



TURKEY SEASON RESULTS, SPRING 2011

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In 2011, 18,162 gobblers were harvested during the Ohio spring wild turkey season, a decline of 22% compared to 2010 (Table 1). The total was composed of 1,471 turkeys harvested during the 2-day youth spring wild turkey season on April 16 and 17, and 16,691 turkeys harvested during the 4-week spring wild turkey season open from April 18 through May 15. Wild turkey abundance was expected to be lower in 2011 than in the previous year as the 2009 statewide reproductive index was the lowest on record.

Ashtabula County, with a reported harvest of 700 gobblers, ranked first in the state in the 2011 spring turkey season (Fig. 1). Rounding out the top 5 counties, which collectively accounted for 15% of the 2011 harvest, were Tuscarawas ($n = 571$), Adams ($n = 502$), Guernsey ($n = 498$) and Knox ($n = 498$). Compared to the 2010 spring turkey season, the 2011 harvest increased in 8 counties, decreased in 79 counties, and remained the same in 1 county (Table 1). Most hunters reported harvesting a turkey on private land (89%); only 11% reported harvesting a gobbler on public land. Landowners reported a harvest of 3,699 gobblers representing 20% of the statewide total harvest.

The distribution of the spring turkey harvest was slightly atypical of recent years – 8.1% of the harvest occurred in the 2-day youth season while 42.0%, 19.6%, 15.8%, and 14.6% of the harvest occurred during the first, second, third, and fourth weeks of the spring turkey season, respectively. A higher percentage of the harvest may have occurred during the final 2 weeks of the season due to record rainfall totals received during April. However, a slightly lower percentage of turkeys (20%) were harvested during the afternoon hours in the final 2 weeks of the season than in 2010 (25%), the first season in which hunting hours were extended from 12:00 p.m. until sunset.

