

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

2021 FALL WILD TURKEY SEASON RESULTS

December 2021

In 2021, Ohio’s fall turkey season was open from Oct. 9-Nov. 28 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 for fall turkey hunting in 2021.



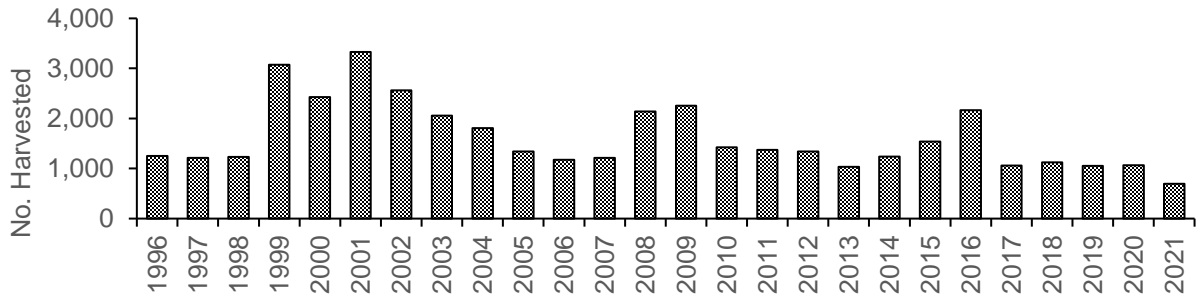
In 2021, 7,470 fall permits were issued, a 17% decrease from 2020 ($n=9,018$). Of all 2021 fall permits, 49%, 9%, and 8% were issued to resident, nonresident, and youth hunters, respectively. Reduced cost or free permits accounted for 34% of those issued (Table 1).

Table 1. Total Ohio fall turkey permit sales by type during 2017-2021.

Year	Resident		Nonresident		Youth		Reduced Cost		Free		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
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
2020	4,695	52.1	747	8.3	707	7.8	1,323	14.7	1,546	17.1	9,018
2021	3,683	49.3	694	9.3	565	7.6	1,119	15.0	1,409	18.9	7,470

Total reported turkey harvest was 695 during Ohio’s 2021 fall season, a 35% decrease from 2020 ($n=1,063$) and 30% below the 5-year average ($n=999$). 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 1996-2021.



Harvests reported on private and public land accounted for 93% and 7%, respectively, of the fall harvest total. Landowners reported taking 270 turkeys, or 39% of the total harvest. The total fall harvest included 41% male turkeys and 58% 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). Daily harvest was greatest on opening day and evenly distributed throughout the season (Figure 3).

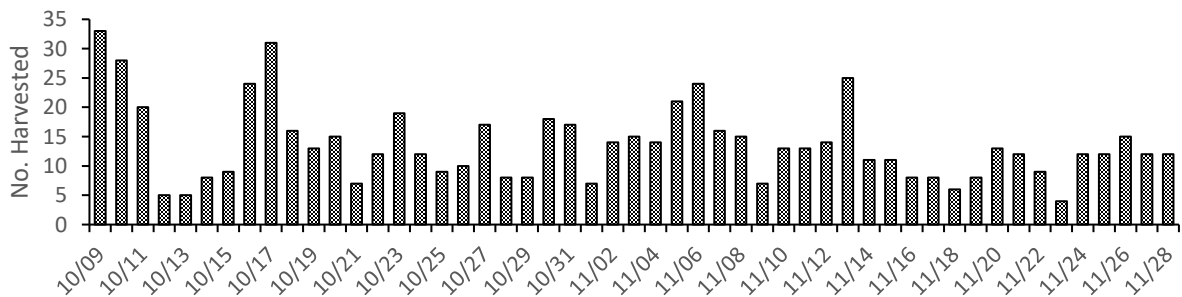
Table 2. Summary of fall harvest by turkey type during 2017-2021 in Ohio.

Year	Adult Male		Juvenile Male		Adult Female		Juvenile Female		Unknown		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
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
2020	408	38.4	70	6.7	467	43.9	106	10.0	12	1.1	1,063
2021	213	30.6	72	10.4	321	46.2	78	11.2	11	1.6	695

Table 3. Summary of fall turkey harvest by hunting implement during 2017-2021 in Ohio.

