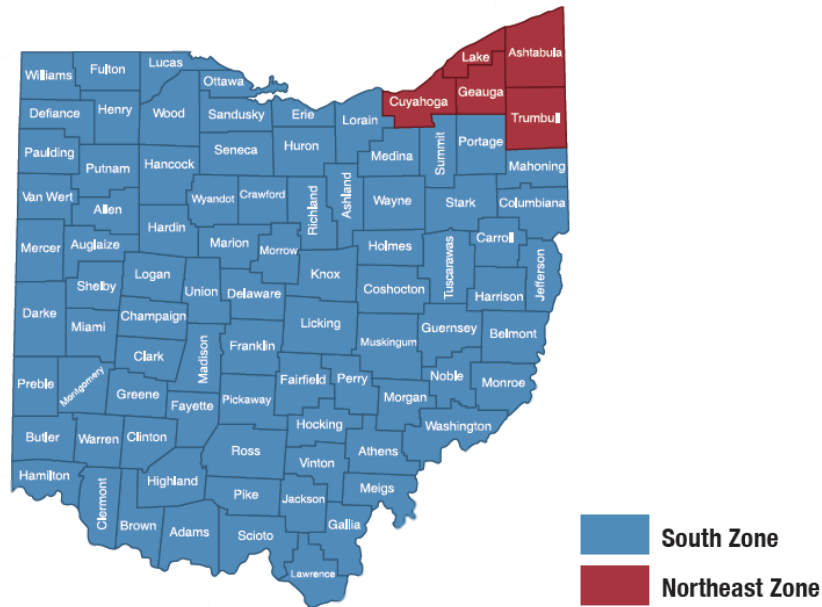




2021 SPRING WILD TURKEY SEASON RESULTS

Ohio’s 2021 spring wild turkey season included two regular season zones with offset dates (Figure 1). The south zone was open April 24 to May 23. The northeast zone was open May 1 to May 30. The two-day youth season was open statewide during April 17-18. 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 9 days of each zone and 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset during the last 21 days of the regular season.

Figure 1. Ohio’s spring wild turkey zone map for 2021.



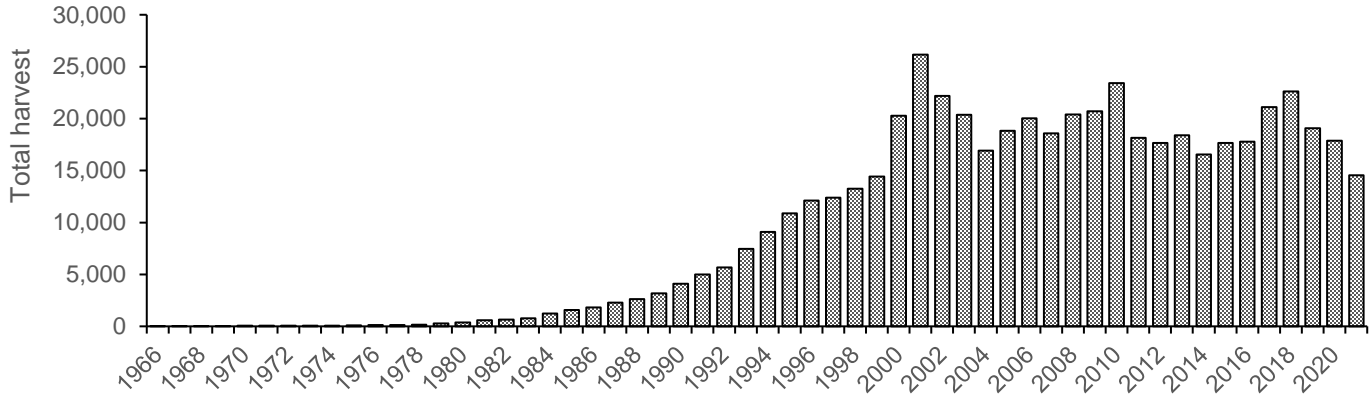
In total, 61,135 spring permits were issued in 2021, which is a 10% decrease from the 2020 spring season and 5% below the 5-year average (64,442). Of all 2021 spring permits, 64%, 8%, and 15% were resident, nonresident, and youth permits, respectively. Approximately 13% of all permits issued were reduced cost or free permits (Table 1).

Table 1. Total spring turkey permit sales in Ohio during 2017-2021.

