HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS 2025-26

Effective SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 to AUGUST 31, 2026





OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE wildohio.gov

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF WILDLIFE









GOVERNOR, STATE OF OHIO
MIKE DEWINE

DIRECTOR, OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES MARY C. MERTZ

CHIEF, DIVISION OF WILDLIFE KENDRA S. WECKER

The Division of Wildlife's mission is to conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all.

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HuntFish OH

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION 1-800-WILDLIFE

(1-800-945-3543) (1-614-265-6300)

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1-800-POACHER

(1-800-762-2437) (1-614-799-9538)

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OhioGameCheck.com 1-877-TAG-IT-OH

(1-877-824-4864)

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DIVISION OF WILDLIFE DISTRICT OFFICES

WILDLIFE DISTRICT ONE

1500 Dublin Road Columbus, OH 43215

WILDLIFE DISTRICT TWO 952 Lima Avenue Findlay, OH 45840

WILDLIFE DISTRICT THREE

912 Portage Lakes Drive Akron, OH 44319

WILDLIFE DISTRICT FOUR

360 E. State Street Athens, OH 45701

WILDLIFE DISTRICT FIVE

1076 Old Springfield Pike Xenia, OH 45385



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2025-26 OHIO HUNTING & TRAPPING REGULATIONS

THIS SUMMARY is intended for the convenience of hunters and trappers and IS NOT INTENDED to cover all laws and regulations. THIS SUMMARY is not intended for use as evidence or as a defense in a criminal or civil case. Because of possible changes, this summary may not be an accurate reflection of the Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code, which contains the details of these regulations. Copies of the actual laws are available for review at each Division of Wildlife district office and online at codes.ohio.gov.

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2025-26 NOTEWORTHY CHANGES

- County limits for deer hunting changed in Defiance and Paulding counties. See page 6.
- The bag limit for antierless deer on public hunting areas is two deer. See page 6.
- Deer management permits can be used to hunt or take antierless deer from public hunting areas as well as private lands. See page 7.
- Feral swine (wild boar) may not be hunted. See page 17.
- The disease surveillance area now includes all of Hardin, Marion, and Wyandot counties; Auglaize, Bath, Jackson, Monroe, Perry, and Richland townships in Allen County; Bucyrus, Dallas, and Tod townships in Crawford County; Marlboro, Oxford, and Troy townships in Delaware County; Delaware and Madison townships in Hancock County; Westfield Township in Morrow County; and Claibourne and Jackson townships in Union County. See page 10.

The primary source of funding for the Ohio Division of Wildlife comes from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, federal excise taxes on hunting, fishing, and shooting equipment, capital bond dollars, and donations from the public. We care about all wildlife and maintaining stable, healthy wildlife populations. Our challenge is to balance the needs of wildlife, habitat, and people.

SEASONS & DATES

	SEASON	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	PAGE
	Archery	Sept. 27, 2025	Feb. 1, 2026	6
White-tailed	Youth Gun	Nov. 22, 2025	Nov. 23, 2025	6
Deer HUNTING	Gun	Dec. 1, 2025 Dec. 20, 2025	Dec. 7, 2025 Dec. 21, 2025	6
	Muzzleloader	Jan. 3, 2026	Jan. 6, 2026	6
DSA Deer	DSA Archery	Sept. 13, 2025	Feb. 1, 2026	11
HUNTING	DSA Early Gun	Oct. 11, 2025	Oct. 13, 2025	11
	Fall Turkey (select counties)	Oct. 1, 2025	Oct. 26, 2025	12
Wild Turkey	Youth Spring Turkey	To be announced	To be announced	12
HUNTING	Spring Turkey: South Zone	To be announced	To be announced	12
	Spring Turkey: Northeast Zone	To be announced	To be announced	12
	Ada an O	luno 6, 2025	March 1 2026	
	American Crow (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday only)	June 6, 2025 June 5, 2026	March 1, 2026 March 7, 2027	16
	Squirrel (red, gray, and fox)	Sept. 1, 2025	Jan. 31, 2026	16
	Ruffed Grouse (select counties)	Nov. 7, 2025	Nov. 30, 2025	16
	Cottontail Rabbit	Nov. 7, 2025	Feb. 28, 2026	16
	Ring-necked Pheasant	Nov. 7, 2025	Jan. 11, 2026	16
Small Game	Chukar	Nov. 7, 2025	Jan. 11, 2026	16
& Furbearer HUNTING	Bobwhite Quail (select counties and wildlife areas)	Nov. 7, 2025	Nov. 30, 2025	16
	Fox (red and gray), Raccoon, Skunk, Opossum, and Weasel	Nov. 10, 2025	Jan. 31, 2026	16
	Coyote	No close	d season	16
	Groundhog	No close	d season	16
	Youth Small Game	Oct. 25, 2025	Oct. 26, 2025	16
	routi omai dano	Nov. 1, 2025	Nov. 2, 2025	
	Fox (red and gray), Raccoon, Skunk, Opossum, and Weasel	Nov. 10, 2025	Jan. 31, 2026	23
Furbearer	Mink, Muskrat	Nov. 10, 2025	Feb. 28, 2026	23
	Coyote	No close	d season	23
TRAPPING	Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel (select counties)	Nov. 10, 2025	March 15, 2026	23
	Beaver	Dec. 26, 2025	Feb. 28, 2026	23
	River Otter	Dec. 26, 2025	Feb. 28, 2026	23

