

Crittenden Outdoors

HUNTING GUIDE

FALL 2020

CRITTENDEN COUNTY KENTUCKY

FREE PUBLICATION
WWW.MARIONKENTUCKY.ORG

The Crittenden Outdoors Hunting Guide is produced annually by The Crittenden Press newspaper and distributed free of charge in this community and beyond.

It is the responsibility of hunters to know and have the type of license or permit they need. The hunter's date of birth and social security number will be required when purchasing a license or permit.

ONLINE
Licenses and permits can be purchased online at fw.ky.gov. Most major credit cards are accepted for hunters purchasing licenses or permits online. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife gift certificates are also accepted. Gift certificates are sold online only at fw.ky.gov.
Hunters who buy licenses or permits online will not be mailed a paper license or permit but will receive an authorization number. The hunter must have a copy of the authorization number or a computer printout of the license or permit and a picture ID while hunting.

IN PERSON
Licenses and permits can be purchased at various locations throughout the state. A list of license agents can be viewed online at fw.ky.gov.

BY PHONE
All licenses and permits, except a disability license, elk drawing applications, department issued quota hunts and youth licenses and permits, can be purchased by telephone 24 hours a day by calling toll-free at 1-877-598-2401. Hunters purchasing licenses and permits by phone will be charged a small convenience fee license or permit.
Most major credit cards are accepted or an e-check. Hunters will be given an authorization number that must be carried along with a picture ID in the field while hunting. Both the authorization number and paper license are valid for the license year.
If requested, a paper license or permit (except short-term licenses) will be mailed to the hunter. The paper license must be filled out and signed by the hunter.

Which license or permit do I need to hunt?			
KENTUCKY RESIDENTS	Ages 12-15	Ages 16-64	Ages 65 and older OR disabled
DEER	Youth Hunting License [*] +Youth Deer Permit [*]	Annual Hunting Lincense ¹ + Statewide Deer Permit [*]	Senior/Disabled License
FALL TURKEY	Youth Hunting License [*] +Youth Turkey Permit [*]	Annual Hunting Lincense ¹ + Fall Turkey Permit [*]	Senior/Disabled License
SPRING TURKEY	Youth Hunting License [*] +Youth Turkey Permit [*]	Annual Hunting Lincense ¹ + Spring Turkey Permit [*]	Senior/Disabled License
SMALL GAME & FURBEARER	Youth Hunting License [*]	Annual [*] or 1-Day Hunting License	Senior/Disabled License
TRAPPING	Annual Youth Trapping License	Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License	Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License
MIGRATORY BIRDS <i>(dove, snipe, woodcock, rails, gallinules, sandhill crans)</i>	Youth Hunting License [*]	Annual ¹ or 1-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit ¹	Senior/Disabled License
WATERFOWL <i>(ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)</i>	Youth Hunting License [*]	Annual ¹ or 1-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit ¹ + Federal Duck Stamp	Senior/Disabled License + Federal Duck Stamp

^{*} Included in Youth Sportsman's License ¹Included in Resident Sportsman License

NONRESIDENTS Must buy nonresident license/permits	Ages 12-15	Ages 16 and Older
DEER	Youth Hunting License +Youth Deer Permit [*]	Annual Hunting License + Statewide Deer Permit
FALL TURKEY	Youth Hunting License +Youth Turkey Permit	Annual Hunting License + Fall Turkey Permit
SPRING TURKEY	Youth Hunting License +Youth Turkey Permit	Annual Hunting License + Spring Turkey Permit
SMALL GAME & FURBEARER	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License
TRAPPING	Annual Trapping License	Annual Trapping License
MIGRATORY BIRDS <i>(dove, snipe, woodcock, rails, gallinules, sandhill crans)</i>	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit
WATERFOWL <i>(ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)</i>	Youth Hunting License	Annual, 1-Day or 7-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit + Federal Duck Stamp

Telecheck Info
There are two ways to Telecheck your harvest:
▶ Online Telecheck through MyProfile application
▶ Telecheck by phone - call 800-245-4263 (800-CHK-GAME)
when telechecking by phone, use the County Codes Chart.

The Telecheck Review system shows all telechecked harvests by species and can be searched for by date and county or by hunter's last name. It can take up to 24 hours for new entries to show up.

Please note that 301 KAR 2:172 (9) prohibits a person from knowingly entering false information into the Telecheck System. If you believe you have made an error in entering your information in the system, please contact us at 1-800-858-1549.

