

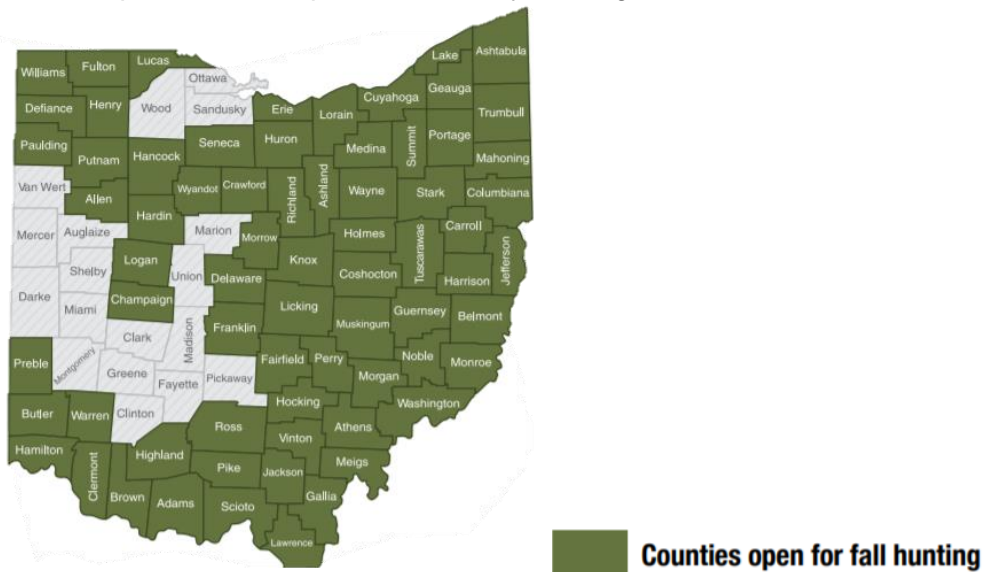
**Ohio Department of Natural Resources
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**

2020 FALL WILD TURKEY SEASON RESULTS

December 2020

Ohio's fall wild turkey season traditionally opens the second Saturday of October through the Sunday immediately following Thanksgiving in select counties. In 2020, Ohio's fall turkey season was open from Oct. 10-Nov. 29 in 70 counties (Figure 1). County eligibility was determined by spring turkey harvest trends, habitat characteristics, and location relative to other eligible counties. A valid Ohio hunting license was required in addition to a fall turkey permit. The season bag limit was one turkey of either sex. Hunting hours were 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. It was legal to use dogs to assist in hunting turkeys during the fall season.

Figure 1. Ohio map of counties open to fall turkey hunting in 2020.



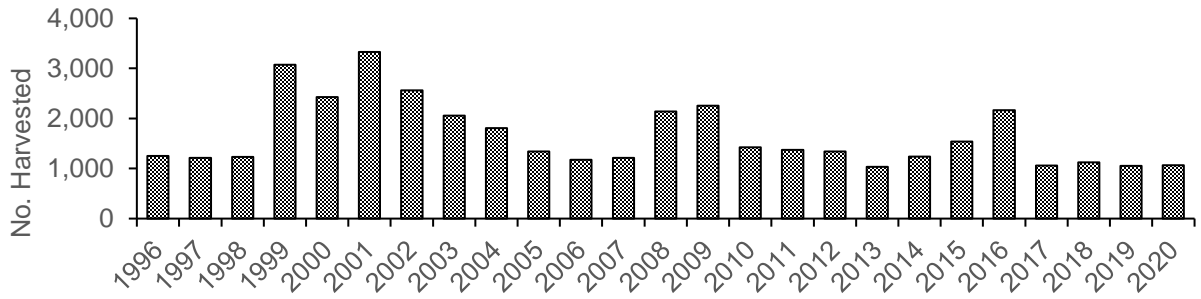
In 2020, 9,018 fall permits were issued, a 4% decrease from 2019 ($n=9,441$). Of all 2020 fall permits, 52%, 8%, and 8% were issued to resident, nonresident, and youth hunters, respectively. Reduced cost or free permits accounted for 32% of those issued (Table 1).