Year	<u>Resident</u>		<u>Nonresident</u>		<u>Youth</u>		<u>Reduced Cost</u>		<u>Free</u>		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
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
2021	39,398	64.4	4,859	7.9	9,005	14.7	5,703	9.3	2,170	3.5	61,135

Total turkey harvest during Ohio’s combined spring hunting seasons was 14,546 in 2021, a decrease of 19% from 2020. 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 1966-2021.



In 2021, a total of 12,722 hunters reported a turkey harvest. Of those, 1,824 (14%) reported harvesting more than one turkey. Most turkey harvest occurred on private land (91%), while 9% of turkey harvest occurred public land. Landowner tags were used to take 3,210 turkeys, or 22% of the total spring harvest.

In 2021, the percentage of adult males in the total harvest was slightly above the 5-year average (82%) while the percentage of juvenile males was slightly below the 5-year average (17%). 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 were similar to 2020 (Table 3). The percentages of harvested male turkeys within specified spur length categories were similar to 2020 (Table 4).

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

Year	<u>Adult male</u>		<u>Juvenile male</u>		<u>Bearded female</u>		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
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
2021	11,976	82.3	2,397	16.5	173	1.2	14,546

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

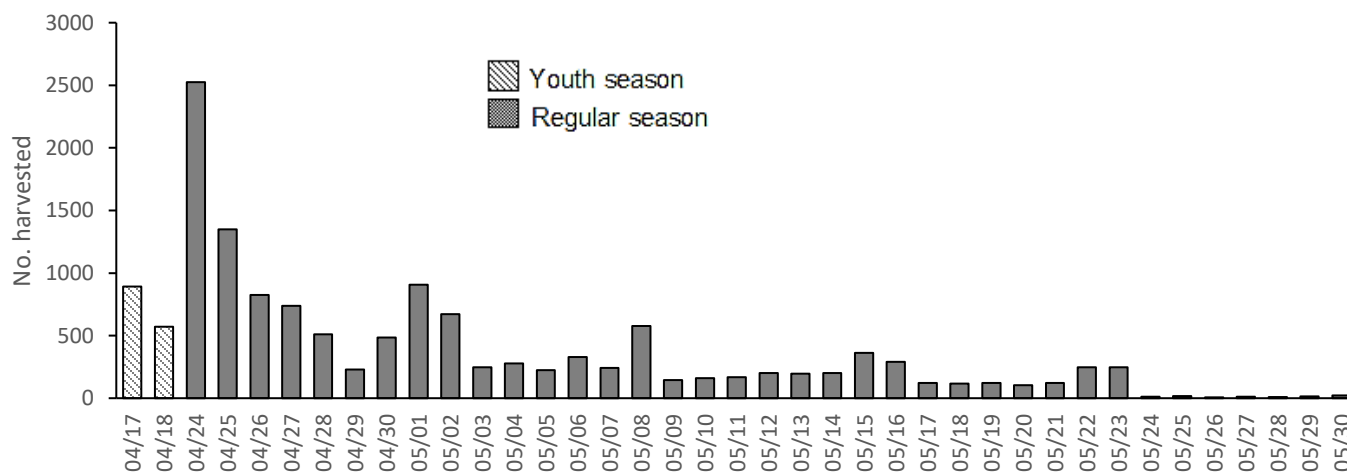
Year	<u>Shotgun</u>		<u>Vertical bow</u>		<u>Crossbow</u>		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2017	20,617	97.7	311	1.5	169	0.8	21,097
2018	22,092	97.7	359	1.6	161	0.7	22,612
2019	18,660	97.8	262	1.4	166	0.9	19,088
2020	17,505	97.8	235	1.3	154	0.9	17,894
2021	14,264	98.1	172	1.2	110	0.8	14,546

Table 4. Summary of reported spur length for male turkeys harvested in Ohio during 2017-2021.

Year	<u>1/2 inch or less</u>		<u>>1/2 inch but <1 inch</u>		<u>1 inch or greater</u>		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
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
2021	2,720	18.9	3,229	22.5	8,424	58.6	14,373

Hunters checked 1,463 turkeys during the two-day youth season in 2021, a 12% decrease from 2020 (1,865). The youth season accounted for 10% of the total spring harvest in 2021. Turkeys taken opening day of the regular season in the south zone (April 24) accounted for 17% of the total spring harvest. Approximately 46% of the total spring harvest occurred during the first week of the regular season in the south zone (April 24-30). Spikes in harvest were apparent on weekends throughout the season (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Total turkey harvest by day during the 2021 spring season in Ohio.