KDFWR
Deer TeleCheck System
1-800-CHK-DEER
1-800-245-4263
Report a poacher
1-800-25-ALERT

COUNTY CODE NUMBERS FOR TELECHECK
028 CRITTENDEN
027 CALDWELL
070 LIVINGSTON
072 LYON
117 WEBSTER
113 UNION

Local deer harvest looks promising

STAFF REPORT

Fish and wildlife officials are unsure what to expect from the upcoming deer season. If it's anything like the pandemic turkey season last spring, there will be lots of hunters and plenty of whitetails harvested.

Philip Sharp, a biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR), explains that there could be a significant bump in time spent afield due to a number of factors related to COVID-19.

"People are still out of work, the cost of meat is high and there are some availability issues," Sharp said. "So, we don't know what COVID will do to the harvest."

He says hunters may be more apt to harvest more deer. Hunters may have more time to spend afield if their jobs are

limited, or if they're working virtually.

Preliminary data from the spring turkey season show that hours afield were up markedly. Of course, there were two factors at play during the spring that will be different this fall. Turkey season fell during the pandemic lockdown, so naturally, more people had time to hunt. But, Sharp points out that many non-resident hunters were unable to participate in the turkey season because of a freeze on out-of-state licenses just before the turkey season opened.

There are no indications that COVID-19 will affect non-resident hunters this fall.

Sharp said Crittenden and nearby counties have very healthy deer herds, and local venison is very palatable.

"Our deer live off corn, soy-

beans and acorns," he said, and that makes a tasty creature at the dinner table. "I don't care what you do to those that eat sage grass and tumbleweed, it's hard to make them taste very good."

The acorn crop is pretty good this fall, Sharp says. As part of his duties this time of year, he surveys mast-producing trees. The white oaks are good in places, but some have shown poor production, he explains. Red oaks are in great shape statewide and hickories are not too bad.

White oaks are the first to fall. Deer began dining on them a week or two ago. Red oaks are starting to hit the ground now and Sharp says the sporadic white oak acorns might benefit the hunter. Deer prefer white oak nuts to those from reds. Being able to pinpoint a

white oak that's producing a good number of acorns can prove valuable to deer hunters, particularly if there are no others in the area.

The deer will be more congregated around that tree, Sharp explains.

Late soybeans are still green, which mean deer will still be in those fields for a short time longer. It has been a good growing season for farmers, so hunters could reap the benefits of well-fed wildlife.

The age structure of harvested bucks continues to rise, Sharp explains. The most common antlered deer he finds in taxidermy shops are 2 1/2 years old.

"Ten years ago, the predominant buck was a 1 1/2 years old," he said. "I see a lot in the 3 1/2 year old class, but very few that are older than that unless

it's an unusual situation, maybe a six-pointer that got really big and someone finally decided to take him."

Sharp says no local cases of Hemorrhagic Disease have been reported here, although there have been some light outbreaks in other counties farther east in Kentucky. The biologist will be testing deer this fall for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). If anyone wants to have their deer inspected for CWD, Sharp will be available by phone at (270) 965-3921 ext. 110.

COVER PHOTO

Local hunter Garner Stallins shows off this nice Crittenden County buck he took in a previous modern firearms season.

Hodges

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Boone & Crockett Class

Bucks taken with a gun can qualify for Boone and Crockett Club's recordbook and for bowhunters the book is kept by Pope and Young. For "Booners" the minimum score for whitetail deer is 160 inches. There are also minimums for non-typical antlers. There is a well-defined system for measuring the antlers in both categories, which uses length and mass as the key factors.



Most common game violations

KDFWR officials say these are the most common violations made during hunting season.

- ▶ Not filling out back of hunting license.
- ▶ Failure to call KDFWR Telecheck system.
- ▶ Trespassing
- ▶ Failure to wear appropriate hunter orange.

NEW for 2020

Anyone who is legal to possess firearms may carry any legal firearms while hunting, but only legal methods may be used to take game.

