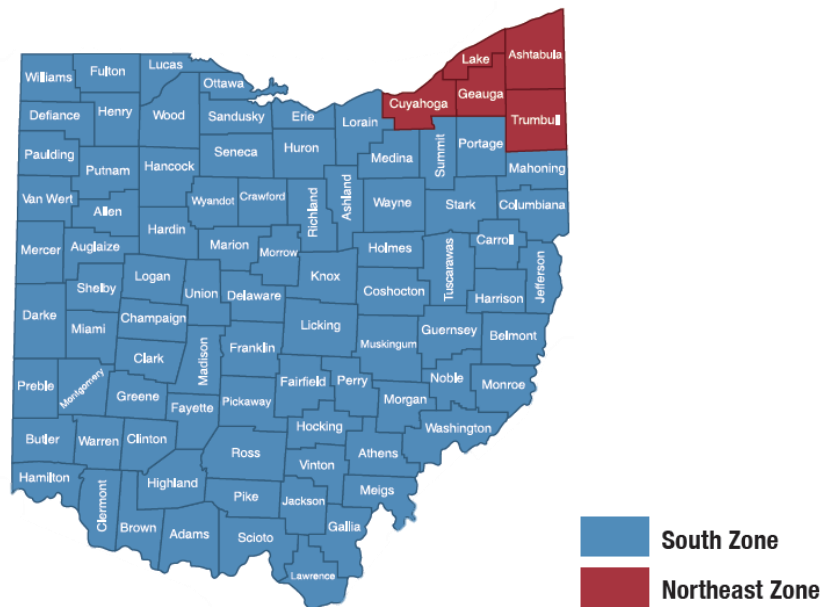




2020 SPRING WILD TURKEY SEASON RESULTS

Ohio’s 2020 spring wild turkey season included two regular season zones with offset dates (Figure 1). The south zone was open April 20 to May 17. The northeast zone was open May 4 to May 31. The two-day youth season was open statewide during April 18-19. A spring turkey permit was required of residents and nonresidents in addition to a valid Ohio hunting license. Neither a permit nor license was required for landowners hunting on property they own. All turkeys harvested in Ohio were required to be reported to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) 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 2020.



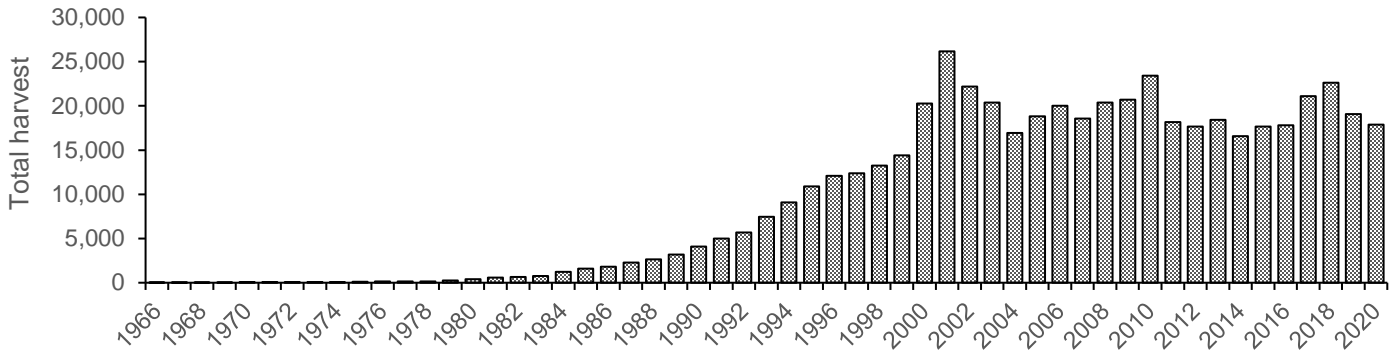
In total, 68,148 spring permits were issued in 2020, which is a 7% increase from the 2019 spring season and 4% above the 5-year average (65,502). Of all 2020 spring permits, 70%, 3%, and 16% were resident, nonresident, and youth permits, respectively. Approximately 12% of all permits issued were reduced cost or free permits (Table 1).

Table 1. Total spring turkey permit sales in Ohio during 2016-2020.

