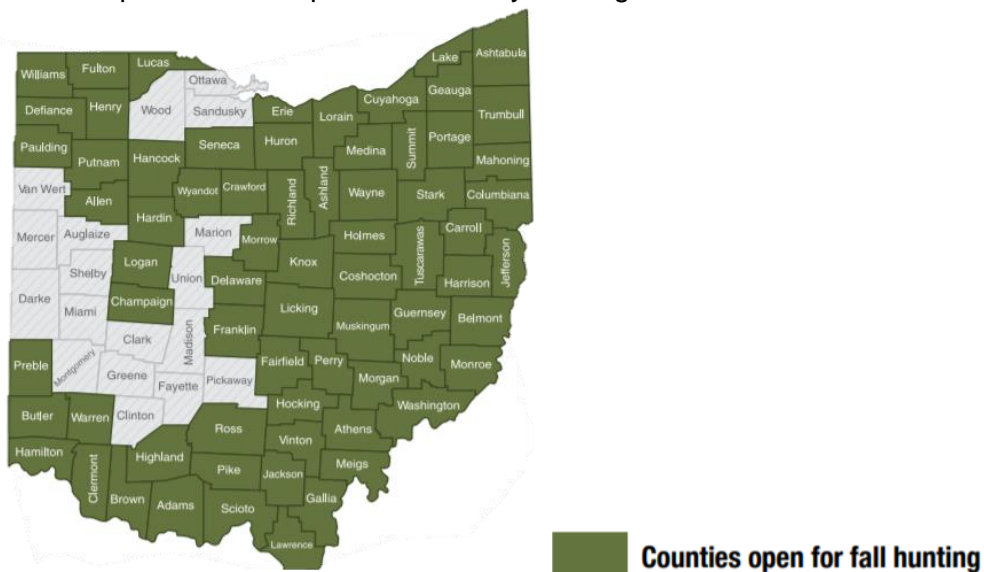


**Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**

**2019 FALL WILD TURKEY SEASON RESULTS**  
April 2020

Ohio’s fall wild turkey season traditionally opens the second Saturday of October through the Sunday immediately following Thanksgiving in select counties. In 2019, Ohio’s fall turkey season was open from Oct. 12-Dec. 1 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 2019.



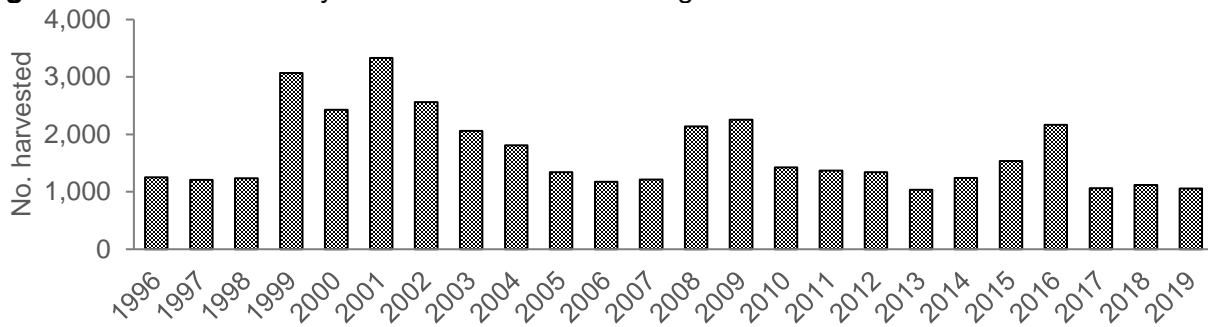
In 2019, 9,441 fall permits were issued, a 3.9% decrease from 2018 ( $n=9,825$ ). Of all 2019 fall permits, 52.0%, 7.1%, and 7.1% were issued to resident, nonresident, and youth hunters, respectively. Reduced cost or free permits accounted for 33.8% of those issued (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Total Ohio fall turkey permit sales by type during 2015-2019.

Year	Resident		Nonresident		Youth		Reduced Cost		Free		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
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
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

Total reported turkey harvest was 1,054 during Ohio’s 2019 fall season, a 5.9% decrease from 2018 ( $n=1,121$ ) and 23.9% below the 5-year average ( $n=1387$ ). 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 1996-2019.



Harvests reported on private and public land accounted for 94.2% and 5.8%, respectively, of the fall harvest total. Landowners reported taking 424 turkeys, or 40.2% of the total harvest. The total fall harvest included 45.6% male turkeys and 53.4% 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 2015-2019 in Ohio.

