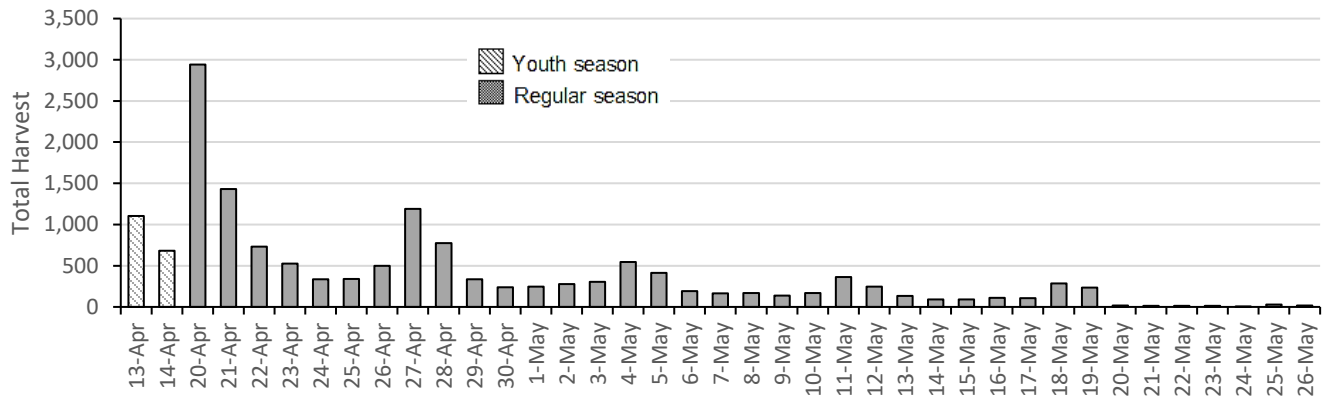
Year	Shotgun		Vertical bow		Crossbow		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2020	17,505	97.8	235	1.3	154	0.9	17,894
2021	14,264	98.1	172	1.2	110	0.8	14,546
2022	11,639	98.0	123	1.0	110	0.9	11,872
2023	15,360	98.0	173	1.1	140	0.9	15,673
2024	15,249	98.2	163	1.0	124	0.8	15,536

Table 4. Summary of reported spur length for male turkeys harvested in Ohio during 2020-2024.

Year	1/2 inch or less		>1/2 inch but <1 inch		1 inch or greater		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2020	3,369	18.8	4,102	22.9	10,423	58.2	17,894
2021	2,720	18.9	3,229	22.5	8,424	58.6	14,373
2022	3,430	29.2	2,437	20.8	5,874	50.0	11,741
2023	2,918	18.6	3,994	25.5	8,761	55.9	15,673
2024	3,102	20.0	3,260	21.0	9,174	59.1	15,536

Hunters checked 1,785 turkeys during the two-day youth season in 2024, a 2% decrease from 2023 (1,824). The youth season accounted for 11% of the total spring harvest in 2024. Turkeys taken opening day of the regular season in the south zone (April 20) accounted for 19% of the total spring harvest. Approximately 44% of the total spring harvest occurred during the first week of the regular season in the south zone (April 20-26). Spikes in harvest were apparent on weekends throughout the season (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Total turkey harvest by day during the 2024 spring season in Ohio.



