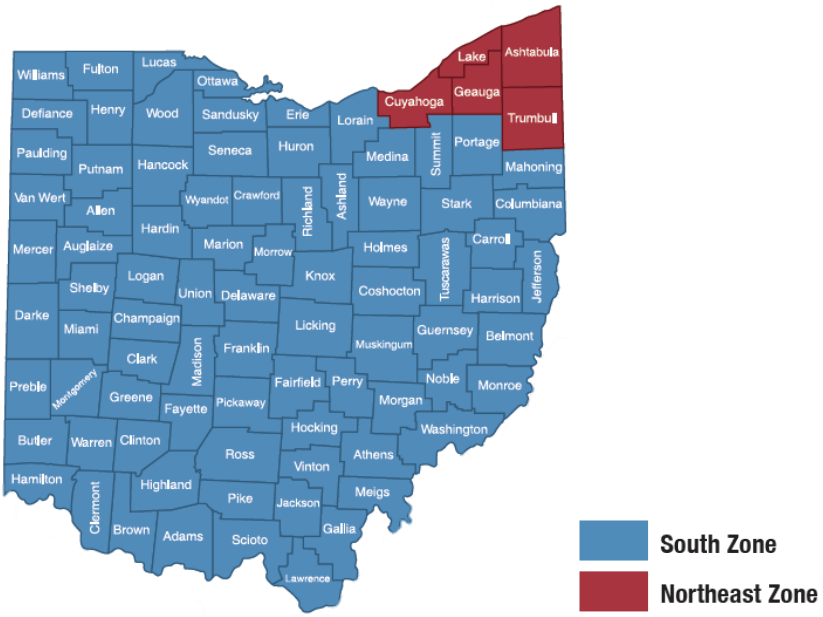
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

2025 SPRING WILD TURKEY SEASON RESULTS

Regulation Summary

Ohio's 2025 spring wild turkey season included two regular season zones (Figure 1) with offset dates. The south zone was open April 19 to May 18. The northeast zone was open May 3 to June 1. The two-day youth season was open statewide during April 12-13. 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 Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) by 11:30 p.m. on the day of harvest. The bag limit for the 2025 spring season was one bearded turkey. Hunting hours were 30 minutes before sunrise to noon during the first 9 days and 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset during the last 21 days of the regular season in each zone.

Figure 1. Ohio's spring wild turkey zone map in 2025.



Permit Summary

ODNR issued a total of 52,692 spring wild turkey permits in 2025, a 2% increase from the 2024 spring season total (51,530). The spring permit total has increased for three consecutive years since the bag limit was reduced from two to one in 2022. Of all 2025 spring permits, 64%, 8%, and 17% 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 2021-2025.

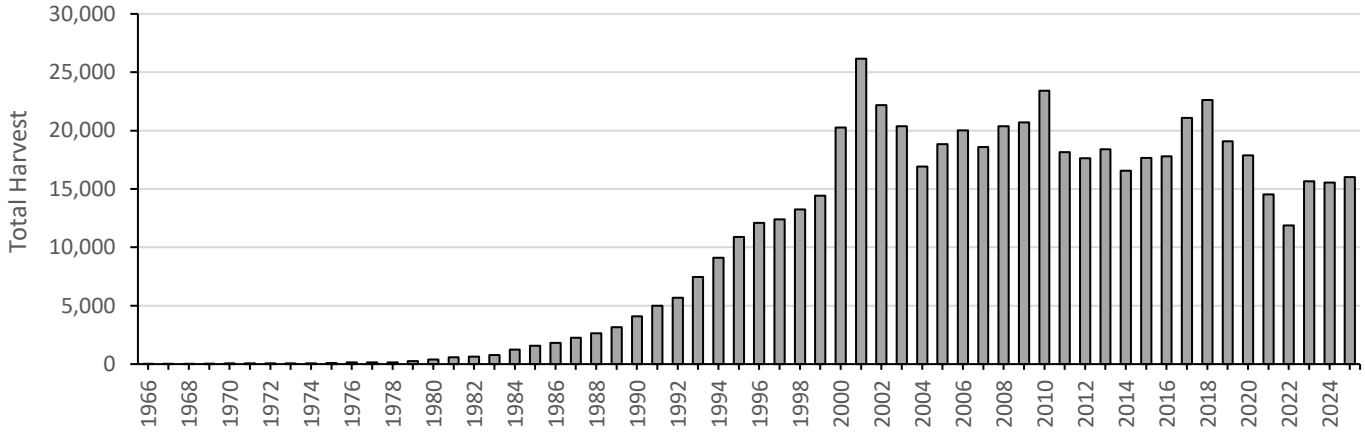
Year	Resident		Nonresident		Youth		Reduced Cost		Free		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2021	39,398	64.4	4,859	7.9	9,005	14.7	5,703	9.3	2,170	3.5	61,135
2022[a]	31,695	64.9	3,499	7.2	7,533	15.4	4,637	9.5	1,451	3.0	48,815
2023[a]	32,458	64.7	3,638	7.3	7,886	15.7	4,798	9.6	1,394	2.8	50,174
2024[a]	32,789	63.6	4,033	7.8	8,274	16.1	5,058	9.8	1,376	2.7	51,530
2025[a]	33,494	63.6	4,132	7.8	8,699	16.5	5,012	9.5	1,355	2.6	52,692

