



2017 FALL TURKEY SEASON RESULTS

July 2018

Ohio's fall wild turkey season traditionally opens the second Saturday of October through the Sunday immediately following Thanksgiving in select counties. In 2017, Ohio's fall wild turkey season was open from Oct. 14 through Nov. 26 in 69 counties (Figure 1). County eligibility was determined by the county's spring wild turkey harvest trends, habitat characteristics, and location relative to other eligible counties. A valid Ohio hunting license is required in addition to a fall wild turkey permit. The season bag limit is one turkey of either sex. Hunting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. It is legal to use dogs to assist in taking wild turkeys during the fall season.

Figure 1. Counties open to wild turkey hunting in fall of 2017.



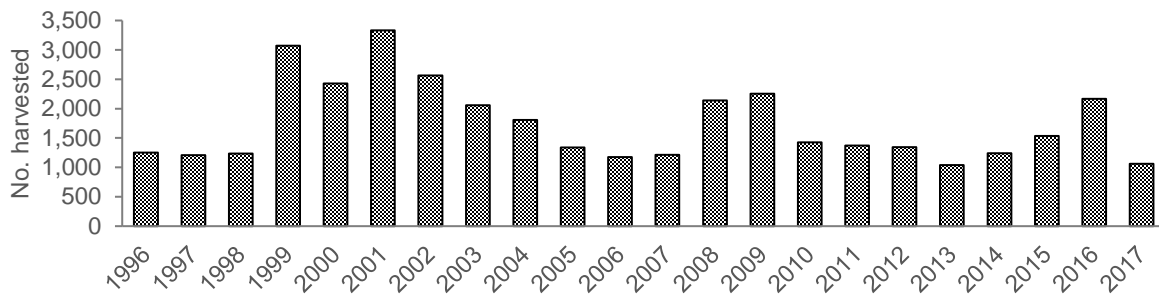
A total of 11,501 fall wild turkey permits were issued in 2017, a slight decrease from 2016 (11,506). Of the 2017 fall wild turkey permits that were issued, 47 percent were issued to residents, 10.6 percent went to nonresidents, and 7.3 percent were issued to youth hunters. Approximately 35 percent of permits issued were reduced cost or free permits (Table 1).

Table 1. Total fall wild turkey permit sales, 2013-2017.

| Year | Resident | | Nonresident | | Youth | | Reduced Cost | | Free | | Total |
|------|----------|------|-------------|------|-------|-----|--------------|------|-------|------|--------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | |
| 2013 | 5,155 | 40.2 | 995 | 7.8 | 850 | 6.6 | 1,005 | 7.8 | 4,832 | 37.6 | 12,837 |
| 2014 | 4,914 | 41.3 | 848 | 7.1 | 767 | 6.4 | 1,062 | 8.9 | 4,310 | 36.2 | 11,901 |
| 2015 | 5,196 | 44.5 | 1,004 | 8.6 | 812 | 6.9 | 1,115 | 9.5 | 3,562 | 30.5 | 11,689 |
| 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 |

During the 2017 fall season 1,062 wild turkey were harvested, which is a 51.1 percent decrease from 2016 (2,168) and 24.6 percent below the 5-year average of 1,408.6. Notable upticks in fall harvest are evident following summers with high reproductive indices (e.g., 1999, 2008, 2016; Figure 2).

Figure 2. Total fall wild turkey harvest, 1996-2017.



Harvests reported on private and public land accounted for 91.4 percent and 8.6 percent of the fall harvest total respectively. Landowners reported taking 407 wild turkeys, or 38.3 percent of the total harvest. In 2017, a higher percentage of adult males was reported than in the previous four seasons. The percentage of juvenile males, adult females and juvenile females were all below those reported in the past five years (Table 2). The percentages of wild turkeys taken by shotgun, vertical bow (compound, recurve, etc.), and crossbow were very similar to previous seasons (Table 3).

Table 2. Summary of fall wild turkey harvest by type, 2013-2017.

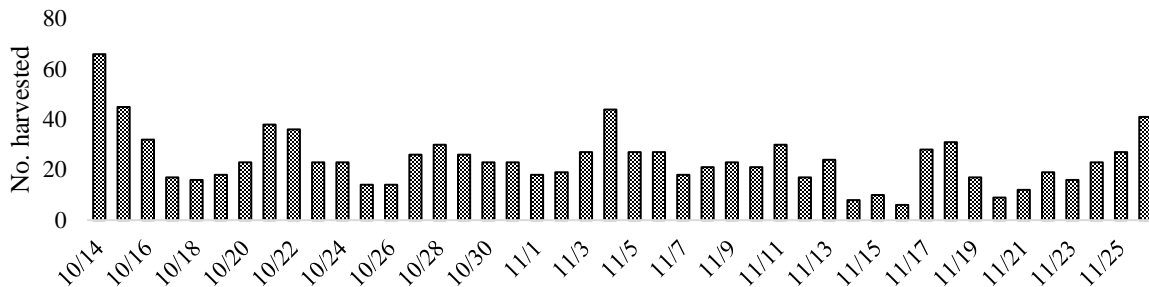
| Year | Adult Male | | Juvenile Male | | Adult Female | | Juvenile Female | | Unknown | | Total |
|------|------------|------|---------------|------|--------------|------|-----------------|------|---------|-----|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | |
| 2013 | 301 | 29.0 | 116 | 11.2 | 459 | 44.3 | 161 | 15.5 | - | - | 1,037 |
| 2014 | 393 | 31.7 | 146 | 11.8 | 534 | 43.1 | 166 | 13.4 | - | - | 1,239 |
| 2015 | 425 | 27.7 | 181 | 11.8 | 690 | 44.9 | 241 | 15.7 | - | - | 1,537 |
| 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 |

