

Hunters harvest near-record number of turkeys this spring

Kentucky turkey hunters reported an impressive harvest of 35,655 turkeys this spring, the second highest total on record for the state.

The total, which includes the youth-only and general statewide seasons, finished just shy of 2010's record harvest of more than 36,000 turkeys. It was 21% higher than the three-year average, 23% higher than the five-year average and 18% higher than the ten-year average.

"The hatch of wild turkey poults in 2021 was the second-best recorded in the past 20 years," said Zak Danks, wild turkey and grouse program coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "This season's high harvest illustrates how poults that hatched two years ago aged into newly mature gobblers this spring, affording hunters a significantly larger number of legal turkeys to pursue this spring than in other recent years."

Spring turkey hunting in Kentucky kicked off with the youth-only season running April 1-2, 2023. Youth hunters harvested 1,889 birds, which was 30% more than last year.

Kentucky's general spring 2023 turkey hunting season, which ran April 15 through May 7, surpassed the previous spring's harvest by 32%.

Hunters harvested 12,567 turkeys during opening weekend of the general season, which was a 49% jump from last year. This season's opening weekend contributed 35% of the statewide total spring turkey harvest.

Weather on opening Saturday was great for turkey hunting, though subpar on Sunday, Danks said. Overall, hunters experienced less rainfall during the season and average temperatures were above normal, making for better hunting conditions.

"The weekday harvest was phenomenal this season as well, at 27% higher," Danks noted.

Harvest data shows that 10% of wild turkeys taken this season were 1-year-old "jakes" rather than mature gobblers. In contrast, jakes comprised 19% of the 2022 spring harvest, which further reflects 2021's good hatch. Compared to last spring, 16% more hunters harvested the season limit of two male or bearded turkeys.

Turkey harvests on public land increased by 35%. Three large federal areas had harvests of more than 100 turkeys: Daniel Boone National Forest (629); Fort Knox Military Reservation (163); and Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area (104). The top five state wildlife management areas (WMAs) and their harvest totals include: Peabody WMA (126); Clay WMA (59); Green River Lake WMA (56); Yellowbank WMA (43); and Lake Cumberland WMA (33).

Statewide, the top five counties of harvest included Ohio, Pulaski, Graves, Breckinridge and Hart. Three of those counties are in the Green River Region, which saw the highest regional harvest at 10,038 turkeys. Per square mile, more turkeys were harvested in the Northeast and Bluegrass regions, including Robertson, Pendleton, Owen, Anderson, and Bracken counties. Adair WMA in Boone County held the highest harvest per square mile this season.

Hunters should look out for the department's upcoming turkey-related surveys. Eligible license holders may be selected at random to participate in the post-season hunter survey,

which will include questions about hunting methods, regions and dates, amount of time spent hunting and other factors. The survey gathers important data used by the department's wild turkey program to support hunting opportunity and population management efforts, so hunters should respond even if they have not spring turkey hunted.

Additionally, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife calls on volunteers to report sightings of hens with poults throughout July and August as part of the annual brood survey, which helps biologists monitor trends in the state's turkey population.

Danks said hunters harvested 152 leg-banded turkeys this season, which will contribute to the department's ongoing turkey population studies in partnership with Tennessee Tech University. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife field staff live-captured and banded 420 male turkeys earlier this year, following the 236 banded last year. All turkeys were leg-banded then released back into the wild at the same places they were captured. Goals of this study are to investigate the impact of hunting and various diseases on the turkey population, and it will continue through 2025.

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission (regulation-setting board) has proposed several recommended changes to fall turkey hunting regulations, including:

Reducing the fall season harvest limit from four to two turkeys (only one of which may have a beard longer than three inches); and Specifying for legal turkey hunting a set distance of 600 feet from baited sites.

It is illegal to hunt turkeys over bait in

Kentucky. Pending regulations note that a turkey baiting prohibition would not apply to bona fide agricultural practices or planted food plots, nor cross property boundaries. The recommended changes to regulations are not yet effective, as they must receive legislative approvals.

CAMP MEETING

Living Word Faith Center
2132 C-ville Rd ~ Greensburg KY
Pastor: Bro Jerry Judd

June 1 at 6pm CST
June 2-3 at 10am and 6pm CST
and Sunday June 4 at 10am CST

Everyone welcome!!

Preachers: Bro. John Hobson
Bro. Clifford Rawles
Bro. Danny Roy



Late model rebuildable wrecks

Ready-to-go Vehicles



2018 Ford Explorer

Auto, 4WD, 61,714 miles, 3.5L EgoBoost, Leather, Loaded, Heated/Cooled Seats, Drive Home!!!
\$23,900

2017 Nissan Maxima

Auto, 118,936 Miles, V6 Engine, Leather, Loaded, All Power, Back-up Camera, SV Package, KY Clean Title
Drive Home!!!
\$13,900



2014 Chevy Silverado

Auto, 4x4, 127,604 Miles, All Power, Touch Screen, Back-up Camera, Drive Home!!!
\$14,900



2019 Chevy Tahoe

Auto, 4x4, 5.3L Engine 56,850 Miles Leather, Loaded, All Power, Back-up Camera, Touch Screen, Drive Home!!!
SOLD!!!



2014 Dodge Ram 2500

Auto, 4x4, 6.7L Cummins, 178,171 Miles, Deleted/Tuned, All Power, Power Rear Glass, Drive Home! **\$23,900**

2011 Dodge Ram

6-Speed, 190,626 Miles, Leather, Loaded, All Power, Big Turbo, 2G Swapped, Drive Home!!!
\$23,900



HAS YOUR PHARMACY CLOSED?

If you are looking for a new pharmacy
Eastridge-Phelps
is here to help you feel better.

Transferring your prescriptions is simple!

Give us a call today at

(270) 299-2333

or stop by our store and we will take care of all the details for you.



Eastridge-Phelps

P H A R M A C Y

Free Delivery in Green County
Locally, Owned and Operated

- Free MediPlanner Service
- Competitive Pricing
- Online Medication Profiles & Refill Requests
 - Medication Synchronization Program
 - Friendly and Knowledgeable Staff
- Text or Email Alerts When Your Prescriptions are Ready
- Two Locations for Your Convenience

Eastridge-Phelps Pharmacy
460 Commerce Drive
Greensburg, KY 42743
270.299.2333

Eastridge-Phelps Pharmacy
500 N. Bypass
Campbellsville, KY 42718
270.789.0577



Anthony's Autos

7469 Campbellsville Road, Columbia
Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-4:00pm CT - Sat. 8:30am-12:00 noon
Ph. 270-384-9085 - Email: anthonyautos1@gmail.com
270-805-8444 - Call or Text Anytime
www.anthonysautos.com

Letter to the Editor Policy

The Greensburg Record-Herald welcomes letters on any topic of general interest from its readers. Controversial letters to the editor, which would merit a response from a candidate, will not be published in the last issue before the election, since the candidate would not have the opportunity to respond. All letters must carry the name, address and daytime telephone number of the writer, and the name of the writer will be published with the letter.

Please address letters to
Record-Herald, P.O. Box 130, Greensburg, KY 42743.