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

Harvest Summary

Total turkey harvest during Ohio's combined spring hunting seasons was 16,010 in 2025, a 2% increase from 2024 (15,536). ODNR opened the first modern spring turkey hunting season in 1966 and total spring harvest increased annually from 1966-2002, a period in which both hunting opportunity and the turkey population were expanding. Spring turkey season opened statewide in 2000 and spring harvest total peaked in 2001 (26,156). 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 1966-2025.



Ohio turkey hunters reported 91% of the spring turkey harvest on private land and 9% of turkey harvest on public land in 2025. Landowner tags were used to take 2,510 turkeys, or 16% of the total spring harvest. The percentage of adult males in the total harvest (80%) was below the 5-year average (81%) while the percentage of juvenile males (18%) was equal to 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 nearly identical to the previous 4 years (Table 3). The percentage of harvested male turkeys reported to have spurs ½ inch or less increased while the percentage of turkeys reported to have spurs greater than 1/2 inch decreased in 2025 (Table 4).

Table 2. Summary of spring wild turkey harvest by turkey type during 2021-2025 in Ohio.

Year	Adult male		Juvenile male		Bearded female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
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
2025[a]	12,900	80.6	2,924	18.3	186	1.1	16,010

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

Table 3. Summary spring wild turkey harvest by hunting implement during 2021-2025 in Ohio.

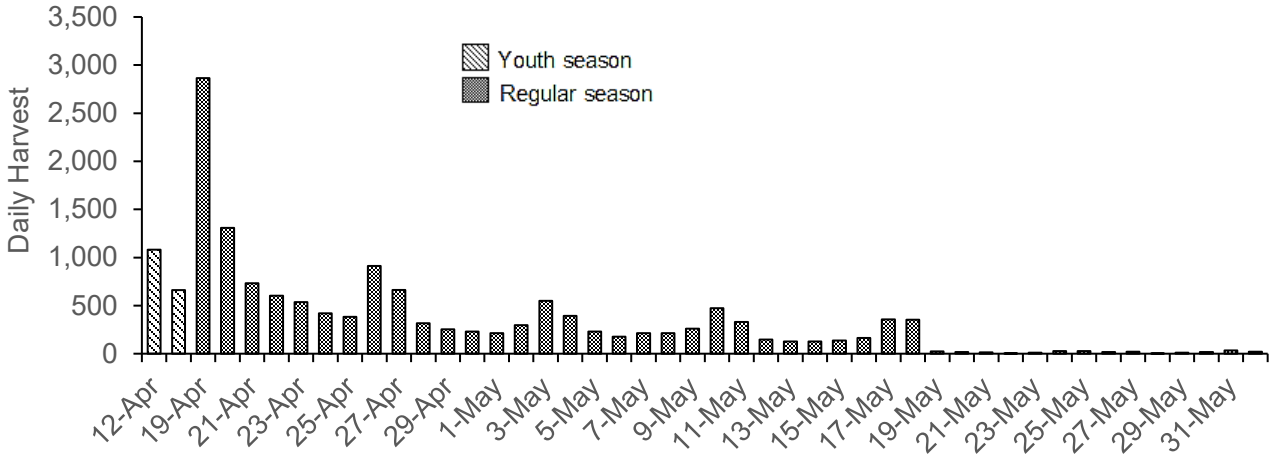
Year	Shotgun		Vertical bow		Crossbow		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2021	14,264	98.1	172	1.2	110	0.8	14,546
2022	11,639	98.0	123	1.0	110	0.9	11,872
2023	15,360	98.0	173	1.1	140	0.9	15,673
2024	15,249	98.2	163	1.0	124	0.8	15,536
2025	15,747	98.4	157	1.0	106	0.7	16,010

Table 4. Summary of reported spur length for wild turkeys harvested in Ohio during 2021-2025.

