



2019 SPRING WILD TURKEY SEASON RESULTS

Ohio's 2019 spring wild turkey season included a 2-day statewide youth season and a 4-week regular season within each of two zones (Figure 1). The two-day youth season was open statewide during April 13-14. The south zone was open April 22 to May 19. The northeast zone was open April 29 to May 26. A spring turkey permit was required of residents (\$24) and nonresidents (\$29) in addition to an Ohio hunting license (resident = \$19, nonresident = \$140.50). Neither a permit nor license was required for Ohio 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 season bag limit was two bearded turkeys (one turkey per permit and per day). Hunting hours were 30 minutes before sunrise to noon during the first week, and 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset during the last three weeks of the regular season.

Figure 1. Ohio's spring wild turkey zone map for 2019.



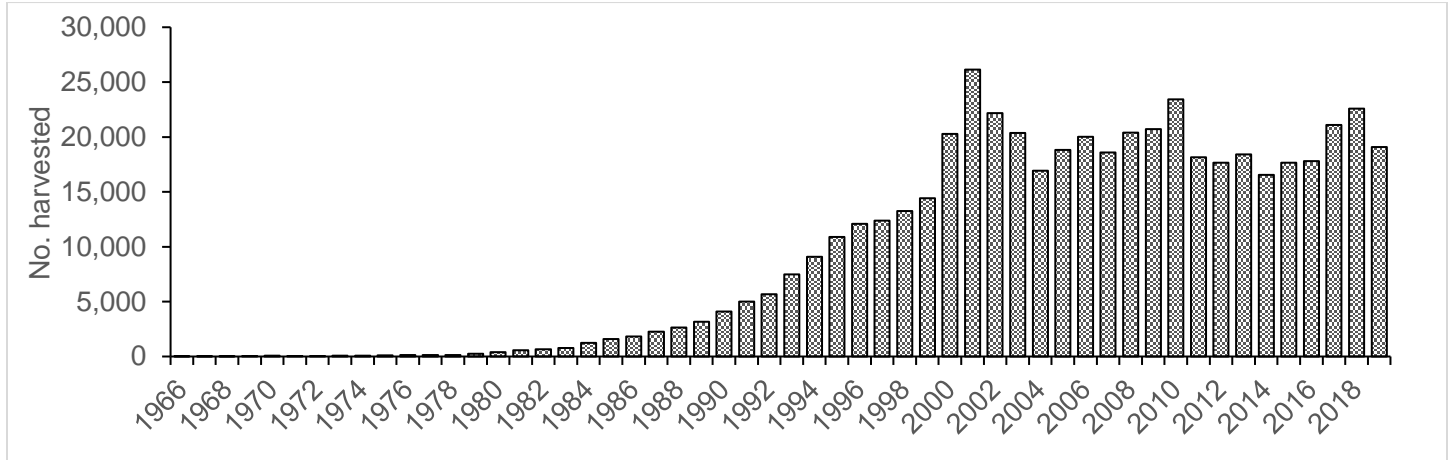
In 2019, a total of 63,604 spring permits were issued, which is 0.4% below the 2018 spring season total and 2.3% below the 5-year average (65,049). Of all 2019 spring permits, 65.4%, 7.5%, and 12.5% were resident, nonresident, and youth permits, respectively. Approximately 14.6% of all permits issued were reduced cost or free permits (Table 1).

Table 1. Total spring turkey permit sales in Ohio during 2015-2019.

Year	Resident		Nonresident		Youth		Reduced Cost		Free		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2015	41,395	62.8	3,628	5.5	9,245	14.0	4,680	7.1	6,935	10.5	65,883
2016	41,876	63.0	3,975	6.0	9,304	14.0	5,139	7.7	6,142	9.2	66,436
2017	41,851	63.9	4,311	6.6	9,167	14.0	5,503	8.4	4,654	7.1	65,486
2018	41,122	64.4	4,669	7.3	8,376	13.1	5,698	8.9	3,973	6.2	63,838
2019	41,589	65.4	4,761	7.5	7,948	12.5	5,756	9.0	3,550	5.6	63,604

Total turkey harvest during Ohio’s combined spring hunting seasons was 19,088 in 2019, a decrease of 15.5% from 2018. Total spring harvest increased annually from 1966-1999, a period when both hunting opportunity and the turkey population were expanding. Spring turkey harvest peaked in 2001 and has been relatively stable since. Fluctuation in spring harvest total is largely attributed to annual variation in reproduction and recruitment (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Total spring turkey harvest in Ohio during 1966-2019.



In 2019, 16,026 hunters reported a turkey harvest. Of those, 3,057 (19.1%) reported harvesting more than one turkey. Most turkey harvest occurred on private land (91.3%), while 8.7% of turkey harvest occurred public land. Landowner tags were used to take 4,151 turkeys, or 21.7% of the total spring harvest.