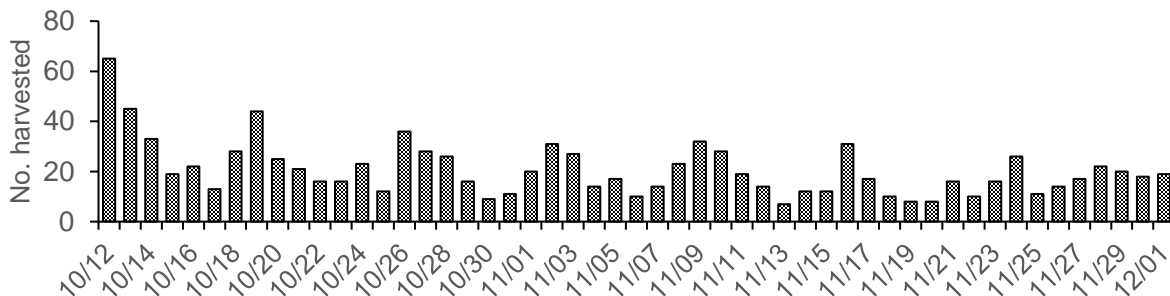
Year	Adult Male		Juvenile Male		Adult Female		Juvenile Female		Unknown		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2015	425	27.7	181	11.8	690	44.9	241	15.7	-	-	1,537
2016	546	25.2	261	12.0	977	45.1	384	17.7	-	-	2,168
2017	473	44.6	94	8.9	382	36.0	100	9.4	11	1.0	1,060
2018	423	37.7	87	7.8	473	42.2	132	11.8	5	0.4	1,121
2019	406	38.5	75	7.1	457	43.3	106	10.1	10	0.9	1,054

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

Year	Shotgun		Vertical bow		Crossbow		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
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
2018	596	53.2	189	16.9	336	30.0	1,121
2019	571	54.2	158	15.0	325	30.8	1,054

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 2019 fall season in Ohio.





**Appendix A. Wild turkey harvest by county during Ohio's 2019 fall season.**

County	Female		Male		Unk.	Total	County	Female		Male		Unk.	Total
	Adult	Juv.	Adult	Juv.				Adult	Juv.	Adult	Juv.		
Adams	4	2	5	0	0	11	Lake	4	0	3	0	0	7
Allen	4	2	4	0	0	10	Lawrence	3	0	2	1	0	6
Ashland	5	2	6	2	0	15	Licking	13	2	7	0	0	22
Ashtabula	13	5	8	1	0	27	Logan	5	0	2	0	0	7
Athens	6	2	1	0	0	9	Lorain	3	0	9	1	0	13
Belmont	4	0	14	1	0	19	Lucas	8	0	3	0	0	11
Brown	2	3	5	1	0	11	Mahoning	3	3	9	2	0	17
Butler	5	2	5	3	1	16	Medina	3	0	6	4	0	13
Carroll	9	3	17	2	0	31	Meigs	2	3	12	0	3	20
Champaign	3	0	4	0	0	7	Monroe	8	0	7	0	0	15
Clermont	13	1	19	2	0	35	Morgan	9	2	5	1	1	18
Columbiana	24	2	9	7	0	42	Morrow	4	1	4	0	0	9
Coshocton	21	5	14	4	0	44	Muskingum	4	4	6	2	0	16
Crawford	3	0	3	1	0	7	Noble	11	5	6	0	0	22
Defiance	4	1	10	0	0	15	Paulding	5	1	2	0	0	8
Delaware	4	0	6	1	0	11	Perry	7	5	2	2	0	16
Erie	6	0	1	1	0	8	Pike	3	1	2	0	0	6
Fairfield	3	1	3	0	0	7	Portage	3	2	7	0	0	12
Franklin	1	0	0	0	0	1	Preble	2	0	3	1	0	6
Fulton	5	0	5	0	0	10	Putnam	2	0	1	0	0	3
Gallia	6	1	7	3	0	17	Richland	10	2	6	3	0	21
Geauga	10	3	10	1	0	24	Ross	7	2	8	0	0	17
Guernsey	14	4	10	3	0	31	Scioto	6	4	5	2	1	18
Hamilton	2	1	5	1	0	9	Seneca	4	1	3	0	0	8
Hancock	0	0	4	1	1	6	Stark	10	0	7	2	0	19
Hardin	3	0	4	0	0	7	Summit	6	0	6	1	0	13
Harrison	6	1	7	2	0	16	Trumbull	14	2	8	2	0	26
Henry	0	0	2	0	0	2	Tuscarawas	18	5	14	2	1	40
Highland	11	6	7	0	0	24	Vinton	8	0	4	1	0	13
Hocking	9	1	4	0	1	15	Warren	4	1	0	0	0	5
Holmes	10	5	9	0	0	24	Washington	6	2	5	1	0	14
Huron	6	0	2	1	0	9	Wayne	4	0	2	0	0	6
Jackson	5	1	5	3	0	14	Williams	11	0	8	2	0	21
Jefferson	12	1	8	2	1	24	Wyandot	1	0	1	0	0	2
Knox	13	3	8	2	0	26	<b>State Total</b>	457	106	406	75	10	1,054