Year	1/2 inch or less		>1/2 inch but <1 inch		1 inch or greater		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
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
2025	3,595	22.5	3,354	20.9	9,061	56.6	16,010

Hunters checked 1,740 turkeys during the two-day youth season in 2025, a 3% decrease from 2024 (1,785). The youth season accounted for 11% of the total spring harvest in 2025. Turkeys taken opening day of the regular season in the south zone (April 19) accounted for 18% of the total spring harvest. Approximately 43% of the total spring harvest occurred during the first week of the regular season in the south zone (April 19-25). Spikes in harvest were apparent on weekends throughout the season (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Total turkey harvest by day during the 2025 spring season in Ohio.



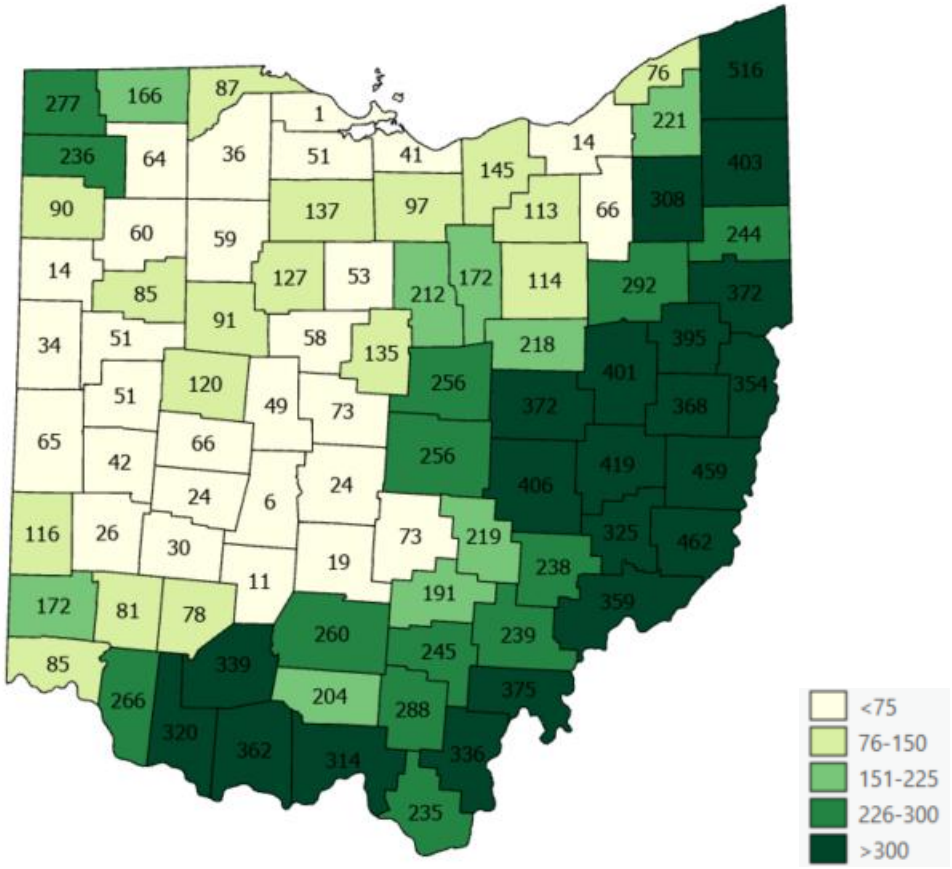
Approximately 26%, 26% and 29% of resident, nonresident and youth spring turkey permits, respectively, resulted in a reported harvest during 2025. Reduced cost permit holders were slightly less successful (20%) while 5% of free permits resulted in a reported harvest (Table 5). We cannot determine landowner success rate since permits are only issued to landowners when a harvest is reported.

Table 5. Spring turkey permit success rate (%) during 2021-2025 in Ohio.

Year	Resident	Nonresident	Youth	Reduced cost	Free
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
2025	26.4	25.9	28.7	20.3	4.7

Counties in eastern Ohio reported the highest turkey harvest in the state in 2025. The top counties were Ashtabula (516), Monroe (462), Belmont (459), Guernsey (419), and Muskingum (406; Figure 4).

Figure 4. Map of total spring wild turkey harvest by Ohio county during 2025.



Appendix A. Spring wild turkey harvest totals for Ohio counties in 2025.