Table 3. Summary of fall wild turkey harvest by hunting implement, 2013-2017.

| Year | Shotgun | | Vertical bow | | Crossbow | | Total |
|------|---------|------|--------------|------|----------|------|-------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | |
| 2013 | 716 | 69.0 | 149 | 14.4 | 172 | 16.6 | 1,037 |
| 2014 | 786 | 63.4 | 196 | 15.8 | 257 | 20.7 | 1,239 |
| 2015 | 965 | 62.8 | 239 | 15.5 | 333 | 21.7 | 1,537 |
| 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 |

The number of wild turkeys taken on opening day of the fall season (66) exceeded the harvest of any other single day. Outside of the opening day, harvest was distributed evenly throughout the season, with spikes in harvest on weekends and lulls in harvest mid-week (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Daily wild turkey harvest during the 2017 fall season.



The permit success rate for resident, nonresident, youth, and reduced cost fall wild turkey permits holders ranged from 5 to 8 percent, while only 1 percent of free permits resulted in a reported harvest. Permit success rates in 2017 were less than rates for the previous three fall seasons (Table 4).

Table 4. Permit success rate (%) during fall wild turkey season, 2013-2017.

| Year | Resident | Nonresident | Youth | Reduced Cost | Free | Total |
|------|----------|-------------|-------|--------------|------|-------|
| 2013 | 8.5 | 5.0 | 5.5 | 6.9 | 0.8 | 5.1 |
| 2014 | 9.5 | 8.1 | 8.0 | 7.7 | 1.2 | 6.1 |
| 2015 | 10.9 | 9.6 | 10.0 | 10.4 | 1.3 | 7.7 |
| 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 |

Appendix A. Wild turkey harvest details for 2017, by county.

| County | Female | | Male | | Unk. | Total | County | Female | | Male | | Unk. | Total |
|------------|--------|------|-------|------|------|-----------|-----------|--------|------|------|---|------|-----------|
| | Adult | Juv. | Adult | Juv. | | | | Adult | Juv. | | | | |
| Adams | 13 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 20 | Lake | 3 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Allen | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | Lawrence | 6 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 12 |
| Ashland | 7 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 15 | Licking | 13 | 4 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 30 |
| Ashtabula | 14 | 4 | 19 | 9 | 0 | 46 | Logan | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| Athens | 6 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 15 | Lorain | 7 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 16 |
| Belmont | 8 | 2 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 23 | Mahoning | 4 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Brown | 3 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 9 | Medina | 4 | 2 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 18 |
| Butler | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 7 | Meigs | 6 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 20 |
| Carroll | 5 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 19 | Monroe | 3 | 2 | 16 | 1 | 0 | 22 |
| Champaign | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | Morgan | 2 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 12 |
| Clermont | 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 15 | Morrow | 8 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 19 |
| Columbiana | 9 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 23 | Muskingum | 3 | 5 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| Coshocton | 22 | 7 | 25 | 1 | 1 | 56 | Noble | 4 | 2 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 19 |
| Crawford | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | Paulding | 5 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| Cuyahoga | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | Perry | 5 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 19 |
| Defiance | 4 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 9 | Pike | 3 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 12 |
| Delaware | 4 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 11 | Portage | 4 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 15 |
| Fairfield | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 6 | Preble | 4 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 10 |
| Franklin | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | Putnam | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| Fulton | 4 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 13 | Richland | 14 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 28 |
| Gallia | 15 | 2 | 10 | 4 | 0 | 31 | Ross | 7 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Geauga | 3 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 16 | Scioto | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| Guernsey | 10 | 3 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 31 | Seneca | 3 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 9 |
| Hamilton | 4 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 11 | Shelby | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Hancock | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | Stark | 9 | 0 | 15 | 1 | 0 | 25 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|---|----|---|---|-----------|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Hardin | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | Summit | 4 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 13 |
| Harrison | 9 | 1 | 15 | 3 | 1 | 29 | Trumbull | 11 | 4 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 28 |
| Henry | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | Tuscarawas | 5 | 1 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 24 |
| Highland | 10 | 2 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 25 | Vinton | 6 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 18 |
| Hocking | 0 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 8 | Warren | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Holmes | 13 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 26 | Washington | 7 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| Huron | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | Wayne | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Jackson | 8 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 18 | Williams | 12 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 25 |
| Jefferson | 8 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 19 | Wyandot | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Knox | 3 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 17 | State Total | 382 | 100 | 473 | 94 | 12 | 1,061 |