Year	<u>Resident</u>		<u>Nonresident</u>		<u>Youth</u>		<u>Reduced Cost</u>		<u>Free</u>		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
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
2020	47,471	69.7	1,863	2.7	10,954	16.1	5,546	8.1	2,314	3.4	68,148

Total turkey harvest during Ohio’s combined spring hunting seasons was 17,894 in 2020, a decrease of 6.3% from 2019. Total spring harvest increased annually from 1980-1999, a period when both hunting opportunity and the turkey population were expanding. Spring turkey season opened statewide in 2000. Spring harvest peaked in 2001 and has been relatively stable since (Figure 2). Fluctuation in spring harvest total is largely attributed to annual variation in reproduction and recruitment.

Figure 2. Total spring turkey harvest in Ohio during 1966-2020.



In 2020, 15,306 hunters reported a turkey harvest. Of those, 2,577 (16.8%) reported harvesting more than one turkey. Most turkey harvest occurred on private land (92.6%), while 7.4% of turkey harvest occurred public land. Landowner tags were used to take 4,406 turkeys, or 24.6% of the total spring harvest.

In 2020, the percentage of adult males in the total harvest was slightly above the 5-year average (80.3%) while the percentage of juvenile males was slightly below the 5-year average (18.3%). The percentage of bearded hens in the spring harvest was similar to previous years (Table 2). The percentages of turkeys taken by shotgun, vertical bow (compound, recurve, etc.), and crossbow was nearly identical to 2019 (Table 3). The percentages of harvested male turkeys within specified spur length categories was similar to 2019 (Table 4).

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

Year	<u>Adult male</u>		<u>Juvenile male</u>		<u>Bearded female</u>		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
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
2020	14,875	83.1	2,686	15.0	333	1.9	17,894

Table 3. Summary spring turkey harvest by hunting implement during 2016-2020 in Ohio.

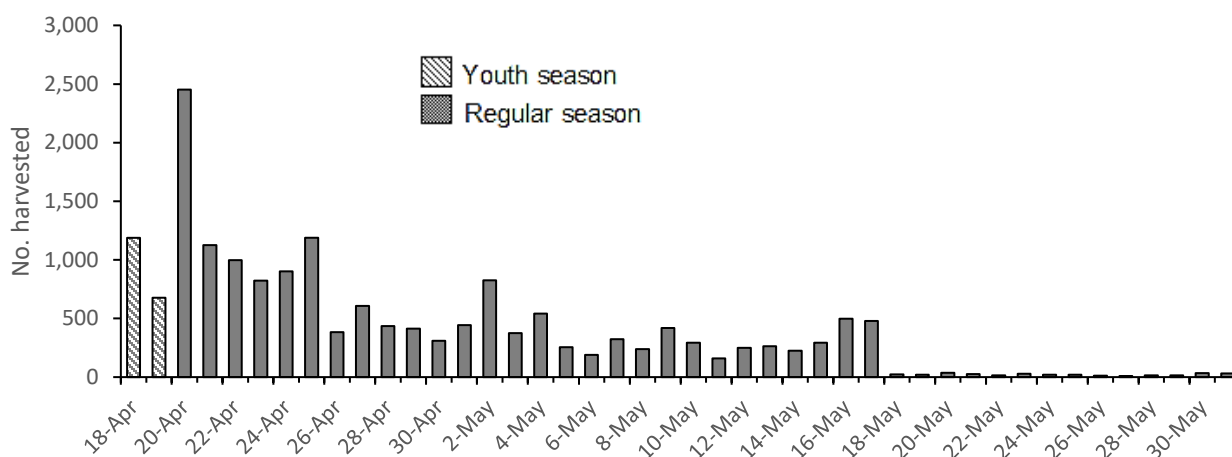
Year	<u>Shotgun</u>		<u>Vertical bow</u>		<u>Crossbow</u>		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2016	17,384	97.6	297	1.7	124	0.7	17,805
2017	20,617	97.7	311	1.5	169	0.8	21,097
2018	22,092	97.7	359	1.6	161	0.7	22,612
2019	18,660	97.8	262	1.4	166	0.9	19,088
2020	17,505	97.8	235	1.3	154	0.9	17,894

Table 4. Summary of reported spur length for male turkeys harvested in Ohio during 2016-2020.

Year	1/2 inch or less		>1/2 inch but <1 inch		1 inch or greater		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
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	4,066	21.6	11,003	58.4	18,827
2020	3,369	18.8	4,102	22.9	10,423	58.2	17,894

Hunters checked 1,865 turkeys during the two-day youth season in 2020, a 40.9% increase from 2019 (1,324). The youth season accounted for 10.4% of the total spring harvest in 2020. Turkeys taken opening day of the regular season in the south zone (April 20) accounted for 13.7% of the total spring harvest. Approximately 44.0% of the total spring harvest occurred during the first week of the regular season in the south zone (April 20-26). Spikes in harvest were apparent on weekends throughout the season (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Total turkey harvest by day during the 2020 spring season in Ohio.