In 2019, the percentage of adult male birds in the total harvest was slightly above the 5-year average (79.2%) while the percentage of juvenile male birds was slightly below the 5-year average (19.5%). The percentage of bearded hens harvested was similar to previous years (Table 2). The percentages of turkeys taken by shotgun, vertical bow (compound, recurve, etc.), and crossbow was consistent with previous years (Table 3). Patterns in reported spur length correspond with percentages of adult and juvenile males harvested (Table 4).

Table 2. Summary of spring turkey harvest by turkey type during 2015-2019 in Ohio.

Year	<u>Adult male</u>		<u>Juvenile male</u>		<u>Bearded female</u>		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2015	13,731	77.8	3,728	21.1	194	1.1	17,653
2016	13,426	75.4	4,176	23.5	203	1.1	17,805
2017	15,401	73.0	5,426	25.7	270	1.3	21,097
2018	20,045	88.6	2,286	10.1	281	1.2	22,612
2019	15,521	81.3	3,306	17.3	261	1.4	19,088

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

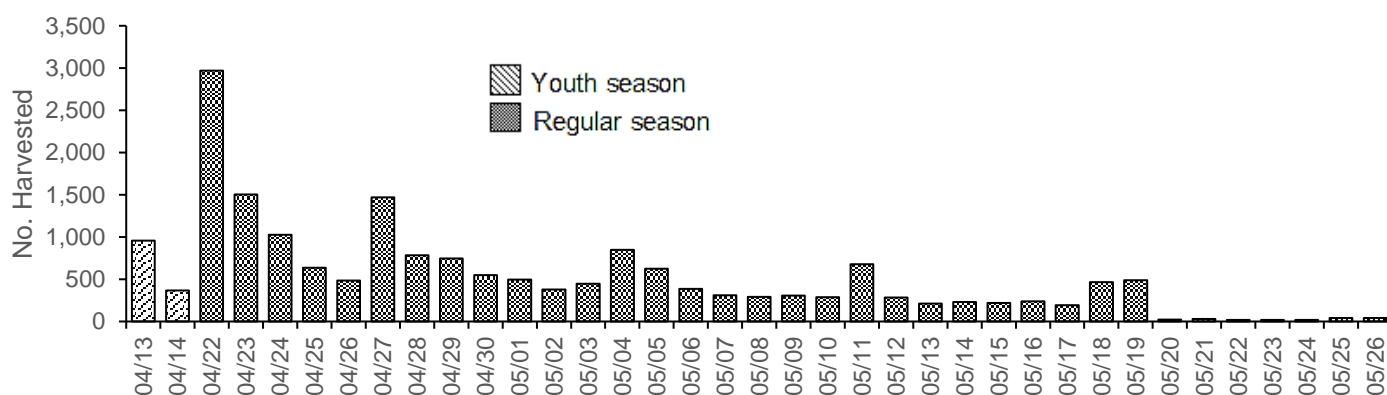
Year	<u>Shotgun</u>		<u>Vertical bow</u>		<u>Crossbow</u>		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2015	17,251	97.7	280	1.6	122	0.7	17,653
2016	17,384	97.6	297	1.7	124	0.7	17,805
2017	20,617	97.7	311	1.5	169	0.8	21,097
2018	22,092	97.7	359	1.6	161	0.7	22,612
2019	18,660	97.8	262	1.4	166	0.9	19,088

Table 4. Summary of reported spur length for male turkeys harvested in Ohio during 2015-2019.

Year	1/2 inch or less		>1/2 inch but <1 inch		1 inch or greater		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2015	4,382	25.1	4,892	28.0	8,184	46.9	17,458
2016	4,813	27.3	4,441	25.2	8,352	47.4	17,606
2017	6,048	29.0	4,604	22.1	10,214	49.0	20,866
2018	2,817	12.6	6,511	29.1	13,019	58.3	22,347
2019	3,758	20.0	4066	21.6	11,003	58.4	18,827

Hunters checked 1,324 turkeys during the two-day youth season in 2019, a 29.6% decrease from 2018 (1,855). The youth season accounted for 6.9% of the total spring harvest in 2019. Turkeys taken opening day of the regular season in the south zone (April 22) accounted for 15.6% of the total spring harvest. Nearly half (46.5%) of the total spring harvest occurred during the first week of the regular season in the south zone (April 22-28). Spikes in harvest were apparent on weekends throughout the season (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Total turkey harvest by day during the 2019 spring season in Ohio.