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SEASONS & DATES

	SEASON	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	PAGE	
Early	Canada Goose	Sept. 6, 2025	Sept. 14, 2025	18	
Waterfowl HUNTING	Teal (Blue-winged, Green-winged, and Cinnamon)	Sept. 6, 2025	Sept. 14, 2025	18	
Youth Waterfowl HUNTING	Hunters 17 years old or younger	Oct. 4, 2025	Oct. 5, 2025	19	
Military Waterfowl HUNTING	Active duty military and veterans	Oct. 4, 2025	Oct. 5, 2025	19	
Lake Erie	Goose (Canada, White-fronted,	Oct. 18, 2025	Nov. 2, 2025	4.0	
Marsh Zone	0 0 0 0	Nov. 15, 2025	Feb. 2, 2026	19	
Waterfowl	Duck, Coot, and Merganser	Oct. 18, 2025	Nov. 2, 2025	10	
HUNTING	Duck, Goot, and werganser	Nov. 15, 2025	Dec. 28, 2025	19	
	Goose (Canada, White-fronted,	Oct. 18, 2025	Oct. 26, 2025	40	
North Zone	Snow, Blue, Ross's), Brant	Nov. 15, 2025	Feb. 9, 2026	19	
Waterfowl HUNTING	Duck, Coot, and Merganser	Oct. 18, 2025	Oct. 26, 2025	19	
HOWING		Nov. 15, 2025	Jan. 4, 2026	19	
	Goose (Canada, White-fronted,	Oct. 18, 2025	Oct. 27, 2025	40	
South Zone	Snow, Blue, Ross's), Brant	Nov. 16, 2025	Feb. 9, 2026	19	
Waterfowl HUNTING	Duck, Coot, and Merganser	Oct. 18, 2025	Oct. 27, 2025	19	
Holling	Duck, Goot, and Weigansen	Dec. 13, 2025	Jan. 31, 2026	19	
	Dove	Sept. 1, 2025	Nov. 9, 2025	40	
	(Mourning and Eurasian collared)	Dec. 13, 2025	Jan. 1, 2026	18	
Migratory Bird HUNTING	Rail (Virginia, Sora)	Sept. 1, 2025	Nov. 9, 2025	18	
	Gallinule	Sept. 1, 2025	Nov. 9, 2025	18	
	Wilson's Snipe	Sept. 1, 2025	Nov. 19, 2025	18	
	mison s ompe	Dec. 6, 2025	Jan. 1, 2026	10	
	American Woodcock	Oct. 11, 2025	Nov. 24, 2025	18	

HUNTER ORANGE REQUIRED



Hunting any wild animal (except waterfowl) from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset during the **youth deer gun season, deer gun seasons, and the deer muzzleloader** season is unlawful unless the hunter is visibly wearing a vest, coat, jacket, or coveralls that are either solid hunter orange or camouflage hunter orange.

This requirement applies statewide on both public and private land.

2025-26 OHIO HUNTING & TRAPPING REGULATIONS WHITE-TAILED DEER HUNTING

SEASON	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	STATEWIDI
Archery	Sept. 27, 2025	Feb. 1, 2026	
Youth Gun	Nov. 22, 2025	Nov. 23, 2025	Only one may b
Gun	Dec. 1, 2025 Dec. 20, 2025	Dec. 7, 2025 Dec. 21, 2025	Statewide limit
Muzzleloader	Jan. 3, 2026	Jan. 6, 2026	Hunters may
DSA Archery	Sept. 13, 2025	Feb. 1, 2026	individual county reach the state
DSA Early Gun	Oct. 11, 2025	Oct. 13, 2025	l sussi ino otato

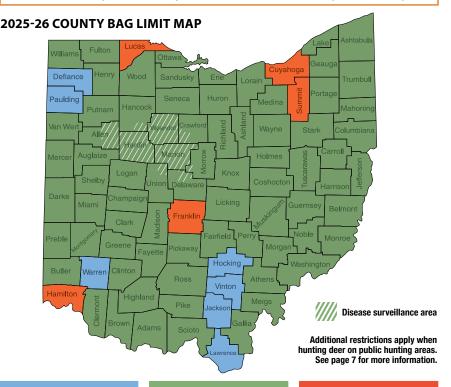
e antlered.