The Coon Dog Inn RESTAURANT

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Fridays

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on Saturdays

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Hunting Seasons

Here are some of the key hunting opportunities currently in season or coming up soon:

Bull Frog	May 15-Oct. 31
Squirrel	Aug. 15-Nov. 13
Dove	Sept. 1-Oct. 26
Deer Archery	Sept. 5-Jan. 18
Turkey Archery	Sept. 5-Jan. 18
Canada Goose	Sept. 16-30
Wood Duck & Teal	Sept. 19-23
Teal Only	Sept. 24-27
Turkey Crossbow	Oct. 1-18
Deer Youth	Oct. 10-11
Turkey Shotgun	Oct. 24-30
Deer Crossbow	Sept. 19-Jan. 18
Deer Blackpowder	Oct. 17-18
Youth Waterfowl	Nov. 7-8
Quail, Rabbit	Nov. 16-Feb. 10
Deer Modern Gun	Nov. 14-Nov. 29
Turkey Crossbow	Nov. 14-Dec. 31
Squirrel	Nov. 16-Feb. 28
Bobcat Trapping	Nov. 16-Feb. 28
Fox Hunting	Nov. 16-Feb. 28
Fox Trapping	Nov. 16-Feb. 28
Duck	Nov. 26-28
Canada Goose	Nov. 26-Feb. 15
Dove	Nov. 26-Dec. 6
Bobcat Hunting	Nov. 28-Feb. 28
Turkey Shotgun	Dec. 5-11
Duck	Dec. 7-Jan. 31
Dove	Dec. 19-Jan. 10
Youth Waterfowl	Feb. 6-7
Coyote	Year Round
Groundhog	Year Round
Turtles	Year Round

*Some dates are proposed only

Harvest Log

Please refer to the KY Hunting Guide for harvest logging requirements.

Date, County, & Sex must be filled in before carcass is moved.
TELECHECK 1-800-245-4263

☐ DEER ☐ TURKEY ☐ BOBCAT ☐ OTTER
☐ ELK ☐ BEAR ☐ SANDHILL CRANE

DATE _____ COUNTY _____ SEX _____

CONFIRMATION # _____

☐ DEER ☐ TURKEY ☐ BOBCAT ☐ OTTER
☐ ELK ☐ BEAR ☐ SANDHILL CRANE

DATE _____ COUNTY _____ SEX _____

CONFIRMATION # _____

☐ DEER ☐ TURKEY ☐ BOBCAT ☐ OTTER
☐ ELK ☐ BEAR ☐ SANDHILL CRANE

DATE _____ COUNTY _____ SEX _____

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☐ DEER ☐ TURKEY ☐ BOBCAT ☐ OTTER
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DATE _____ COUNTY _____ SEX _____

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☐ DEER ☐ TURKEY ☐ BOBCAT ☐ OTTER
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DATE _____ COUNTY _____ SEX _____

CONFIRMATION # _____

☐ DEER ☐ TURKEY ☐ BOBCAT ☐ OTTER
☐ ELK ☐ BEAR ☐ SANDHILL CRANE

DATE _____ COUNTY _____ SEX _____

CONFIRMATION # _____

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife

Resources

Cut out the above harvest log to keep records of your harvest.



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Princeton, Marion, Salem

1310 US 62 W, Princeton, KY 42445
1006 South Main St, Marion, KY 42064
372 West Main St, Salem, KY 42078

(270) 625-1503



Hunter Education Requirement

Effective March 1, 1991, any hunter born on or after January 1, 1975 shall carry a valid hunter education course completion card in addition to the appropriate Kentucky hunting license while hunting. A bow hunter not in possession of a firearm may carry a "National Bowhunter Education Program" course completion card in lieu of the hunter education card.

GET HUNTER EDUCATION CERTIFIED

Please Note: Pre-registration is now required for all hunter education courses.

ONLINE COURSES

Students may self-study through the hunter education course online. In order to fully complete the certification requirements, once the student completes the online course, they must pre-register and attend a RANGE DAY where they will participate in a live fire exercise. (If you are completing your hunter education while the department limits in-person courses, you will need to follow the directions to complete a Virtual Range Day.)

► Step 1: Start the Online Course at one of these sites:



Free replacement hunter education cards can be printed online.

Hunteredcourse.com (\$19.50)

hunter-ed.com (\$28.95)

nra.yourlearningportal.com (FREE)

► Step 2: Pre-register and attend "Range Day"

Virtual Range Day (For Hunter Education while in-person courses are limited.)