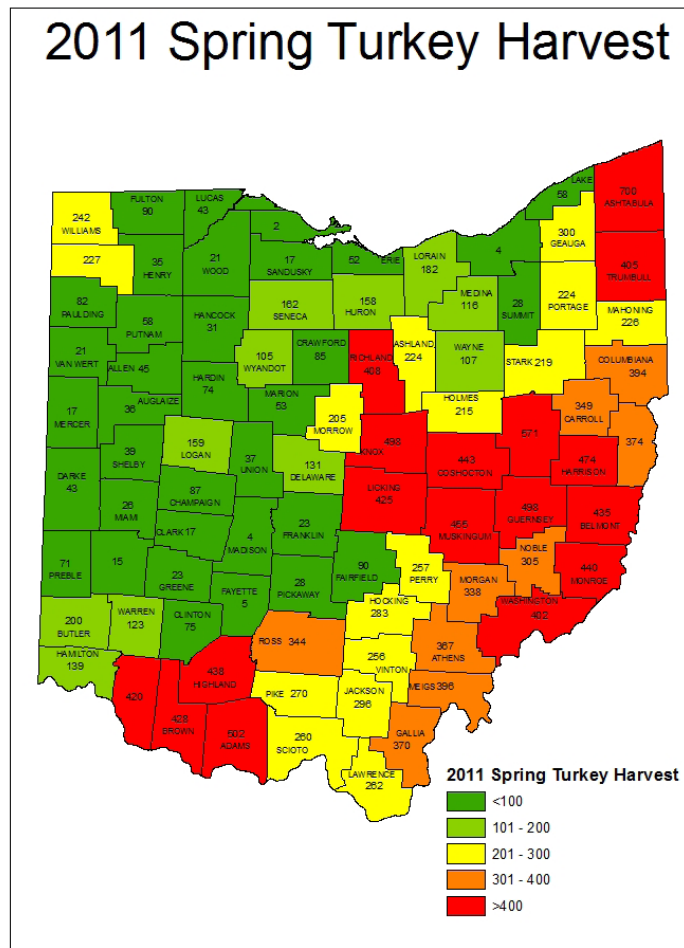


Figure 1. 2011 Spring Turkey Harvest by County

Licensed hunters purchased 48,870 spring turkey permits, 10,594 youth spring turkey permits, 3,620 senior reduced-cost spring turkey permits, and 11,873 senior free spring turkey permits for the 2011 season. The 74,957 spring turkey permits sold in 2011 declined 4.4% below spring turkey permit sales for 2010 (Table 2). Success rate by permit type in the 2011 spring season was 22.9% for spring turkey permits, 20.3% for youth spring turkey permits, 17.2% for senior reduced cost spring turkey permits, and 3.8% for senior free spring turkey permits. These success rates may be conservative (especially for the senior free spring turkey permits) because participation rates may be <100%.

Table 1. Spring turkey harvest 2010, 2011, and the percent change in the harvest in 88 Ohio counties,

County	2010	2011	% Change
Adams	745	502	-33
Allen	36	45	25
Ashland	276	224	-19
Ashtabula	1030	700	-32
Athens	435	367	-16
Auglaize	43	36	-16
Belmont	563	435	-23
Brown	615	428	-30
Butler	216	200	-7
Carroll	377	349	-7
Champaign	128	87	-32
Clark	23	17	-26
Clermont	590	420	-29
Clinton	79	75	-5
Columbiana	458	394	-14
Coshocton	522	443	-15
Crawford	102	85	-17
Cuyahoga	6	4	-33
Darke	46	43	-7
Defiance	325	227	-30
Delaware	160	131	-18
Erie	57	52	-9
Fairfield	123	90	-27
Fayette	4	5	25
Franklin	16	23	44
Fulton	112	90	-20
Gallia	640	370	-42
Geauga	423	300	-29
Greene	21	23	10
Guernsey	635	498	-22
Hamilton	139	139	0
Hancock	34	31	-9
Hardin	87	74	-15
Harrison	581	474	-18
Henry	55	35	-36
Highland	540	438	-19
Hocking	375	283	-25
Holmes	283	215	-24
Huron	219	158	-28
Jackson	391	296	-24
Jefferson	447	374	-16
Knox	528	498	-6
Lake	96	58	-40
Lawrence	446	262	-41

County	2010	2011	% Change
Licking	429	425	-1
Logan	240	159	-34
Lorain	221	182	-18
Lucas	55	43	-22
Madison	8	4	-50
Mahoning	268	226	-16
Marion	57	53	-7
Medina	157	116	-26
Meigs	501	396	-21
Mercer	24	17	-29
Miami	16	26	63
Monroe	558	440	-21
Montgomery	18	15	-17
Morgan	364	338	-7
Morrow	271	205	-24
Muskingum	623	455	-27
Noble	424	305	-28
Ottawa	12	2	-83
Paulding	120	82	-32
Perry	324	257	-21
Pickaway	52	28	-46
Pike	403	270	-33
Portage	285	224	-21
Preble	92	71	-23
Putnam	66	58	-12
Richland	426	408	-4
Ross	554	344	-38
Sandusky	21	17	-19
Scioto	422	260	-38
Seneca	184	162	-12
Shelby	54	39	-28
Stark	246	219	-11
Summit	44	28	-36
Trumbull	584	405	-31
Tuscarawas	664	571	-14
Union	33	37	12
Van Wert	20	21	5
Vinton	356	256	-28
Warren	111	123	11
Washington	472	402	-15
Wayne	110	107	-3
Williams	353	242	-31
Wood	29	21	-28
Wyandot	123	105	-15
Total	23,421	18,162	-22

Table 2. Ohio's spring turkey season dates, permits sold, and harvest, 1966-2011.