E LIMIT

is six deer.

combine v harvests to wide limit.

DSA: All of Hardin, Marion, and Wyandot counties; Auglaize, Bath, Jackson, Monroe, Perry, and Richland townships in Allen County: Bucyrus. Dallas, and Tod townships in Crawford County: Marlboro, Oxford, and Troy townships in Delaware County; Delaware and Madison townships in Hancock County; Westfield Township in Morrow County; and Claibourne and Jackson townships in Union County.



TWO DEER COUNTY

A hunter may use two either-sex permits, two deer management permits. or one of each, to harvest no more than two deer in these counties.

THREE DEER COUNTY

A hunter may use three either-sex permits, three deer management permits. or any combination, to harvest no more than three deer in these counties.

FOUR DEER COUNTY

A hunter may use four either-sex permits, four deer management permits, or any combination, to harvest no more than four deer in these counties.

HUNTING HOURS

Hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

TAG AND CHECK

A hunter is required to complete the game check process following the harvest of a white-tailed deer. See page 14 for more information.

DEER PERMITS

In addition to a valid Ohio hunting license, hunters are required to purchase an eithersex deer permit or a deer management permit to hunt deer in Ohio, unless exempt.

- The either-sex deer permit is valid state-wide from Sept. 27, 2025 to Feb. 1, 2026. In the disease surveillance area, the either-sex deer permit is valid from Sept. 13, 2025 to Feb. 1, 2026.
- The deer management permit is valid statewide from Sept. 27 to Dec. 21, 2025. In the disease surveillance area, the deer management permit is valid from Sept. 13 to Dec. 21, 2025.

DEER MANAGEMENT PERMIT

Deer management permits may only be used to take antlerless deer. The permits are valid on both private and public land until Dec. 21, 2025. Deer management permits may be used during authorized controlled deer hunts throughout the open season.

EITHER-SEX DEER PERMIT

The either-sex deer permit may be used to hunt an antlered or antlerless deer. This permit may be used during any of the deer hunting seasons and controlled hunts. This permit may be purchased individually throughout the entire deer season.

Only one antlered deer may be taken during the 2025-26 season. An antlered deer has at least one antler 3 inches or longer in length.

YOUTH DEER GUN SEASON

- Deer taken by youth hunters during the youth deer gun season count toward the county and statewide bag limits.
- All youths and nonhunting adults must visibly wear the required hunter orange clothing.

PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS

No more than two antlerless deer may be taken from all public hunting areas per license year. A list of public hunting areas is available at wildohio.gov. Authorized Division of Wildlife controlled hunts; Andreoff, Big Island, Delaware, Killdeer Plains, Lake La Su An, Lawrence Woods, and Wyandot wildlife areas are exempt.

Hunters may not hunt deer over bait on any public hunting area.



HUNTING OTHER GAME DURING DEER FIREARM SEASONS

WATERFOWL

Waterfowl hunters are not required to wear hunter orange clothing and may use any shot size.

COYOTE

Coyote hunters are required to wear hunter orange clothing and may only hunt during legal deer season hours, using hunting implements legal for that deer firearm season, with a hunting license and valid deer permit.

FURBEARERS (EXCEPT COYOTE)

During legal deer season hours, furbearer hunters may only hunt with a shotgun using No. 4 shot size or smaller and are required to visibly wear hunter orange clothing. Hunter orange clothing is not required from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.

ALL OTHER GAME

Hunters may hunt with a shotgun using No. 4 shot size or smaller and are required to wear hunter orange clothing.





LEGAL DEER HUNTING EQUIPMENT

ARCHERY SEASON

Longbow or Bow: The minimum draw weight is 40 pounds. This includes compound bows and recurve bows. The arrow tip needs a minimum of two cutting edges, which may be exposed or unexposed and a minimum 3/4-inch width. Expandable and mechanical broadheads are legal.

Crossbow: The minimum draw weight is 75 pounds. The arrow tip needs a minimum of two cutting edges, which may be exposed or unexposed and a minimum 3/4-inch width. Expandable and mechanical broadheads are legal.

GUN SEASON

Shotgun: 10 gauge or smaller shotgun using one ball or one rifled slug per barrel (rifled shotgun barrels are permitted when using shotgun slug ammunition).

