The primary bobwhite quail range includes most of Southeast Nebraska and west along the southern border with Kansas. Quail can also be found across other areas of the state where suitable habitat exists. This trip planner features Southeast Nebraska, where hunters can find good quail numbers and abundant access.

Public Lands Hunting Opportunities

Nebraska offers excellent quail hunting opportunities on both public and private lands. Within the Southeast, most public hunting opportunities will be found on wildlife management areas (WMAs) and private lands enrolled in the Open Fields and Waters (OFW) program. Currently, the OFW program provides public hunting access opportunities on 347,000 acres of private lands throughout the state, the majority of which occurring within the state’s quail range. All state, federal, and private lands open to public hunting access are displayed in the Nebraska Public Access Atlas. The Atlas is available at Nebraska Game and Parks offices, from vendors throughout the state, and online at OutdoorNebraska.org/PublicAccessAtlas.

Quail Season Dates

Regular Season: October 30, 2021 – January 31, 2022
Youth Season: October 23 – 24, 2021

Permits/Stamps Required

• Nonresident Annual Hunt Permit - $109 or Two Day Hunt Permit - $76
• Resident Annual Hunt Permit - $18

Above prices do not include the Nebraska Habitat Stamp, which is required - $25

How to Buy a Permit

• OutdoorNebraska.org

Where to Find Quail

Bobwhite quail are considered an “edge species,” meaning they often occur where two or more different habitat types come together. Edges obviously occur where grasslands meet other cover types such as cropland or woodlands. Weedy areas within grasslands can also create the edge habitat preferred by bobwhites. Another key habitat element used extensively by bobwhites is native shrub thickets.
Other Activities to Enjoy During Your Stay

• Quail hunters can add a mixed-bag opportunity to their small game hunt. Pheasant season dates are anticipated to be the same as quail again during the 2021/2022 season. Your Nebraska small game hunting permit and habitat stamp give you a complete mixed-bag opportunity that not only includes pheasant and quail, but waterfowl and prairie grouse, too. Waterfowl hunters will need additional federal and state duck stamps and HIP number. Prairie grouse hunters east of U.S. Highway 81 need an East Zone permit; call 402-471-5410.

• Nebraska is the best turkey hunting destination in the country. Plan to add a fall turkey hunt to your trip. Fall turkey season coincides with quail season dates and permits are sold over-the-counter. Hunters may purchase up to two fall turkey permits and youth permits are only $8 for residents and nonresidents.

• Hunt deer in Nebraska with over-the-counter permits, the opportunity to hunt the rut and $8 youth permits for residents and nonresidents. Contact us at 1-800-632-5263 for more information on obtaining a deer permit for the portion of the state you plan to hunt.

• Don’t leave home without your fishing pole! Nebraska provides anglers great fall fishing opportunities for a variety of species. Purchase an affordable one day- ($13) or three day- ($37) nonresident fishing license and enjoy a fun side trip from your hunt.