Year	Shotgun		Vertical bow		Crossbow		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
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
2020	555	52.2	137	12.9	371	34.9	1,063
2021	363	52.2	114	16.4	218	31.4	695

Figure 3. Daily turkey harvest during the 2021 fall season in Ohio.



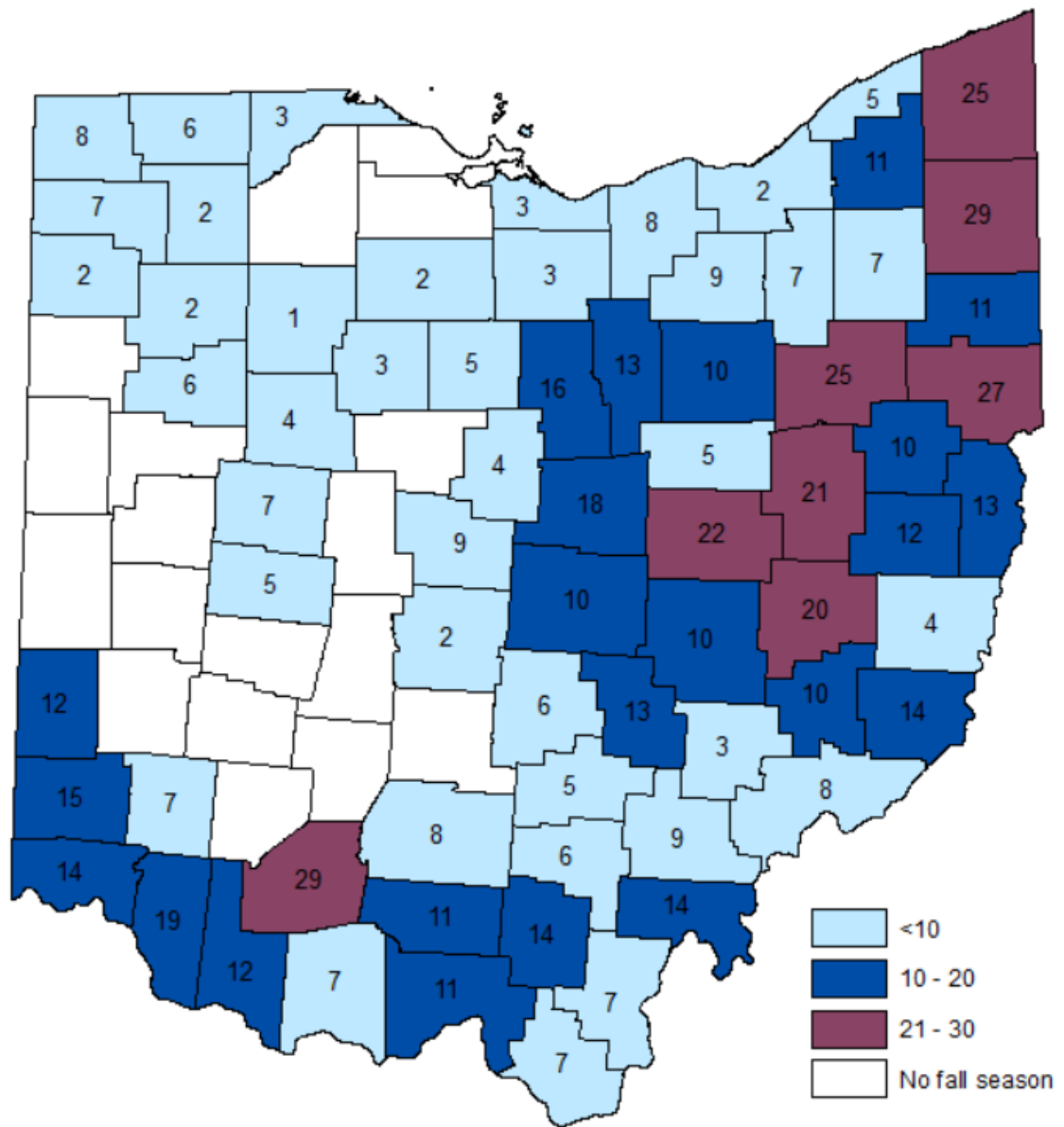
The permit success rate for resident, nonresident, youth, and reduced cost fall turkey permits holders ranged from 5-7%, while less than 1% of free permits resulted in a reported harvest (Table 4).