Straight-walled cartridge rifles: All straight-walled cartridge calibers from a minimum of .357 to a maximum of .50 (includes .350 Legend).

Shotguns and straight-walled cartridge rifles can be loaded with no more than three shells in the chamber and magazine combined.

Straight-Walled Cartridge



Cartridge with Shoulder



Archery equipment: See Archery Season, above.

Muzzleloading rifle: .38 caliber or larger.

Muzzleloading shotgun: 10-gauge or smaller using one ball per barrel.

Handgun: With a 5-inch minimum length barrel, using straight-walled cartridges .357 caliber or larger. The barrel is measured from the front of the cylinder or from the chamber to the end of the barrel.

MUZZLELOADER SEASON

Muzzleloading rifle: .38 caliber or larger.

Muzzleloading shotgun: 10-gauge or smaller using one ball per barrel.

Archery equipment: See Archery Season, above.

You can carry only one HUNTING implement while hunting deer. (See Concealed Handguns on page 34)

A DEER HUNTER MAY DO THE FOLLOWING:

- 1. A successful deer hunter may aid or assist another hunter who is hunting deer if the deer permit has been filled in, he or she does not carry any hunting implement commonly used to kill wild animals, and has a valid hunting license. Those persons exempted from having a hunting license and deer permits for deer hunting on their property are required to have a hunting license and deer permit to aid another hunter off of their property or hunt deer off of their property.
- Take more than one deer per day as long as the harvested animal's information has been recorded on the permit or submitted to game check.
- Hunt deer over bait, except on public hunting areas and in the Disease Surveillance Area. Restrictions apply, see pages 10, 11, 34, and 36.
- Carry a printed or electronic copy of the deer permit.
- 5. Possess a communication device.
- 6. Use a leashed dog to recover a wounded deer.

- 7. Leave a deer or deer parts with a taxidermist, fur buyer, cold storage, locker plant, or meat processing plant as long as the confirmation code is attached to the animal and all of its separate parts. Persons receiving a deer from another person must keep the confirmation code with the animal and all of its separate parts.
- Archery hunt during the youth deer gun season, if the archery hunter is not accompanying a hunter participating in the youth deer gun season and is visibly wearing hunter orange.
- 9. Aerial drones may be used to aid in the recovery of a deer, provided that no one involved in the recovery is carrying a hunting device at the time. If the deer is found alive, the use of the drone will be discontinued before hunting can resume. In this limited case, the drone operator may provide the location where the deer was last located by the drone. See wildohio.gov for additional information. All other uses of a drone or aircraft to hunt or aid in the hunting of deer are unlawful.

A DEER HUNTER MAY NOT DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Pursue wounded deer or recover dead deer, including shed antlers, from private property without the written permission of the landowner.
- Hunt with a shotgun or straight-walled cartridge rifle loaded with more than three shells in the chamber and magazine combined. This does not apply to handguns.
- 3. Possess a loaded firearm during any of the deer firearms seasons at any time other than 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. Muzzleloading firearms are considered unloaded when the cap is removed or priming powder is removed from the pan, or when the battery is removed on electronic systems.
- **4.** Use a muzzleloading handgun to hunt deer.
- Have more than one hunting firearm while hunting deer.
- 6. Have attached to a longbow or crossbow any mechanical, electrical, or electronic device capable of projecting a visible beam of light. This does not include a device such as a range finder that utilizes nonvisible light.
- **7.** Possess shotshells containing shot during any deer gun season.

- 8. Use dogs to hunt deer.
- Check a deer using a permit that was purchased after the animal was harvested.
- 10. Construct, place, or use a permanent-type tree stand, or place spikes, nails, wires, or other metal objects into a tree to act as steps or to hold a tree stand on public hunting lands. It is also unlawful to make any of these changes to trees on private property without first getting the permission of the landowner or the landowner's authorized agent.
- 11. Check a deer as a landowner if the hunter is a tenant of the property, unless the tenant is an individual who resides on land for which he or she pays rent and whose annual income is primarily derived from agricultural production conducted on that land.
- Submit a game check under the account of anyone other than the hunter who harvested the animal.
- Carry a firearm while deer hunting with a longbow or crossbow (except when legally carrying a concealed handgun, See CON-CEALED HANDGUN on page 34).

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE KNOW THE FACTS

Scan the QR code with your mobile device for current information ▶



Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease of white-tailed deer. There is no strong evidence that CWD is transmissible to humans. In December 2020, Ohio confirmed its first CWD-positive wild deer in Wyandot County. Additional cases have been confirmed in every year since 2020.