Table 1. Total Ohio fall turkey permit sales by type during 2016-2020.

Year	Resident		Nonresident		Youth		Reduced Cost		Free		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2016	5,268	45.8	1,118	9.7	913	7.9	1,217	10.6	2,990	26.0	11,506
2017	5,409	47.0	1,224	10.6	845	7.3	1,318	11.5	2,705	23.5	11,501
2018	4,870	49.6	956	9.7	604	6.1	1,247	12.7	2,148	21.9	9,825
2019	4,914	52.0	666	7.1	671	7.1	1,339	14.2	1,851	19.6	9,441
2020	4,695	52.1	747	8.3	707	7.8	1,323	14.7	1,546	17.1	9,018

Total reported turkey harvest was 1,063 during Ohio's 2020 fall season, a 1% increase from 2019 ($n=1,054$) and 18% below the 5-year average ($n=1,294$). Notable upticks in fall harvest were evident in years with high reproductive indices (e.g., 1999, 2008, 2016; Figure 2).

Figure 2. Annual fall turkey harvest total in Ohio during 1996-2020.



Harvests reported on private and public land accounted for 95% and 5%, respectively, of the fall harvest total. Landowners reported taking 492 turkeys, or 46% of the total harvest. The total fall harvest included 45% male turkeys and 54% female turkeys (Table 2). The percentages of turkeys taken by shotgun, vertical bow (compound or recurve), and crossbow were similar to the previous season (Table 3).

Table 2. Summary of fall harvest by turkey type during 2016-2020 in Ohio.

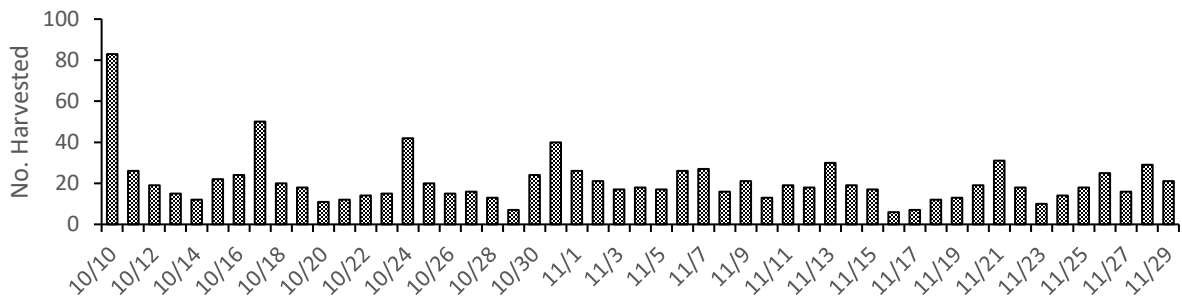
Year	Adult Male		Juvenile Male		Adult Female		Juvenile Female		Unknown		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2016	546	25.2	261	12.0	977	45.1	384	17.7	-	-	2,168
2017	473	44.6	94	8.9	382	36.0	100	9.4	11	1.0	1,060
2018	423	37.7	87	7.8	473	42.2	132	11.8	5	0.4	1,121
2019	406	38.5	75	7.1	457	43.3	106	10.1	10	0.9	1,054
2020	408	38.4	70	6.7	467	43.9	106	10.0	12	1.1	1,063

Table 3. Summary of fall turkey harvest by hunting implement during 2015-2019 in Ohio.

Year	Shotgun		Vertical bow		Crossbow		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2016	1,363	62.9	319	14.7	486	22.4	2,168
2017	657	61.9	149	14.0	255	24.0	1,061
2018	596	53.2	189	16.9	336	30.0	1,121
2019	571	54.2	158	15.0	325	30.8	1,054
2020	555	52.2	137	12.9	371	34.9	1,063

Daily harvest was greatest on opening day of the season and more evenly distributed throughout the remainder of the season. Daily harvest spiked on weekends and showed lulls mid-week (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Daily turkey harvest during the 2020 fall season in Ohio.



