2022 Spring Turkey Hunting Regulations

Season Dates
- Youth Archery: March 25 - May 31, 2022
- Archery: March 25 - May 31, 2022
- Youth Shotgun: April 9 - May 31, 2022
- Shotgun: April 16 - May 31, 2022

Hunting Area – Seasons are valid statewide, except on federal and state sanctuaries or refuges, unless otherwise authorized.

Legal Hunting Methods –
- Shotgun Season – Hunters must use a shotgun with shells that contain shot size 2 or smaller.
- Archery Season – Hunters must use archery equipment (long bow, recurve bow, compound bow, crossbow or hand-thrown spear) with arrows or spears that have a sharpened hunting head with a blade of at least 7/16-inch radius, or a blunt (bludgeon) head with a diameter of at least 9/16-inch.

Spring Turkey Permit – A spring turkey permit allows the take of turkeys with archery equipment during the archery season and with a shotgun during the shotgun season. A person may have up to three spring turkey permits. No qualifying person may have more than one landowner permit in the spring. Permits must be signed by the permit holder and may not be transferred, loaned, copied or duplicated.

Bag Limit – One male or bearded female turkey per permit.

Unlawful Acts –
- Hunting on private land without permission.
- Hunting turkeys within 100 yards of an occupied dwelling or feedlot without specific permission for that purpose.
- Shooting from the right-of-way of a public road.
- Having a loaded shotgun (magazine included) in a vehicle while on a public road.
- Using slugs in shotguns.

Tagging – Immediately after a turkey is taken, the hunter must punch or notch the permit tag showing the date the bird was taken. This automatically cancels the permit tag. This permit must be kept with the permit holder and/or turkey at all times. When the turkey is not with the permit holder, the entire permit must be attached to the turkey. The mobile turkey permit allows a hunter to cancel the permit once a turkey is harvested. If a hunter has a mobile permit, a turkey may be left unaccompanied by the hunter only if a document bearing the hunter’s name, permit number and time and date of permit cancellation is kept with the carcass.

Transportation – It is unlawful to possess any turkey unless the legs, thighs, and breast remain together until the bird is consumed or the bird arrives at the permanent abode of the possessor. The breast meat may be removed from the bone but must remain as two entire halves. Birds taken in the spring must have proof of sex consisting of: 1) the legs with spurs naturally attached; 2) the beard naturally attached to the breast; or 3) the detached beard with at least ¼-inch of skin remaining at the attachment site and kept together with the leg, thighs and breast.

Possession – Only the successful permit holder may possess all or part of a turkey. Anyone may receive as a gift any part of the turkey if a statement of such gift is available to inspect. The statement must include: hunter’s name, telephone number, permit number, species and quantity of each, signature of donor, name of recipient and date of transfer.

New for 2022

Baiting – The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission amended a baiting regulation in June 2021 to make it illegal to hunt any big game animals or turkeys within 200 yards of a baited area. An area is be considered baited for 10 days following the complete removal of all bait. A baited area is any location where grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, hay, minerals (including salt), or any other natural food materials, commercial products containing food materials, or by-products of such materials that may attract big game or turkey. The use of scents alone, normal environmental conditions, standard farming and ranching practices, forest management, wildlife food plantings, orchard management, or similar land management activities do not constitute a baited area.

Carrying a handgun – Big game and turkey hunters may carry a handgun, with a barrel of no longer than 5 inches, while pursuing game with bow and arrow or muzzleloader. Any take or attempted take of wildlife with the aid of the handgun, other than for the immediate protection of human life, is prohibited.
Determining Turkey Age

**Adult**

**Tail:** Adult feathers are of equal length.

**Wing:** In adults, the ninth and 10th primaries are rounded and barred.

**Juvenile**

**Tail:** Juvenile turkeys have two middle feathers that are longer than the others.

**Wing:** In juveniles, the ninth and 10th primaries are pointed and indistinctly barred at the tip.

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**Hunter Survey**

Following each season, hunters who provided email addresses when they purchased their permits may receive an email survey that is used to determine hunter success and total harvest. Those receiving surveys are asked to reply promptly. It is important when buying permits online that hunters use an updated email address. View survey results at [OutdoorNebraska.org](http://OutdoorNebraska.org).

**Nebraska Wildlife Crimestoppers**

If you see a game violation, report it to Nebraska Wildlife Crimestoppers toll-free at 800-742-7627. Your free call will be kept confidential and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

Purchase permits at [OutdoorNebraska.org](http://OutdoorNebraska.org)