Approximately 19%, 21% and 21% of resident, nonresident and youth spring turkey permits, respectively, resulted in a reported harvest during 2021. Reduced cost permit holders were slightly less successful (16%) while only 4% of free permits resulted in a reported harvest. The percentage of reported harvest for each permit type except nonresident permits decreased from 2020 to 2021. 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 2017-2021 in Ohio.

Year	Resident	Nonresident	Youth	Reduced cost	Free
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
2021	18.9	20.7	20.9	16.1	3.6

Counties in eastern Ohio reported the highest turkey harvest in the state in 2021. The top counties were Columbiana (454), Belmont (444), Meigs (437), and Tuscarawas (417; Figure 3).

Appendix A. Spring wild turkey harvest totals for Ohio counties in 2021.

County	Adult Male	Juvenile Male	Bearded Female	TOTAL	County	Adult Male	Juvenile Male	Bearded Female	TOTAL
Adams	322	35	1	358	Licking	213	61	3	277
Allen	55	10	0	65	Logan	49	35	4	88
Ashland	108	37	4	149	Lorain	83	21	3	107
Ashtabula	275	119	7	401	Lucas	41	9	0	50
Athens	293	30	1	324	Madison	4	1	0	5
Auglaize	21	7	1	29	Mahoning	147	34	0	181
Belmont	396	46	2	444	Marion	20	9	1	30
Brown	290	53	2	345	Medina	75	20	2	97
Butler	152	18	3	173	Meigs	390	45	2	437
Carroll	233	52	1	286	Mercer	10	0	0	10
Champaign	41	13	2	56	Miami	14	4	0	18
Clark	11	1	0	12	Monroe	369	37	2	408
Clermont	205	44	0	249	Montgomery	22	1	0	23
Clinton	41	8	2	51	Morgan	227	40	0	267
Columbiana	404	44	6	454	Morrow	75	32	0	107
Coshocton	262	65	4	331	Muskingum	306	64	3	373
Crawford	41	6	0	47	Noble	297	44	6	347
Cuyahoga	8	2	0	10	Ottawa	1	0	0	1
Darke	40	8	0	48	Paulding	52	17	1	70
Defiance	124	32	4	160	Perry	211	37	1	249
Delaware	65	20	0	85	Pickaway	10	2	1	13
Erie	35	12	0	47	Pike	173	10	2	185
Fairfield	68	14	0	82	Portage	126	56	3	185
Fayette	6	1	0	7	Preble	64	17	1	82
Franklin	14	3	0	17	Putnam	26	12	2	40
Fulton	81	21	2	104	Richland	160	46	3	209
Gallia	310	47	2	359	Ross	228	34	0	262
Geauga	121	39	3	163	Sandusky	12	11	0	23
Greene	16	1	0	17	Scioto	210	18	0	228
Guernsey	308	64	6	378	Seneca	91	24	8	123
Hamilton	75	8	0	83	Shelby	24	18	0	42
Hancock	21	7	0	28	Stark	186	51	3	240
Hardin	59	24	1	84	Summit	52	10	2	64
Harrison	307	40	4	351	Trumbull	211	84	12	307
Henry	28	19	1	48	Tuscarawas	331	80	6	417
Highland	255	57	5	317	Union	26	8	0	34
Hocking	187	30	0	217	Van Wert	6	4	0	10
Holmes	117	45	5	167	Vinton	213	20	0	233
Huron	62	23	3	88	Warren	48	18	1	67
Jackson	262	28	3	293	Washington	366	27	5	398
Jefferson	374	28	6	408	Wayne	73	28	1	102
Knox	217	49	5	271	Williams	139	44	0	183
Lake	45	12	3	60	Wood	18	6	0	24
Lawrence	163	17	2	182	Wyandot	56	19	2	77
					State Total	11,976	2,397	173	14,546

Appendix B. Ohio's spring wild turkey season dates, permits sold, and total harvest, 1966-2021.

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	\$31.20 ^e	68,148	17,894
	05/04 – 05/31	5				
2021 ^d	04/24 – 05/23	83	2	\$31.20 ^e	61,135	14,546
	05/01 – 05/30	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