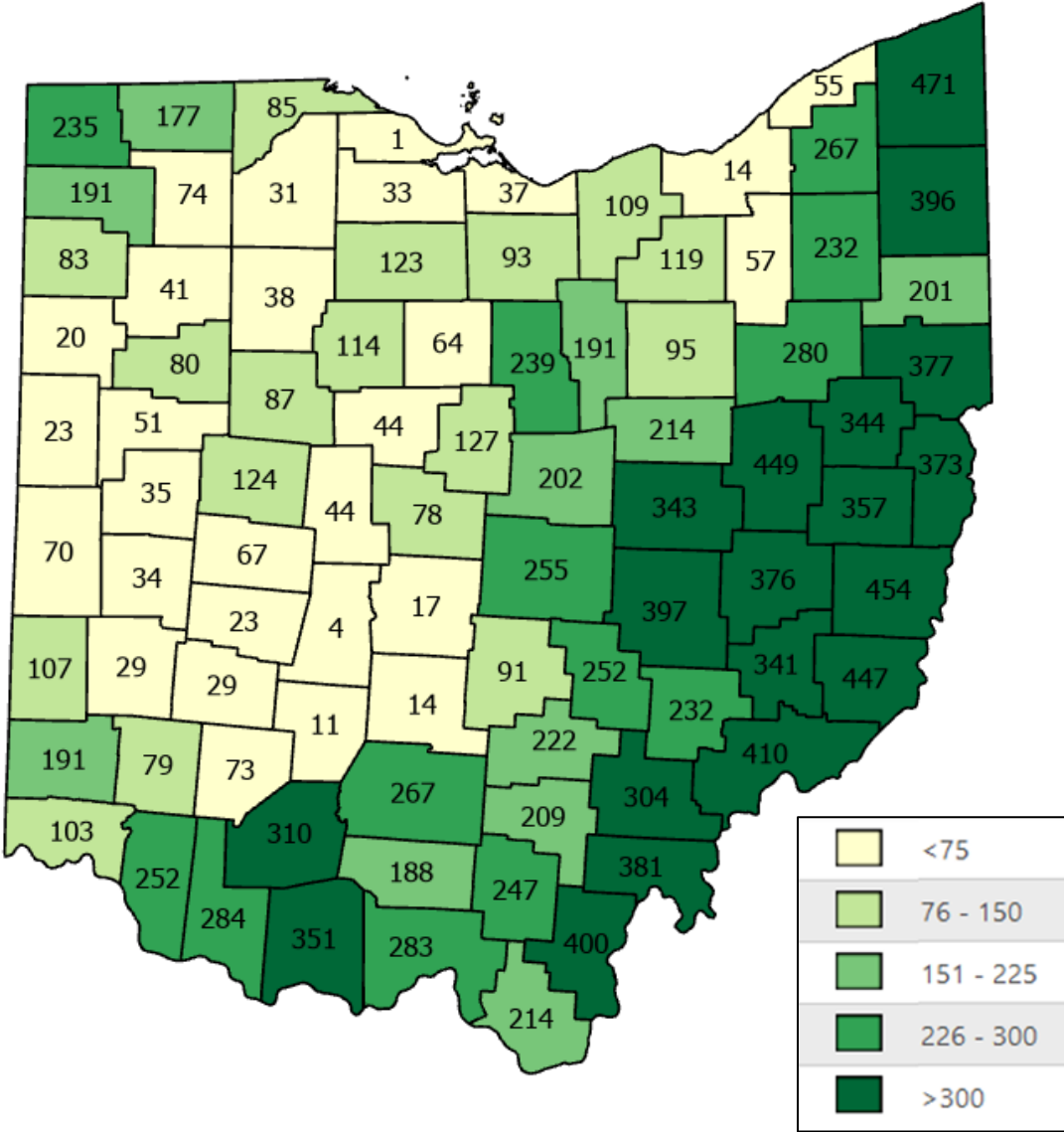
Approximately 26%, 26%, and 29% of resident, nonresident, and youth spring turkey permits, respectively, resulted in a reported harvest during 2024. Reduced cost permit holders were slightly less successful (20%), while only 4% of free permits resulted in a reported harvest. The percentage of reported harvest for each permit type was comparable between 2023 and 2024 (Table 5). We cannot determine landowner success rate since permits are only issued to landowners when reporting a harvest.

Table 5. Spring turkey permit success rate (%) during 2020-2024 in Ohio.

Year	Resident	Nonresident	Youth	Reduced cost	Free
2020	20.2	19.4	22.5	17.2	4.9
2021	18.9	20.7	20.9	16.1	3.6
2022	20.9	21.4	23.0	16.7	3.5
2023	26.5	29.3	30.8	20.1	4.6
2024	26.0	26.1	29.4	20.3	4.3

Counties in eastern Ohio reported the highest turkey harvest in the state in 2024. The top counties were Ashtabula (470), Belmont (454), Tuscarawas (449), Monroe (447), and Washington (410; Figure 4).

Figure 4. Total spring wild turkey harvest by Ohio county during 2024.



Appendix A. Spring wild turkey harvest totals for Ohio counties in 2024.