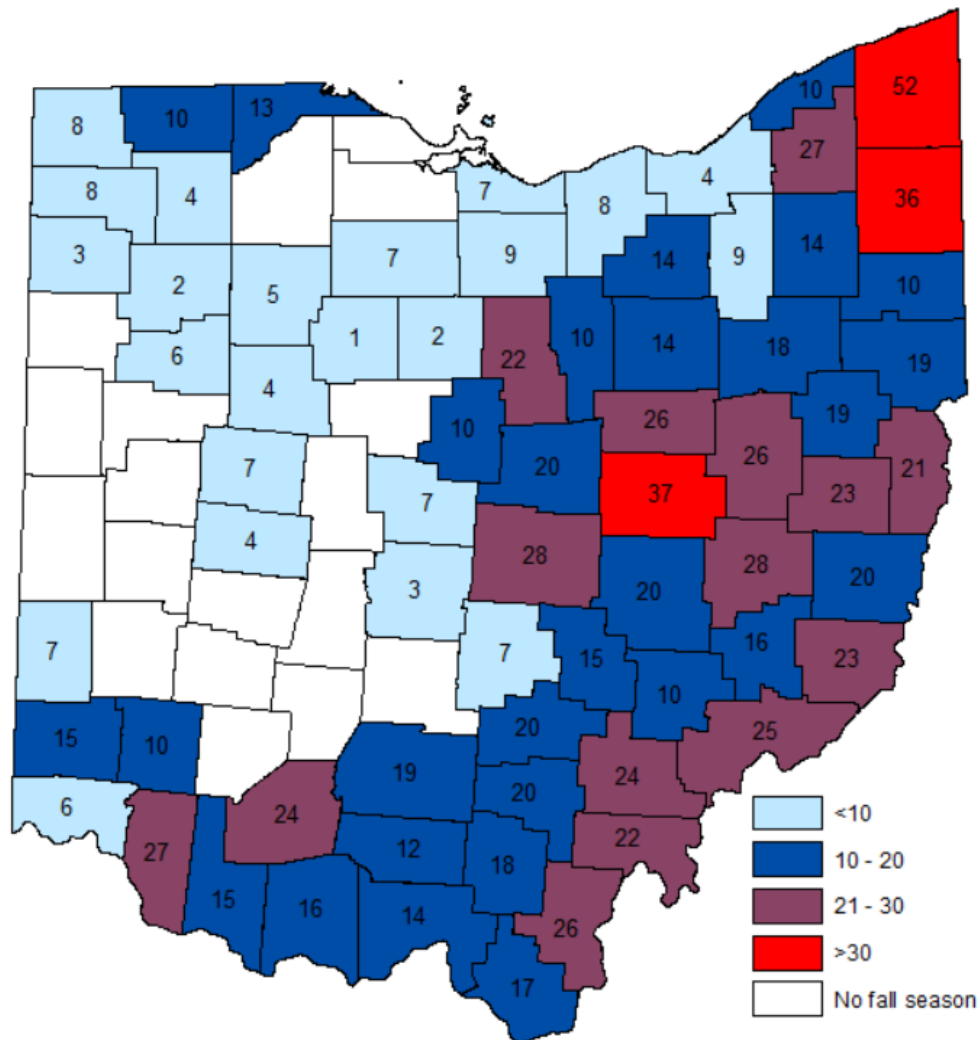
The permit success rate for resident, nonresident, youth, and reduced cost fall turkey permits holders ranged from 5.4-8.1%, while less than 1% of free permits resulted in a reported harvest (Table 4).

Table 4. Permit success rate (%) during fall wild turkey season 2016-2020 in Ohio.

