



TURKEY SEASON RESULTS, SPRING 2009

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In 2009, 20,710 gobblers were harvested during the Ohio spring wild turkey seasons, an increase of 2% compared to 2008 (Table 1). The total was comprised of 1,869 turkeys harvested during the 2-day youth spring wild turkey season open on April 18 and 19, and 18,841 turkeys harvested during the 4-week spring wild turkey season open from April 20 through May 17.

The 2009 spring season was the 44th since modern spring turkey hunting was initiated in 1966 (Table 2). Wild turkey abundance was expected to be similar to the previous year as the statewide reproductive index has remained fairly constant over the past 3 breeding seasons.

Table 1. Spring turkey harvest in 88 Ohio counties, 2008, 2009, and 44-year total.

County	2008	2009	1966-2009	County	2008	2009	1966-2009
Adams	455	508	8,453	Licking	366	387	5,162
Allen	33	34	120	Logan	165	200	1,760
Ashland	343	323	4,786	Lorain	172	196	1,205
Ashtabula	1020	990	13,520	Lucas	50	55	195
Athens	398	372	8,871	Madison	7	8	44
Auglaize	46	45	242	Mahoning	248	236	1,693
Belmont	550	512	8,227	Marion	32	45	194
Brown	479	503	6,290	Medina	151	153	1,128
Butler	147	147	715	Meigs	447	434	9,636
Carroll	436	444	6,530	Mercer	11	21	88
Champaign	88	81	870	Miami	18	24	119
Clark	14	27	180	Monroe	535	451	9,203
Clermont	494	544	5,491	Montgomery	25	15	96
Clinton	66	64	422	Morgan	338	339	6,771
Columbiana	504	440	6,209	Morrow	262	267	2,590
Coshocton	539	513	10,305	Muskingum	559	577	10,890
Crawford	75	86	616	Noble	391	366	6,480
Cuyahoga	1	2	10	Ottawa	9	6	39
Darke	44	55	203	Paulding	78	100	484
Defiance	283	285	1,816	Perry	269	225	7,387
Delaware	97	101	526	Pickaway	22	22	142
Erie	37	59	242	Pike	254	274	5,394
Fairfield	111	90	1,824	Portage	288	329	2,183
Fayette	7	10	45	Preble	50	54	532
Franklin	9	12	50	Putnam	56	59	253
Fulton	71	87	410	Richland	454	452	6,219
Gallia	411	438	9,992	Ross	398	406	6,979
Geauga	463	468	4,488	Sandusky	10	20	90
Greene	22	23	200	Scioto	331	269	4,446
Guernsey	590	548	10,326	Seneca	123	167	1,132
Hamilton	102	151	896	Shelby	41	36	346
Hancock	18	22	127	Stark	274	247	1,837
Hardin	66	93	486	Summit	30	39	223
Harrison	493	562	8,824	Trumbull	555	524	6,933
Henry	37	42	247	Tuscarawas	614	596	8,541
Highland	359	513	3,450	Union	28	23	120
Hocking	291	277	11,051	Van Wert	23	34	98
Holmes	253	271	5,892	Vinton	358	345	12,176
Huron	176	183	1,789	Warren	74	111	845
Jackson	420	375	8,840	Washington	490	442	7,549
Jefferson	442	422	7,970	Wayne	101	117	1,618
Knox	472	497	7,864	Williams	262	332	1,976
Lake	120	108	1,035	Wood	22	19	84
Lawrence	239	258	4,204	Wyandot	77	103	590
Total	20,389	20,710	314,792				

Ashtabula County, with a reported spring harvest of 990 gobblers, topped the list of counties. Rounding out the top 5 counties, which collectively accounted for nearly 16% of the 2009 harvest, were Tuscarawas ($n = 596$), Muskingum ($n = 577$), Harrison ($n = 562$), and Guernsey ($n = 548$). Compared to the 2008 spring turkey season, the 2009 harvest increased in 54 counties, decreased in 32 counties, and remained the same in 2 counties (Table 1).

Due to poor weather conditions and low gobbling activity, a lower percentage of the harvest occurred during the first week (44%) of the 2009 spring turkey season than in previous years. The second and third weeks accounted for 19% and 15% of the harvest, respectively. Surprisingly, the final week comprised 22% of the total harvest. Most hunters reported harvesting a turkey on private land (70.5%) or their own property (20.9%); only 8.7% reported harvesting a gobbler on public land. Landowners reported a harvest of 4,288 gobblers, 21% of the statewide total harvest.

Licensed hunters purchased 51,555 spring turkey permits, 10,943 youth spring turkey permits, 2,980 senior reduced-cost spring turkey permits, and 15,166 senior free spring turkey permits for the 2009 season. The 80,644 spring turkey permits sold in 2009 was a slight increase (1%) over spring turkey permit sales for 2008 (Table 2). A turkey hunter survey was mailed to a random sample of licensed hunters in 2009 to estimate hunter participation and success rates.

Table 2. Ohio's spring turkey season dates, permits sold, and harvest, 1966-2009.

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
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	4/28-5/25	88	2	\$20.00 ^c	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

^aIncludes youth, reduced senior, and free senior spring turkey permits.

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

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