County	Adult Male	Juvenile Male	Bearded Female	TOTAL	County	Adult Male	Juvenile Male	Bearded Female	TOTAL
Adams	296	51	4	351	Licking	205	45	5	255
Allen	63	12	5	80	Logan	101	20	3	124
Ashland	157	31	3	191	Lorain	86	21	2	109
Ashtabula	359	107	5	471	Lucas	70	14	1	85
Athens	268	36	0	304	Madison	2	2	0	4
Auglaize	40	10	1	51	Mahoning	150	49	2	201
Belmont	412	40	2	454	Marion	29	13	2	44
Brown	228	53	3	284	Medina	88	30	1	119
Butler	168	21	2	191	Meigs	339	40	2	381
Carroll	274	65	5	344	Mercer	14	7	2	23
Champaign	57	10	0	67	Miami	28	6	0	34
Clark	17	4	2	23	Monroe	390	57	0	447
Clermont	207	44	1	252	Montgomery	24	5	0	29
Clinton	52	21	0	73	Morgan	202	29	1	232
Columbiana	311	62	4	377	Morrow	104	21	2	127
Coshocton	264	74	5	343	Muskingum	308	88	1	397
Crawford	53	10	1	64	Noble	283	56	2	341
Cuyahoga	12	2	0	14	Ottawa	1	0	0	1
Darke	54	16	0	70	Paulding	74	8	1	83
Defiance	153	33	5	191	Perry	216	34	2	252
Delaware	60	18	0	78	Pickaway	11	3	0	14
Erie	25	12	0	37	Pike	160	28	0	188
Fairfield	73	16	2	91	Portage	168	60	4	232
Fayette	10	1	0	11	Preble	87	20	0	107
Franklin	16	1	0	17	Putnam	27	14	0	41
Fulton	147	23	7	177	Richland	193	43	3	239
Gallia	351	43	6	400	Ross	226	40	1	267
Geauga	202	59	6	267	Sandusky	26	6	1	33
Greene	23	5	1	29	Scioto	259	23	1	283
Guernsey	306	68	2	376	Seneca	87	34	2	123
Hamilton	100	3	0	103	Shelby	29	6	0	35
Hancock	26	12	0	38	Stark	239	38	3	280
Hardin	74	11	2	87	Summit	48	8	1	57
Harrison	299	53	5	357	Trumbull	297	95	4	396
Henry	55	19	0	74	Tuscarawas	377	62	10	449
Highland	261	48	1	310	Union	35	6	3	44
Hocking	185	37	0	222	Van Wert	14	6	0	20
Holmes	160	50	4	214	Vinton	175	30	4	209
Huron	79	14	0	93	Warren	70	9	0	79
Jackson	205	40	2	247	Washington	371	37	2	410
Jefferson	311	61	1	373	Wayne	68	27	0	95
Knox	157	43	2	202	Williams	184	48	3	235
Lake	41	13	1	55	Wood	28	3	0	31
Lawrence	182	32	0	214	Wyandot	94	19	1	114
					Statewide				
					Total	12,780	2,594	162	15,536

Appendix B. Ohio's spring wild turkey season dates, regulations, permits, and total harvest, 1966-2024.