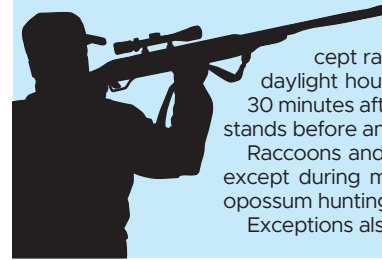
HUNTER EDUCATION VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTOR

Becoming certified as a Hunter Education Instructor is a great way to ensure the continuation of Kentucky's hunting tradition. Every year over 15,000 Kentucky citizens learn how to be a safe and ethical hunter by participating in a Kentucky Hunter Education Course or Range Day.

On an average year from 800 to 1,000 Kentucky Hunter Education Instructors team up to teach around 400 individual courses all over the state. Subject matter for a Hunter Education course includes but is not limited to training in firearms, ammunition, first aid, survival in the outdoors, wildlife identification and management, and basic bowhunting. Students participate in classroom sessions and live fire field training with firearms and/or archery tackle.

The Hunter Education Instructor training process will prepare instructor candidates to take an active part in this program. For questions regarding instructor training, contact the Hunter Training Officer for your county by using the map below.

Shooting Hours



Shooting hours for all species except raccoons, opossums and frogs are during daylight hours only — 30 minutes before sunrise or 30 minutes after sunset. Hunters may be in the field or stands before and after shooting hours.

Raccoons and opossums may be taken day or night, except during modern gun season when raccoon and opossum hunting is permitted only at night.

Exceptions also apply for coyotes.



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Temporary Hunter Education Exemption Permit

The temporary hunter education exemption permit allows a person to hunt for one year without first completing a hunter education course. The permit will be available online for free (for a limited time) and is available to both Kentucky residents and nonresidents.

Kentucky's hunter education law requires all license-required hunters born on or after January 1, 1975, to pass a hunter education course and carry the course completion card when hunting. However, hunters who have the new permit will be exempt from this law for one year from the date of purchase.

The permit is available only one time. Once it expires, hunters are no longer exempt and must successfully complete a hunter education course.

Hunters who carry the permit must be accompanied by a properly licensed adult hunter at least 18 years old who meets the hunter education requirement. The adult must remain in a position to take immediate control of the exempted hunter's bow or firearm while hunting. Adult supervision is also required for all hunters under the age of 10, and for all firearm deer, elk and turkey hunters 15 and younger.

Children don't have to take the course until they turn 12

years old. Children cannot take the hunter education test until they turn 9. During the three-year window between ages 9 and 12, children have many opportunities to take a course. More than 300 hunter education courses are scheduled throughout Kentucky each year.

Landowners who are hunting on their own land, and other license-exempt hunters, are not required to take a hunter education course. However, the course is strongly recommended.

For complete information on hunter education, call 1-800-858-1549.

Exceptions

Children younger than 12 years of age may hunt without a course completion card, but shall be accompanied by an adult of at least 18 years of age. One adult shall not accompany more than two children at one time.

Persons exempt from buying a license are not required to possess a hunter education course completion card (i.e., resident owners of farmlands, tenants, etc.)

Region 1 (Western KY)

Courtney Goodman

(502) 234-8839

Courtney.Goodman@ky.gov

APPRENTICE *Hunting* OPPORTUNITY

If you are new to hunting and have not taken the hunter's education course you can acquire a one-time temporary hunter education exemption permit online for free (limited time only).

2020 Kentucky Hunting License FEES

LICENSE / PERMIT

Annual Fishing	
Joint/Spouses Annual Fishing	
1-Day Fishing	
3-Year Fishing (Online Only)	
Nonresident 7-Day Fishing	
Trout Permit	
Annual Hunting	
1-Day Hunting (not valid for deer or turkey)	
7-Day Hunting (not valid for deer or turkey)	
Annual Youth Hunting (ages 12-15 only)	
Shooting Area Hunting License	
Annual Trapping	
Annual Landowner/Tenant Trapping	
Annual Youth (ages 12-15) Trapping	
Annual Combination Hunting/Fishing	
Sportsman's License	
Senior/Disabled Sportsman's	
Youth (ages 12-15) Sportsman's License	
Additional Deer Permit (two deer)	
Statewide Deer Permit (four deer)	
Youth (ages 12-15) Deer Permit (four deer)	
Spring Turkey Permit (statewide) (two turkeys)	
Youth (ages 12-15) Turkey Permit (one turkey, spring or fall)	
Fall Turkey Permit (statewide) (four turkeys)	
Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Permit	
Federal Duck Stamp	
Elk Drawing Application (deadline April 30)	
Youth WMA Elk Drawing (deadline April 30)	
Quota Bull Elk Permit (if drawn)	
Quota Cow Elk Permit (if drawn)	
Quota (Either Sex) Archery/Crossbow permit (if drawn)	
Youth Elk Permit (if drawn)	
Out-of-Zone Elk Permit	