Approximately 25%, 27% and 24% of resident, nonresident and youth spring turkey permits, respectively, resulted in a reported harvest during 2019. Reduced cost permit holders were slightly less successful (20%) while only 5% of free permits resulted in a reported harvest. The percentage of reported harvest for each permit type decreased from 2018 to 2019 (Table 5). We cannot determine landowner success rate since permits are only issued to landowners that report a harvest.

Table 5. Spring turkey permit success rate (%) during 2015-2019 in Ohio.

Year	Resident	Nonresident	Youth	Reduced cost	Free
2015	23.3	24.0	23.6	18.6	4.1
2016	23.3	22.1	22.3	19.0	4.1
2017	27.1	28.3	27.4	21.5	5.6
2018	29.0	33.7	28.1	24.3	5.1
2019	25.1	26.5	23.5	20.4	4.8

Counties in east-central Ohio reported the highest turkey harvest in the state in 2019. The top five Ohio counties were Monroe (648), Washington (591), Muskingum (589), Tuscarawas (569), and Belmont (565; Figure 3). East-central and southeast Ohio experienced substantial decreases in harvest from 2018 to 2019, while most other counties saw only slight increases or decreases (Figure 4).

Appendix A. Spring wild turkey harvest totals for Ohio counties in 2019.

County	Adult Male	Juvenile Male	Bearded Female	TOTAL	County	Adult Male	Juvenile Male	Bearded Female	TOTAL
Adams	344	67	6	417	Licking	300	61	3	364
Allen	52	20	1	73	Logan	92	18	3	113
Ashland	155	53	8	216	Lorain	112	28	1	141
Ashtabula	435	109	14	558	Lucas	53	14	2	69
Athens	424	37	1	462	Madison	8	2	0	10
Auglaize	20	20	2	42	Mahoning	147	36	3	186
Belmont	511	53	1	565	Marion	18	12	0	30
Brown	349	60	2	411	Medina	118	27	3	148
Butler	144	45	1	190	Meigs	487	62	5	554
Carroll	315	65	6	386	Mercer	14	3	0	17
Champaign	65	28	4	97	Miami	16	7	1	24
Clark	12	5	0	17	Monroe	571	70	7	648
Clermont	273	59	2	334	Montgomery	19	8	0	27
Clinton	49	25	0	74	Morgan	338	59	2	399
Columbiana	238	86	3	327	Morrow	108	33	1	142
Coshocton	442	90	16	548	Muskingum	502	80	3	585
Crawford	46	20	1	67	Noble	410	71	3	484
Cuyahoga	6	2	0	8	Ottawa	5	0	0	5
Darke	34	26	1	61	Paulding	46	19	4	69
Defiance	149	42	6	197	Perry	261	41	7	309
Delaware	82	32	0	114	Pickaway	17	6	0	23
Erie	37	13	1	51	Pike	214	24	3	241
Fairfield	102	16	0	118	Portage	200	57	2	259
Fayette	14	1	0	13	Preble	97	36	3	136
Franklin	15	5	1	21	Putnam	46	14	4	64
Fulton	89	22	5	116	Richland	259	52	7	318
Gallia	337	59	4	400	Ross	240	52	3	295
Geauga	198	56	5	259	Sandusky	11	6	2	19
Greene	18	8	0	26	Scioto	249	33	2	284
Guernsey	441	84	2	527	Seneca	99	52	3	154
Hamilton	95	13	0	108	Shelby	24	14	0	38
Hancock	21	11	2	34	Stark	250	44	4	298
Hardin	55	38	2	95	Summit	65	14	1	80
Harrison	394	74	8	476	Trumbull	336	88	6	430
Henry	43	18	1	62	Tuscarawas	467	84	18	569
Highland	307	75	4	388	Union	44	13	1	58
Hocking	235	45	0	280	Van Wert	11	9	0	20
Holmes	210	63	9	282	Vinton	267	61	1	329
Huron	85	33	0	118	Warren	63	38	1	102
Jackson	332	58	2	392	Washington	520	66	5	591
Jefferson	354	59	2	415	Wayne	97	23	4	124
Knox	280	58	11	349	Williams	185	37	4	226
Lake	58	14	1	73	Wood	14	7	0	21
Lawrence	197	34	3	234	Wyandot	59	24	1	84
					State Total	15,521	3,306	261	19,088

Appendix B. Ohio's spring wild turkey season dates, permits sold, and total harvest, 1966-2019.

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	2	\$24.00 ^e	65,486	21,097
	05/01 – 05/28	5				
2018 ^d	04/23 – 05/20	83	2	\$24.00 ^e	63,838	22,612
	04/30 – 05/27	5				
2019 ^d	04/22 – 05/19	83	2	\$24.00 ^e	63,604	19,088
	04/29 – 05/26	5				

^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