County	Adult Male	Juvenile Male	Bearded Female	TOTAL	County	Adult Male	Juvenile Male	Bearded Female	TOTAL
Adams	333	27	2	362	Licking	196	58	2	256
Allen	55	27	3	85	Logan	87	32	1	120
Ashland	139	31	2	172	Lorain	122	22	1	145
Ashtabula	396	110	10	516	Lucas	74	11	2	87
Athens	201	37	1	239	Madison	3	3	0	6
Auglaize	40	9	2	51	Mahoning	212	27	5	244
Belmont	385	69	5	459	Marion	43	14	1	58
Brown	262	55	3	320	Medina	98	15	0	113
Butler	146	22	4	172	Meigs	336	39	0	375
Carroll	304	85	6	395	Mercer	26	7	1	34
Champaign	53	12	1	66	Miami	28	12	2	42
Clark	22	1	1	24	Monroe	389	71	2	462
Clermont	229	37	0	266	Montgomery	19	7	0	26
Clinton	62	14	2	78	Morgan	183	53	2	238
Columbiana	307	62	3	372	Morrow	94	38	3	135
Coshocton	300	61	11	372	Muskingum	325	78	3	406
Crawford	42	10	1	53	Noble	258	62	5	325
Cuyahoga	13	1	0	14	Ottawa	0	1	0	1
Darke	45	19	1	65	Paulding	71	18	1	90
Defiance	201	32	3	236	Perry	177	41	1	219
Delaware	50	22	1	73	Pickaway	11	8	0	19
Erie	27	14	0	41	Pike	177	26	1	204
Fairfield	54	18	1	73	Portage	232	71	5	308
Fayette	8	3	0	11	Preble	88	27	1	116
Franklin	18	6	0	24	Putnam	40	20	0	60
Fulton	131	34	1	166	Richland	177	30	5	212
Gallia	265	68	3	336	Ross	211	47	2	260
Geauga	169	50	2	221	Sandusky	42	9	0	51
Greene	24	6	0	30	Scioto	290	21	3	314
Guernsey	346	68	5	419	Seneca	94	39	4	137
Hamilton	75	7	3	85	Shelby	44	6	1	51
Hancock	43	16	0	59	Stark	243	46	3	292
Hardin	56	31	4	91	Summit	60	6	0	66
Harrison	266	101	1	368	Trumbull	301	93	9	403
Henry	41	21	2	64	Tuscarawas	315	81	5	401
Highland	282	54	3	339	Union	34	14	1	49
Hocking	168	21	2	191	Van Wert	8	3	3	14
Holmes	179	35	4	218	Vinton	211	34	0	245
Huron	70	26	1	97	Warren	63	18	0	81
Jackson	237	49	2	288	Washington	290	68	1	359
Jefferson	288	61	5	354	Wayne	91	23	0	114
Knox	199	54	3	256	Williams	239	37	1	277
Lake	56	18	2	76	Wood	26	9	1	36
Lawrence	198	37	0	235	Wyandot	87	38	2	127
					Statewide Total	**12,900**	**2,924**	**186**	**16,010**

Appendix B. Ohio's spring wild turkey season dates, regulations, permits, and total harvest, 1966-2025.

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 05/01 – 05/28	83 5	2	$24.00[e]	65,486	21,097
2018[d]	04/23 – 05/20 04/30 – 05/27	83 5	2	$24.00[e]	63,838	22,612
2019[d]	04/22 – 05/19 04/29 – 05/26	83 5	2	$24.00[e]	63,604	19,088
2020[d]	04/20 – 05/17 05/04 – 05/31	83 5	2	$31.20[e]	68,148	17,894
2021[d]	04/24 – 05/23 05/01 – 05/30	83 5	2	$31.20[e]	61,135	14,546
2022[d]	04/23 – 05/22 04/30 – 05/29	83 5	1	$31.20[e]	48,815	11,872
2023[d]	04/22 – 05/21 04/29 – 05/28	83 5	1	$31.20[e]	50,174	15,673
2024[d]	04/20 – 05/19 04/27 – 05/26	83 5	1	$31.20[e]	51,530	15,536
2025[d]	04/19 – 05/18 05/03 – 06/01	83 5	1	$31.20[e]	52,692	16,010

[a]Includes all permit types.
[b]Total recorded harvest by all hunter types.
[c]The special bonus wild turkey permit was eliminated in 2003. Hunters no longer classified as one-bird or two-bird permit holders.
[d]South and Northeast Zones established in 2017 with offset dates.
[e]Includes resident permit fee only.