Temporary Hunter Education Exemption Permit

(For a limited time only. Available online only)

Resident	Nonresident
\$23.00	\$55.00
\$42.00	Not available
\$7.00	\$15.00
\$55.00	Not available
Not available	\$35.00
\$10.00	\$10.00
\$27.00	\$150.00
\$7.00	\$25.00
Not available	\$65.00
\$6.00	\$10.00
\$5.00	\$5.00
\$20.00	\$130.00
\$10.00	Not available
\$5.00	Not available
\$42.00	Not available
\$95.00	Not available
\$12.00	Not available
\$30.00	Not available
\$15.00	\$15.00
\$35.00	\$185.00
\$10.00	\$15.00
\$30.00	\$85.00
\$10.00	\$15.00
\$30.00	\$85.00
\$15.00	\$15.00
\$25.00	\$25.00
\$10.00	\$10.00
\$10.00	\$10.00
\$100.00	\$550.00
\$60.00	\$400.00
\$100.00	\$550.00
\$30.00	\$200.00
\$30.00	\$400.00
Free	Free

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Eddyville Location
(270) 388-2910
Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Sat. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

2019 DEER HARVEST RESULTS

County	Male	Female	Total	% Male	% Female	Male Visible	Male Not Visible	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Crossbow
Crittenden	1572	1926	3498	44.9%	55.1%	1387	184	467	2588	238	205
Livingston	938	926	1864	50.3%	49.7%	835	103	168	1399	185	112
Webster	1099	1429	2528	43.5%	56.5%	937	162	298	1867	171	192
Caldwell	1083	1145	2228	48.6%	51.4%	981	102	312	1626	165	125
Union	555	611	1166	47.6%	52.4%	488	67	189	843	70	64
Lyon	606	547	1153	52.6%	47.4%	525	81	177	784	96	96

2018 DEER HARVEST RESULTS

County	Male	Female	Total	% Male	% Female	Male Visible	Male Not Visible	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Crossbow
Crittenden	1509	1793	3302	45.7%	54.3%	1347	162	474	2499	230	99
Livingston	938	975	1913	49%	51%	833	105	250	1401	209	53
Webster	1099	1388	2487	44.2%	55.8%	909	190	302	1885	205	95
Caldwell	964	942	1906	50.6%	49.4%	868	96	269	1402	189	46
Union	552	665	1217	45.4%	54.6%	477	75	288	813	76	40
Lyon	465	405	870	53.4%	46.6%	429	36	139	634	60	37

2017 DEER HARVEST RESULTS

County	Male	Female	Total	% Male	% Female	Male Visible	Male Not Visible	Archery	Firearm	Muzzleloader	Crossbow
Crittenden	1634	1817	3451	47.3%	52.7%	1412	222	604	2524	225	98
Livingston	965	969	1934	49.9%	50.1%	857	108	247	1428	204	55
Webster	1110	1429	2539	43.7%	56.3%	921	189	396	1840	203	100
Caldwell	1070	941	2011	53.2%	46.8%	970	100	295	1510	172	34
Union	551	563	1114	49.5%	50.5%	489	62	262	761	57	34
Lyon	527	427	954	55.2%	44.8%	471	56	178	683	51	42



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Hunters and BLAZE ORANGE

Metro Services

Hunters and prospective hunters are wise to educate themselves about the type of clothing they are allowed to wear. The rules of a hunting wardrobe, as with other aspects of hunting, such as size limits and location, vary according to local regulations. These laws must be followed at all times to ensure the safety of all hunters.

Many areas require hunters to wear hunter orange, commonly called "blaze orange." This is a very bright, often fluorescent shade of orange that makes hunters visible to other hunters. The percentage of blaze orange that hunters need to wear varies, and may even be determined by the type of game a person is hunting. Hunter orange may need to be worn from the waist up. Some hunters may need to have hunter orange cover 50 percent of their bodies while they're hunting. In other instances, hunters may only be required to wear one item in blaze orange. In addition, hunting blinds may need to have a certain amount of square inches covered in blaze orange material.