Year	Season Dates	Open Counties	Bag Limit	Permit Fee	Permits Issued ^a	Total Harvest ^b
1966	05/04 – 05/07	9	1	Free	500	12
1967	05/03 – 05/06	9	1	Free	898	18
1968	05/08 – 05/11	9	1	Free	914	20
1969	05/07 – 05/10	9	1	Free	945	37
1970	04/29 – 05/02	14	1	Free	909	30
	05/06 – 05/09				896	36
1971	04/28 – 05/01	14	1	Free	1,000	37
	05/05 – 05/08				1,000	17
1972	05/03 – 05/06	14	1	\$5.35	917	32
	05/10 – 05/13				881	25
1973	05/02 – 05/05	14	1	\$5.35	1,034	39
	05/09 – 05/12				1,034	32
1974	05/01 – 05/04	14	1	\$10.50	999	61
	05/08 – 05/11				184	10
1975	04/28 – 05/03	14	1	\$10.50	996	75
	05/05 – 05/10				267	19
1976	04/26 – 05/08	14	1	\$10.50	1,471	139
1977	05/02 – 05/14	14	1	\$10.50	1,751	137
1978	05/01 – 05/13	18	1	\$10.50	2,000	147
1979	04/30 – 05/12	18	1	\$10.50	2,000	265
1980	04/21 – 05/03	20	1	\$10.75	2,097	387
1981	04/27 – 05/09	20	1	\$10.75	3,458	577
1982	04/26 – 05/08	20	1	\$10.75	4,262	651
1983	04/25 – 05/07	21	1	\$10.75	5,141	764
1984	04/23 – 05/12	31	1	\$10.75	6,935	1,233
1985	04/22 – 05/11	31	1	\$10.75	10,084	1,583
1986	04/28 – 05/17	31	1	\$10.75	11,913	1,816
1987	04/27 – 05/16	32	1	\$10.75	13,396	2,268
1988	04/25 – 05/14	32	1	\$11.00	16,208	2,629
1989	04/24 – 05/13	36	1	\$11.00	18,887	3,171
1990	04/23 – 05/12	37	1	\$16.00	19,613	4,096
1991	04/22 – 05/11	38	1	\$16.00	22,898	5,009
1992	04/27 – 05/16	38	1	\$16.00	28,974	5,678
1993	04/26 – 05/15	42	1	\$16.00	29,538	7,470
			2	\$32.00	4,106	
1994	04/25 – 05/14	44	1	\$16.00	29,334	9,098
			2	\$32.00	5,187	
1995	04/24 – 05/13	44	1	\$20.00	30,837	10,892
			2	\$40.00	6,136	
1996	04/22 – 05/11	46	1	\$20.00	31,003	12,098
			2	\$40.00	7,700	
1997	04/28 – 05/17	47	1	\$20.00	30,511	12,393
			2	\$40.00	8,130	
1998	04/27 – 05/16	50	1	\$20.00	31,037	13,251
			2	\$40.00	8,133	
1999	04/26 – 05/16	57	1	\$20.00	42,363	14,419
			2	\$40.00	7,846	
2000	04/24 – 05/14	88	1	\$20.00	49,982	20,276
			2	\$40.00	9,720	
2001	04/23 – 05/13	88	1	\$20.00	54,841	26,156
			2	\$40.00	11,092	
2002	04/22 – 05/19	88	1	\$20.00	48,821	22,190
			2	\$40.00	24,633	
2003 ^c	04/28 – 05/25	88	2	\$20.00	94,989	20,368
2004	04/26 – 05/23	88	2	\$24.00	74,119	16,927
2005	04/18 – 05/15	88	2	\$24.00	85,053	18,833

2006	04/24 – 05/21	88	2	\$24.00	85,248	20,023
2007	04/23 – 05/20	88	2	\$24.00	75,408	18,584
2008	04/21 – 05/18	88	2	\$24.00	79,962	20,389
2009	04/20 – 05/17	88	2	\$24.00	81,049	20,710
2010	04/19 – 05/16	88	2	\$24.00	78,388	23,421
2011	04/18 – 05/15	88	2	\$24.00	76,665	18,162
2012	04/23 – 05/20	88	2	\$24.00	70,291	17,657
2013	04/22 – 05/19	88	2	\$24.00	73,914	18,409
2014	04/21 – 05/18	88	2	\$24.00	68,960	16,568
2015	04/20 – 05/17	88	2	\$24.00	65,883	17,652
2016	04/18 – 05/15	88	2	\$24.00	66,436	17,805
2017 ^d	04/24 – 05/21	83				
	05/01 – 05/28	5	2	\$24.00 ^e	65,486	21,097
2018 ^d	04/23 – 05/20	83				
	04/30 – 05/27	5	2	\$24.00 ^e	63,838	22,612
2019 ^d	04/22 – 05/19	83				
	04/29 – 05/26	5	2	\$24.00 ^e	63,604	19,088
2020 ^d	04/20 – 05/17	83				
	05/04 – 05/31	5	2	\$31.20 ^e	68,148	17,894
2021 ^d	04/24 – 05/23	83				
	05/01 – 05/30	5	2	\$31.20 ^e	61,135	14,546
2022 ^d	04/23 – 05/22	83				
	04/30 – 05/29	5	1	\$31.20 ^e	48,815	11,872
2023 ^d	04/22 – 05/21	83				
	04/29 – 05/28	5	1	\$31.20 ^e	50,174	15,673
2024 ^d	04/20 – 05/19	83				
	04/27 – 05/26	5	1	\$31.20 ^e	51,530	15,536

^aIncludes all permit types.

^bTotal recorded harvest by all hunter types.

^cThe special bonus wild turkey permit was eliminated in 2003. Hunters no longer classified as one-bird or two-bird permit holders.

^dSouth and Northeast Zones established in 2017 with offset dates.

^eIncludes resident permit fee only.