Year	Resident	Nonresident	Youth	Reduced Cost	Free	Total
2016	13.8	9.7	15.9	13.6	2.1	10.5
2017	8.0	5.1	4.7	6.6	1.1	5.7
2018	8.5	6.1	7.3	6.7	1.1	6.3
2019	8.6	6.6	7.7	7.7	0.6	6.7
2020	8.1	5.4	7.2	6.6	0.8	6.3

Counties in northeast and east-central Ohio reported the highest fall turkey harvest in the state in 2020. The top Ohio counties for fall turkey harvest were Ashtabula (52), Coshocton (37), Trumbull (36), Guernsey (28), and Licking (28; Figure 4).

Figure 4. Map of total 2020 fall wild turkey harvest by Ohio county.



Appendix A. Wild turkey harvest by county during Ohio's 2020 fall season.

County	Female		Male		Unk.	Total	County	Female		Male		Unk.	Total
	Adult	Juv.	Adult	Juv.				Adult	Juv.	Adult	Juv.		
Adams	6	0	8	1	1	16	Knox	10	4	4	1	1	20
Allen	3	0	2	1	0	6	Lake	5	1	4	0	0	10
Ashland	4	0	5	1	0	10	Lawrence	10	1	4	2	0	17
Ashtabula	25	8	16	2	1	52	Licking	14	1	9	4	0	28
Athens	8	2	13	0	1	24	Logan	2	2	1	2	0	7
Belmont	8	2	10	0	0	20	Lorain	3	1	2	1	1	8
Brown	10	1	4	0	0	15	Lucas	4	0	8	1	0	13
Butler	8	0	5	2	0	15	Mahoning	2	0	4	4	0	10
Carroll	6	1	9	1	2	19	Medina	6	1	7	0	0	14
Champaign	1	0	3	0	0	4	Meigs	8	2	10	2	0	22
Clermont	12	2	13	0	0	27	Monroe	15	0	8	0	0	23
Columbiana	6	4	9	0	0	19	Morgan	4	0	6	0	0	10
Coshocton	15	6	12	4	0	37	Morrow	7	1	2	0	0	10
Crawford	2	0	0	0	0	2	Muskingum	10	2	7	1	0	20
Cuyahoga	3	0	1	0	0	4	Noble	9	2	5	0	0	16
Defiance	5	0	3	0	0	8	Paulding	3	0	0	0	0	3
Delaware	3	0	4	0	0	7	Perry	10	0	4	1	0	15
Erie	3	0	2	2	0	7	Pike	4	3	4	0	1	12
Fairfield	4	0	3	0	0	7	Portage	7	2	5	0	0	14
Franklin	2	0	1	0	0	3	Preble	2	2	2	1	0	7
Fulton	4	1	5	0	0	10	Putnam	2	0	0	0	0	2
Gallia	10	3	9	4	0	26	Richland	8	1	12	1	0	22
Geauga	10	1	15	1	0	27	Ross	5	2	9	3	0	19
Guernsey	16	2	10	0	0	28	Scioto	1	1	11	0	1	14
Hamilton	2	2	2	0	0	6	Seneca	2	5	0	0	0	7
Hancock	1	0	3	1	0	5	Stark	8	0	8	1	1	18
Hardin	2	0	0	2	0	4	Summit	3	1	4	1	0	9
Harrison	5	2	14	2	0	23	Trumbull	14	6	13	3	0	36
Henry	3	1	0	0	0	4	Tuscarawas	16	2	5	3	0	26
Highland	10	4	6	3	1	24	Vinton	8	2	7	3	0	20
Hocking	10	2	6	2	0	20	Warren	6	0	4	0	0	10
Holmes	13	4	8	1	0	26	Washington	5	3	15	1	1	25
Huron	5	2	2	0	0	9	Wayne	8	3	3	0	0	14
Jackson	9	3	6	0	0	18	Williams	6	0	1	1	0	8
Jefferson	5	2	11	3	0	21	Wyandot	1	0	0	0	0	1
							State Total	467	106	408	70	12	1,063