Year	Season Dates	Open Counties	Bag Limit	Permit Fee	Permits Sold ^a	Total Harvest ^b
1966	5/4-5/7	9	1	Free	500	12
1967	5/3-5/6	9	1	Free	898	18
1968	5/8-5/11	9	1	Free	914	20
1969	5/7-5/10	9	1	Free	945	37
1970	4/29-5/2 5/6-5/9	14	1	Free	909 896	30 36
1971	4/28-5/1 5/5-5/8	14	1	Free	1,000 1,000	37 17
1972	5/3-5/6 5/10-5/13	14	1	\$5.35	917 881	32 25
1973	5/2-5/5 5/9-5/12	14	1	\$5.35	1,034 1,034	39 32
1974	5/1-5/4 5/8-5/11	14	1	\$10.50	999 184	61 10
1975	4/28-5/3 5/5-5/10	14	1	\$10.50	996 267	75 19
1976	4/26-5/8	14	1	\$10.50	1,471	139
1977	5/2-5/14	14	1	\$10.50	1,751	137
1978	5/1-5/13	18	1	\$10.50	2,000	147
1979	4/30-5/12	18	1	\$10.50	2,000	265
1980	4/21-5/3	20	1	\$10.75	2,097	387
1981	4/27-5/9	20	1	\$10.75	3,458	577
1982	4/26-5/8	20	1	\$10.75	4,262	651
1983	4/25-5/7	21	1	\$10.75	5,141	764
1984	4/23-5/12	31	1	\$10.75	6,935	1,233
1985	4/22-5/11	31	1	\$10.75	10,084	1,583
1986	4/28-5/17	31	1	\$10.75	11,913	1,816
1987	4/27-5/16	32	1	\$10.75	13,396	2,268
1988	4/25-5/14	32	1	\$11.00	16,208	2,629
1989	4/24-5/13	36	1	\$11.00	18,887	3,171
1990	4/23-5/12	37	1	\$16.00	19,613	4,096
1991	4/22-5/11	38	1	\$16.00	22,898	5,009
1992	4/27-5/16	38	1	\$16.00	28,974	5,678
1993	4/26-5/15	42	1 2	\$16.00 \$32.00	29,538 4,106	7,470
1994	4/25-5/14	44	1 2	\$16.00 \$32.00	29,334 5,187	9,098
1995	4/24-5/13	44	1 2	\$20.00 \$40.00	30,837 6,136	10,892
1996	4/22-5/11	46	1 2	\$20.00 \$40.00	31,003 7,700	12,098
1997	4/28-5/17	47	1 2	\$20.00 \$40.00	30,511 8,130	12,393
1998	4/27-5/16	50	1 2	\$20.00 \$40.00	31,037 8,133	13,251
1999	4/26-5/16	57	1 2	\$20.00 \$40.00	42,363 7,846	14,419

Table 2. Continued.

2000	4/24-5/14	88	1 2	\$20.00 \$40.00	49,982 9,720	20,276
2001	4/23-5/13	88	1 2	\$20.00 \$40.00	54,841 11,092	26,156
2002	4/22-5/19	88	1 2	\$20.00 \$40.00	48,821 24,633	22,190
2003 ^c	4/28-5/25	88	2	\$20.00	94,989	20,368
2004	4/26-5/23	88	2	\$24.00	74,119	16,927
2005	4/18-5/15	88	2	\$24.00	85,053	18,833
2006	4/24-5/21	88	2	\$24.00	85,248	20,023
2007	4/23-5/20	88	2	\$24.00	75,408	18,584
2008	4/21-5/18	88	2	\$24.00	79,962	20,389
2009	4/20-5/17	88	2	\$24.00	80,644	20,710
2010	4/19-5/16	88	2	\$24.00	78,388	23,421
2011	4/18-5/15	88	2	\$24.00	76,956	18,162

^aIncludes youth and senior spring turkey permits (Ohio residents 66 years of age and older).

^bTotal recorded harvest by all hunter types (paid, youth, senior, and exempt).

^cThe special bonus wild turkey permit was eliminated in 2003 and hunters no longer could be classified as 1-bird or 2-bird permit holders.