In New York State, 14- and 15-year-old hunters and their mentors are required to wear fluorescent hunter orange or pink visible from all directions: shirt, jacket, or vest with at least 250 square inches of solid or patterned fluorescent orange or pink (the pattern must be at least 50 percent orange or pink)

or a hat with at least 50 percent fluorescent orange or pink. All other NYS hunters are not required to wear blaze orange, but the Department of Environmental Conservation highly recommends it.

Many game animals, including deer, do not have red-sensitive cones in their eyes, and cannot distinguish orange and pink from green and brown. NYS DEC says hunters who wear blaze orange are seven times less likely to be shot.

Unfortunately, some hunters are not aware of the fact that blaze orange is hidden to deer and other game or they simply do not want to wear it. Learning more about the safety of blaze orange may help change such hunters' minds. Hunting clothing manufacturers also are incorporating blaze orange into camouflage designs in proper ratios to combine the best of camouflage and blaze orange for style, efficacy and appearance.

Blaze orange is an important safety component of hunting that helps keeps hunters visible and out of harm's way.

Hunter Orange Required!

Hunters and any person accompanying them must wear solid, unbroken hunter orange color visible from all sides on the head, back and chest while hunting for any species during modern gun, muzzleloader and youth gun deer seasons.

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*Crittenden County - Kentucky***DEER HARVEST TOTALS**

1993 2,357	2002 2,695	2011 2,829
1994 1,826	2003 2,586	2012 3,010
1995 1,857	2004 2,032	2013 3,033
1996 2,065	2005 2,593	2014 3,224
1997 1,874	2006 3,085	2015 3,359
1998 2,728	2007 2,927	2016 3,081
1999 2,201	2008 2,707	2017 3,451
2000 2,597	2009 2,549	2018 3,301
2001 2,272	2010 2,952	2019 3,498

Fall TURKEY HUNTING**Bag limits**

- Four birds total, no more than 2 of which may be taken with a shotgun.
- No more than 1 bird may have a beard length of 3 inches or longer.
- No more than 1 bird may be taken per day.

Shotgun: Oct. 24-30 and Dec. 5-11, 2020

Archery: Sept. 5, 2020-Jan. 18, 2021

Crossbow: Oct. 1-18 and Nov. 14-Dec. 31, 2020

Hunting Turkeys Over Bait is Illegal

It is illegal to hunt turkeys over bait - an area where feed, grains or other substances capable of luring wild turkeys have been placed. An area is considered baited until 30 days after the bait has been removed. An area where grain, feed or other substances exists as the result of a bona fide agriculture practice or manipulation of a crop (food plot) for wildlife management purposes is legal for turkey hunting.

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Legal fall turkey hunting equipment:

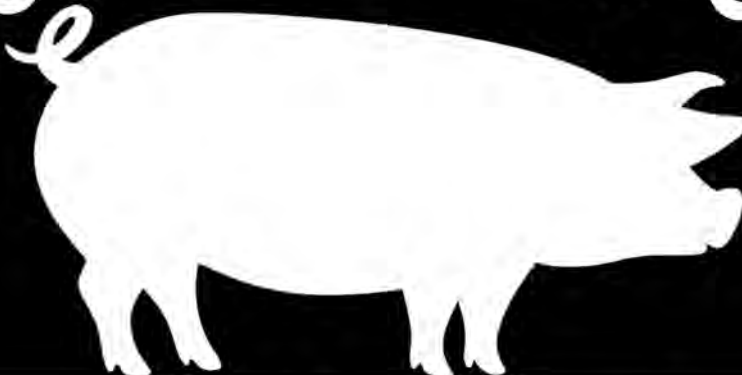
- ▶ Breech-loading or muzzleloading shotguns no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than .410.
- ▶ Breech-loaded shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and one in chamber)
- ▶ Lead or non-toxic shot no larger than No. 4
- ▶ Longbows, recurve bows and compound bows of any draw weight (no minimum).
- ▶ Crossbows of any draw weight (no minimum) with a working safety device.
- ▶ Non-barbed broadheads with a minimum cutting diameter of 7/8-inch, whether expandable or non-expandable.