Approximately 20%, 19% and 23% of resident, nonresident and youth spring turkey permits, respectively, resulted in a reported harvest during 2020. Reduced cost permit holders were slightly less successful (17%) while only 5% of free permits resulted in a reported harvest. The percentage of reported harvest for each permit type except free permits decreased from 2019 to 2020. We cannot determine landowner success rate since permits are only issued to landowners that report a harvest.

Table 4. Spring turkey permit success rate (%) during 2016-2020 in Ohio.

Year	Resident	Nonresident	Youth	Reduced cost	Free
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
2020	20.2	19.4	22.5	17.2	4.9

Counties in east-central Ohio reported the highest turkey harvest in the state in 2020. The top five Ohio counties were Belmont (533), Monroe (532), Tuscarawas (528), Guernsey (508), and Meigs (503; Figure 3).

Appendix A. Spring wild turkey harvest totals for Ohio counties in 2020.

County	Adult Male	Juvenile Male	Bearded female	TOTAL	County	Adult Male	Juvenile Male	Bearded female	TOTAL
Adams	357	57	7	421	Licking	267	49	3	319
Allen	57	19	3	79	Logan	91	21	4	116
Ashland	141	22	7	170	Lorain	117	23	1	141
Ashtabula	356	82	11	449	Lucas	36	14	4	54
Athens	335	43	2	380	Madison	8	3	0	11
Auglaize	40	12	2	54	Mahoning	161	32	5	198
Belmont	482	46	5	533	Marion	36	10	0	46
Brown	378	41	14	433	Medina	100	15	3	118
Butler	207	22	8	237	Meigs	441	58	4	503
Carroll	298	65	5	368	Mercer	24	6	0	30
Champaign	90	14	2	106	Miami	25	4	0	29
Clark	11	6	0	17	Monroe	474	50	8	532
Clermont	320	39	8	367	Montgomery	21	6	1	28
Clinton	73	18	1	92	Morgan	272	47	3	322
Columbiana	271	119	5	395	Morrow	121	21	4	146
Coshocton	369	70	11	450	Muskingum	422	70	7	499
Crawford	53	6	0	59	Noble	335	56	8	399
Cuyahoga	7	0	0	7	Ottawa	1	0	0	1
Darke	57	9	2	68	Paulding	61	14	0	75
Defiance	194	42	8	244	Perry	231	48	4	283
Delaware	106	21	0	127	Pickaway	23	9	1	33
Erie	34	7	0	41	Pike	165	31	1	197
Fairfield	90	25	0	115	Portage	204	39	5	248
Fayette	14	3	0	17	Preble	97	23	5	125
Franklin	17	4	0	21	Putnam	51	9	1	61
Fulton	92	24	2	118	Richland	186	25	10	221
Gallia	351	40	7	398	Ross	277	54	3	334
Geauga	169	35	10	214	Sandusky	20	3	0	23
Greene	18	4	0	22	Scioto	243	26	3	272
Guernsey	428	75	5	508	Seneca	68	36	4	108
Hamilton	137	9	1	147	Shelby	33	6	0	39
Hancock	30	13	5	48	Stark	230	37	3	270
Hardin	76	23	4	103	Summit	66	11	2	79
Harrison	381	66	11	458	Trumbull	300	60	18	378
Henry	41	13	2	56	Tuscarawas	422	90	16	528
Highland	348	60	4	412	Union	36	10	2	48
Hocking	227	43	1	271	Van Wert	17	4	1	22
Holmes	181	53	7	241	Vinton	246	45	3	294
Huron	95	16	1	112	Warren	97	12	1	110
Jackson	310	40	1	351	Washington	416	62	6	484
Jefferson	335	77	1	413	Wayne	99	19	5	123
Knox	254	58	5	317	Williams	151	36	5	192
Lake	55	13	2	70	Wood	22	8	1	31
Lawrence	206	19	3	228	Wyandot	71	11	5	87
					State Total	14,875	2,686	333	17,894

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				
2020 ^d	04/20 – 05/17	83	2	\$24.00 ^e	68,148	17,894
	05/04 – 05/31	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