Table 4. Permit success rate (%) during fall wild turkey season 2017-2021 in Ohio.

Year	Resident	Nonresident	Youth	Reduced Cost	Free	Total
2017	8.0	5.1	4.7	6.6	1.1	5.7
2018	8.5	6.1	7.3	6.7	1.1	6.3
2019	8.6	6.6	7.7	7.7	0.6	6.7
2020	8.1	5.4	7.2	6.6	0.8	6.3
2021	7.4	5.5	5.5	6.9	0.4	5.7

The top Ohio counties for fall turkey harvest were Highland (29), Trumbull (29), Columbiana (27), Ashtabula (25), and Stark (25; Figure 4).

Figure 4. Map of total 2021 fall wild turkey harvest by Ohio county.



Appendix A. Wild turkey harvest by county during Ohio's 2021 fall season.

County	Female		Male		Unk.	Total	County	Female		Male		Unk.	Total
	Adult	Juv.	Adult	Juv.				Adult	Juv.	Adult	Juv.		
Adams	3	1	2	1	0	7	Knox	9	1	5	3	0	18
Allen	1	0	4	1	0	6	Lake	3	0	2	0	0	5
Ashland	6	0	3	4	0	13	Lawrence	3	2	2	0	0	7
Ashtabula	11	4	7	2	1	25	Licking	6	1	1	2	0	10
Athens	6	1	1	1	0	9	Logan	3	1	2	0	1	7
Belmont	0	0	3	1	0	4	Lorain	3	0	3	1	1	8
Brown	7	0	5	0	0	12	Lucas	1	0	2	0	0	3
Butler	9	0	4	2	0	15	Mahoning	5	1	4	1	0	11
Carroll	5	2	1	2	0	10	Medina	2	0	6	1	0	9
Champaign	2	0	2	1	0	5	Meigs	5	1	6	1	1	14
Clermont	10	1	8	0	0	19	Monroe	7	2	3	2	0	14
Columbiana	13	3	9	2	0	27	Morgan	2	0	1	0	0	3
Coshocton	11	5	5	1	0	22	Morrow	2	1	1	0	0	4
Crawford	0	0	4	1	0	5	Muskingum	5	3	1	1	0	10
Cuyahoga	0	1	1	0	0	2	Noble	5	2	2	1	0	10
Defiance	3	0	3	1	0	7	Paulding	0	1	1	0	0	2
Delaware	4	2	1	1	1	9	Perry	7	1	2	2	1	13
Erie	3	0	0	0	0	3	Pike	5	1	5	0	0	11
Fairfield	2	1	3	0	0	6	Portage	4	0	3	0	0	7
Franklin	1	0	0	1	0	2	Preble	4	2	4	2	0	12
Fulton	3	0	3	0	0	6	Putnam	1	0	1	0	0	2
Gallia	4	1	1	1	0	7	Richland	8	0	5	3	0	16
Geauga	6	0	2	3	0	11	Ross	4	1	3	0	0	8
Guernsey	10	3	5	2	0	20	Scioto	6	3	2	0	0	11
Hamilton	7	1	6	0	0	14	Seneca	1	0	1	0	0	2
Hancock	0	0	1	0	0	1	Stark	7	4	13	1	0	25
Hardin	3	0	1	0	0	4	Summit	1	2	4	0	0	7
Harrison	2	2	5	2	1	12	Trumbull	11	4	9	3	2	29
Henry	1	0	1	0	0	2	Tuscarawas	11	3	4	3	0	21
Highland	15	5	6	3	0	29	Vinton	3	0	2	1	0	6
Hocking	3	0	0	2	0	5	Warren	2	1	3	0	1	7
Holmes	1	2	1	1	0	5	Washington	6	0	2	0	0	8
Huron	2	0	1	0	0	3	Wayne	6	0	1	3	0	10
Jackson	8	3	2	1	0	14	Williams	3	1	3	0	1	8
Jefferson	6	1	3	3	0	13	Wyandot	2	0	0	1	0	3
							Grand Total	321	78	213	72	11	695