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Blast from the past



‘Two in the bush’

Former Department of Fish & Wildlife Conservation Officer Tony Collins (right) was instrumental in helping restock wild turkeys in Crittenden County in 1979. This vintage photo from The Crittenden Press archives was taken in April of 1982. Pictured with Collins is Charles McClure. At the time of publication, only 16 gobblers had been checked in with only a couple days remaining in the spring turkey season in Crittenden County. By comparison, there were 341 turkeys taken during the spring 2020 turkey season in Crittenden County.

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DEER HUNTING SEASONS

DEER

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Free Youth Weekend

Early Season

Sept. 5, 2020-Jan. 18, 2021
Sept. 19, 2020-Jan. 18, 2021
Oct. 10-11, 2020
Oct. 17-18, 2020
Nov. 14-29, 2020
Dec. 26-27, 2020

Late Season

Dec. 12-20, 2020



Western Kentucky ZONE 1

DEER BAG LIMITS

Only one antlered deer may be harvested statewide, regardless of zone or method.

A hunter may harvest an unlimited number of antlerless deer in Zone 1 using the statewide deer permit and additional deer permits.

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How to field dress wild game properly and safely

Metro Services

Fishing and hunting are popular outdoor activities. Many outdoor enthusiasts engage in angling or hunting so they can have trophies to put up on their walls. Others rely on hunting and fishing for supplemental food sources. Game animals will have to be cleaned and processed properly whether they're headed to the dinner table or to the taxidermist.

Pathogen contamination is one of the biggest risks when field dressing an animal. As with any animal, game can contain harmful bacteria, such as salmonella and strains of E. coli. Other animals, such as wild hogs, can infect people with a flu-like illness called brucellosis, which can be caught through contact with blood, fluid or tissue of an infected hog. Deer, elk and moose also may have

chronic wasting disease, or CWD. Although there is no evidence that links CWD to human illness, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises caution.

Proper field dressing techniques and game transport can help reduce the risk of pathogenic contamination. Here are some tips for getting started, courtesy of Penn State and the CDC.

► Wear safety gear. When handling any game animals, protect yourself with rubber gloves. This will prevent the blood and fluids from the game animal from getting on your skin. Eye protection is also advised when handling carcasses.

► Work quickly. The elapsed time from when the animal is downed until it is processed can affect the safety and the quality of the meat if it will be consumed,



Proper field dressing techniques and game transport can help reduce the risk of pathogenic contamination. Tips for getting started are courtesy of Penn State and the CDC.

according to Martin Bucknavage, food safety extension associate in the Penn State Department of Food Science. Field dress as soon

as possible to ensure rapid loss of the animal's body heat, to prevent surface bacteria from growing and to preserve the quality of the meat. Eviscerate the animal to help the carcass dissipate heat and remove the internal organs, where spoilage tends to occur more quickly.

► Watch out for internal organs. Avoid cutting into internal organs, especially the intestines, where the largest amount of bad bacteria tend to reside.

► Chill the carcass. Deterioration will occur more quickly in temperatures greater than 40 F. Therefore, insert plastic bags of ice or snow into the body cavity of the animal to keep the carcass chilled. Move the carcass into a cooler or refrigerator as soon as possible after field dress.

► Choose tools wisely. Use

clean, sharp knives when field dressing and butchering to make it easier to cut through and process the carcass. Use clean water, premoistened wipes or alcohol wipes to clean the knife frequently between cuts to prevent bacterial contamination.

► Hang game by hind legs. Hang the animal by its hind legs with its head down when aging or butchering. This prevents brain and spinal fluids from contacting the meat.

Most importantly during field dress, if any of the internal organs smell or look offensive, or if there is oddly colored discharge, do not consume the meat. Hunters and anglers are advised to learn more about field dress techniques to hone their skills. Speak with local fish and game officials about nearby courses.

Did you know?

Metro Services

Hunting enthusiasts anxiously look forward to the first day of hunting season, a date chosen after local gaming authorities carefully consider a host of factors. Conservation of both game and the hobby hunters love so much are two of the driving forces that determine when hunting seasons begin. Local gaming authorities want to protect wildlife from overhunting, and they also want to ensure hunters won't have to confront dwindling animal populations that will affect their hunting. Estimates of local animal populations are one of the main factors gaming authorities consider when trying to figure out the best time to start a hunting season. If local authorities deem that the animal population is too large, thereby adversely affecting local residents, they will time hunting season in such a way as to give hunters an advantage. This can help control local wildlife populations and make communities safer. On the opposite end of the spectrum, if population estimates are especially low, authorities will time hunting season so fewer animals are likely to be killed. These efforts at managing local animal populations can benefit hunters, animals and even local residents who don't participate when hunting season begins.

