

2021 Spring Turkey Hunting Guide

Spring Turkey Drawing

Spring turkey harvest authorizations are issued through a preference-based drawing system. Applicants are strongly encouraged to read and follow all instructions for the spring turkey application. Harvest authorizations are issued by evaluating every combination of zones and time periods the applicant would accept. Applicants can choose 2 time period and zone combinations, along with one zone in which they will accept any time period if the first two choices are unavailable. A harvest authorization can only be issued if that time period and zone is listed on the application. For the greatest chance of receiving a harvest authorization through the preference drawing, applicants should diversify their options by listing all time periods and zones they would be willing to accept.

All options of all applicants are evaluated to issue one harvest authorization to as many applicants as possible. A maximum of one turkey harvest authorization per applicant can be awarded. Remaining harvest authorizations will be sold over-the-counter after the drawing is complete. Under no circumstances can a harvest authorization be exchanged for a different time period or zone. Please refer to the [Turkey Hunting Frequently Asked Questions](#) to learn more about the turkey drawing and preference point systems.

Bonus Harvest Authorizations

After the preference drawing is complete, all remaining turkey harvest authorizations, now called bonus harvest authorizations, will be sold over-the-counter. Bonus harvest authorizations will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Each zone will have a designated sales date. The first zone will go on sale March 15. Hunters may buy leftover harvest authorizations on a one-per-day basis until they are sold out, or the season is over. For more information, go to dnr.wi.gov, search key word "turkey."



2021 Season Dates

Youth Hunt – April 17 - 18

A — April 21 - 27

B — April 28 - May 4

C — May 5- 11

D — May 12- 18

E — May 19- 25

F — May 26- June 1

Hunting Regulations

The 2021 Spring Turkey season information can be found in the [Combined Hunting Regulations](#).

Spring Turkey Applications

Deadline: December 10, 2020

Applications are \$3 and available at gowild.wi.gov or any [license agent](#).

Hunting in State Parks

Spring turkey [hunting in state parks](#) is allowed during the 2-day Youth Turkey Hunt and the first two time periods of the regular season.

Hunting at Fort McCoy

Fort McCoy conducts its own spring turkey hunt, independent of the state season. Call 608-388-3337 for a hunting application.

DNR Call Center

1-888-WDNRINfo

1-888-936-7463



101 S Webster St.
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

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This publication is available in alternate format (large print, Braille, audio tape, etc.) upon request. Call 608-266-8204 for more information.

GP8/08

2020 Spring Turkey Harvest

Zone	2020 Spring Turkey Harvest Authorizations (previously known as permits/tags)						2021 Harvest Authorizations
	Amount Available	Issued in Drawing	Sold Over-the-Counter	Total Issued*	Birds Harvested*	Hunter Success**	Authorization Levels***
1	74,646	33,897	30,206	64,103	11,691	18.2%	74,646
2	51,036	33,552	17,484	51,036	10,943	21.4%	51,036
3	63,018	27,595	25,608	53,203	11,270	21.2%	63,018
4	34,968	19,535	14,795	34,330	6,986	20.3%	34,968
5	12,000	8,175	3,826	12,001	2,183	18.2%	12,000
6	5,400	5,232	170	5,402	1,132	21.0%	5,400
7	3,900	3,575	326	3,901	633	16.2%	3,900
Ft. McCoy	476	476	0	476	144	30.3%	
Total	245,444	138,544	74,237	212,781	38,885	18.3%	245,444

*Total harvest authorizations issued and bird harvest numbers include turkeys harvested during the two-day Youth Hunt and Learn-to-Hunt events.

**Hunter success rates are not corrected for non-participation.

*** finalized levels for harvest authorizations subject to change following the turkey advisory committee meeting

The number of available harvest authorizations is set to allow maximum recreational opportunities while limiting the impact on the turkey population and minimizing hunter interference. Harvest authorizations levels reflect the amount of turkey habitat, turkey population densities and distribution in each zone. The number of authorizations available for the spring hunting season will be higher than the fall season.

2021 Spring Turkey Hunting Opportunities

Youth Hunt—April 17-18

Wisconsin's annual [Spring Turkey Youth Hunt](#) is designed to give young hunters the opportunity to hunt and gain valuable experience without competing against adults. The youth hunt is open to resident and non-resident hunters under age 16 who possess a valid spring turkey license, stamp, and harvest authorization. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older. All youth hunters must have successfully completed Hunter Education unless they are participating under the [Mentored Hunting Program](#). Youth hunters can use a harvest authorization for any time period, but they are limited to the turkey management zone for which their authorization was issued. All other spring turkey hunting regulations apply. For more information, visit dnr.wi.gov and search for "[spring turkey youth hunt](#)" or call the DNR Call Center.

Mentored Hunting Program

The [Mentored Hunting Program](#) allows hunters, born on or after January 1, 1973, to obtain a hunting license and harvest authorization without first completing Hunter Education. The hunter must be accompanied by a licensed hunter, hunt within arm's reach of their mentor and comply with all of the requirements under the Mentored Hunting Program. This one-on-one mentoring opportunity gives first-time hunters a chance to try hunting and enables veteran hunters to pass on their passion for the outdoors and help keep Wisconsin's hunting heritage strong. For additional information, visit dnr.wi.gov and search for "[mentored hunting](#)," or call the DNR Call Center.

Learn to Hunt

The [Learn to Hunt Program](#) is an educational opportunity outside of the normal hunting season, designed to help inexperienced hunters of all ages have a high-quality, safe, and rewarding first-time hunting experience under the guidance of qualified Hunter Education instructors and hunting mentors. Participants will receive both classroom and field instruction prior to hunting. All participants will be paired with a qualified mentor to provide the highest level of instruction and safety. Many Learn to Hunt events are sponsored by local conservation clubs and organizations under the supervision of the DNR. For more information, visit dnr.wi.gov and search for "[learn to hunt](#)," or call the DNR Call Center.

Disabled Hunting Opportunities

Wisconsin provides a variety of hunting, fishing, and recreational use permits designed to help people with disabilities enjoy the state's natural resources. Turkey hunters with a Class A, B, or C disabled hunting permit may apply for the [Wild Turkey Hunt for People with Disabilities](#) using Forms 2300-271 and 2300-271A. Applications are only valid on designated private land. Applications must be fully completed and submitted by **December 10th**. Any hunter that applies for a disabled hunt on private land may not apply for a harvest authorization through the regular spring turkey drawing. For more information, visit dnr.wi.gov and search for "[disabled turkey hunting](#)," or call the DNR Call Center.