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Safety measures all hunters should take

Metro Services

Hunting draws millions of people into the great outdoors every year. Many avid hunters feel hunting is a great way to actively participate in nature while also taking responsibility for procuring one's own food.

Hunting requires discipline, dedication, patience, and, perhaps most important, a commitment to safety. By prioritizing safety on each hunting trip, seasoned and novice hunters alike are acknowledging the potential dangers of this beloved outdoor activity while doing everything they can to ensure the trip is as safe as possible. Because safety plays such a vital role in successful hunting trips, hunters of all experience levels can benefit from a refresher course on the safety measures they should take each time they go on the hunt.

► Treat all firearms as if



Hunters of all experience levels can benefit from a refresher course on the safety measures they should take each time they go on the hunt.

they're loaded. Treating all firearms as if they're loaded ensures hunters won't be tempted to engage in the kind of fooling around that can

contribute to tragic accidents. This approach can reduce the risk of firearm-related accidents or injuries, and can be an especially effective way to teach youngsters about the dangers of firearms and the correct ways to mitigate those dangers.

► Keep your finger off the trigger and only point at what you plan to shoot. Keeping your finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot ensures you won't accidentally discharge your firearm. In addition, never point your firearm at anything other than what you plan to shoot.

► Know the forecast and dress appropriately. Firearms are not the only risk to hunters' safety. Inclement weather can put hunters at the mercy of Mother Nature. According to the Mayo Clinic, hypothermia, which occurs when the human body loses heat faster

than it can produce heat, can affect hunters who are unable to get out of wet clothes or move to warm, dry locations as their bodies lose heat. In addition, hunters may be at risk of hypothermia even if temperatures are hovering around 50 F. Before embarking on a hunting trip, hunters should read the forecast of the areas where they will be hunting and dress accordingly. Outer layers that repel water can help keep hunters dry, and hunters also should avoid wearing cotton, which retains moisture and can increase their risk for hypothermia. Clothing made with moisture-wicking fabrics is a great alternative to cotton.

► Share your plan with others. Returning home safe is the ultimate goal for hunters, and that's more likely to happen when hunters share their hunting plans with others.

Tree Stand SAFETY TIPS:

- Use a safety or "life" line while climbing
- Use a safety harness while in your stand
- Don't hang stands in dead or damaged trees
- Use hoist or "haul" lines to raise & lower gear so your hands are free and you don't get off balance while climbing
- Keep firearms unloaded until safely seated in the stand or safely back on the ground

Let someone, ideally a spouse, parent, roommate, or sibling, know when and where you will be hunting and when you expect to return by.

Millions of people across the globe enjoy hunting. Avid hunters know that no hunting trip is successful if safety is not the utmost priority.

GRILLED VENISON BACKSTRAP

Tender chunks of venison are marinated twice and wrapped in thick bacon before being grilled until crispy on the outside. A venison version of Filet Mignon. This is a heavenly use of the best part of a deer.

Prep: 25 minutes

Cook: 20 minutes

Additional: 4 hrs 30 mins

Total: 5 hrs 15 mins

Servings: 4

Yield: 4 Servings

2 pounds venison backstrap, cut into 2-inch chunks

1 quart apple cider

1 1/2 pounds thick sliced bacon

2 (12 ounce) Bottles Marion Pit Bar-B-Q Sauce (Hot or Mild)

Directions

Step 1: Place chunks of venison into a shallow baking dish and pour enough apple cider in to cover them. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours. Remove and pat dry. Discard apple cider and return venison to the dish. Pour Marion Pit Bar-B-Q sauce over the chunks, cover and refrigerate for 2 to 3 more hours.

Step 2: Preheat an outdoor grill for high heat. Charcoal is best, but if you must, use gas. Remove meat from the refrigerator and let stand for 30 minutes or until no longer chilled. Wrap each chunk of venison in a slice of bacon and secure with toothpicks.

Step 3: Brush the grill grate with olive oil when hot and place venison pieces on the grill so they are not touching. The bacon will kick up some flames so be ready. Grill, turning occasionally until the bacon become slightly burnt, 15 to 20 minutes. The slower, the better. Dig in and prepare to want more!

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