To monitor the prevalence of and implement regulations to slow the spread of the disease, a Disease Surveillance Area (DSA) has been established and includes all of Hardin, Marion, and Wyandot counties; Auglaize, Bath, Jackson, Monroe, Perry, and Richland townships in Allen County; Bucyrus, Dallas, and Tod townships in Crawford County; Marlboro, Oxford, and Troy townships in Delaware County; Delaware and Madison townships in Hancock County; Westfield Township in Morrow County; and Claibourne and Jackson townships in Union County. Special rules apply to deer hunting in these counties and townships.



DSA RULES INCLUDE:

- The placement of or use of bait (salt, minerals, or any food) to attract or feed deer within the Disease Surveillance Area (DSA) boundaries is prohibited, as is the hunting of deer by the aid of bait.
- Normal agricultural activities, including feeding domestic animals, as well as hunting deer over food plots, naturally occurring or cultivated plants, and agricultural crops are not prohibited in the DSA.

PROTECT OHIO'S DEER HERD

- Properly dispose of a deer carcass. Be sure to double-bag all high-risk parts (brain, spinal cord, eyes, and lymphoid tissues) and dispose of them with your household trash.
- It is illegal to bring high-risk carcass parts into Ohio from anywhere outside the state, or to remove high-risk carcass parts from a disease surveillance area, unless the animal is delivered to a Division of Wildlife certified processor or taxidermist authorized to handle these carcass parts within 24 hours (see Deer Carcass Regulations on page 11).
- Contact a Division of Wildlife district office or state wildlife officer if you see a deer that appears sick, is acting abnormally, or has a visible ear tag.

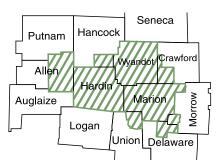
PRECAUTIONS FOR HUNTERS

A deer infected with CWD typically does not immediately show signs of the disease. As the disease progresses, the animal begins to lose body condition and stagger, carry its head and ears lowered, drool excessively, and show little fear of humans. They will eventually appear weak and emaciated.

- Wear rubber gloves when field-dressing and thoroughly wash your hands and instruments after field-dressing and butchering.
- Bone out the meat from your animal and minimize the handling of brain and spinal tissues.
- Do not eat the brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils, and lymph nodes.
- Do not consume meat from any animal that tests positive for CWD.
- Hunters that have successfully harvested a deer may have it tested for CWD at the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. Call (614) 728-6220 for more information.

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE AREA (DSA)

DSA: All of Hardin, Marion, and Wyandot counties; Auglaize, Bath, Jackson, Monroe, Perry, and Richland townships in Allen County; Bucyrus, Dallas, and Tod townships in Crawford County; Marlboro, Oxford, and Troy townships in Delaware County; Delaware and Madison townships in Hancock County; Westfield Township in Morrow County; and Claibourne and Jackson townships in Union County.



MANDATORY SAMPLING FOR DEER HARVESTED WITHIN THE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE AREA (DSA)

Mandatory sampling is required for ALL deer harvested Oct.11-12 and Dec. 1-2. Staffed sampling locations will be available during the mandatory sampling days at the addresses below.

Hunters can utilize self-serve kiosks to drop their deer off for testing throughout the deer season. Participation is voluntary outside of the four mandatory days noted above. Kiosk locations and dates of operation are available at wildohio.gov and instructions for sample submission will be provided at the kiosk.

Big Island Wildlife Area HQ

5389 Larue-Prospect Rd West, New Bloomington, OH 43341

Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area HQ 19100 CH 115 • Harpster, OH 43323

Hardin County Fairgrounds 14134 County Road 140 • Kenton, OH 43326

McGuffey Conservation Club 6950 Township Road 55 • Ada, OH 45810

Rural King

233 American Blvd • Marion, OH 43302

Wyandot County Fairgrounds

10171 OH 53 • Upper Sandusky, OH 43351

SEASON	OPENING	CLOSING
DSA Archery	Sept. 13, 2025	Feb. 1, 2026
DSA Early Gun	Oct. 11, 2025	Oct. 13, 2025

DEER CARCASS REGULATIONS

To minimize risk of spreading CWD, possessing high-risk carcass parts from Cervids (deer, moose, elk, and caribou) harvested anywhere outside of Ohio or removed from a disease surveillance area is prohibited.

Only the following parts may be possessed from any Cervid imported from anywhere outside of Ohio or removed from a disease surveillance area: deboned meat; meat that is cut and securely wrapped either commercially or privately with no part of the spinal column or head attached; guarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached; antlers; antlers attached to a skull cap from which all soft tissue has been removed; upper canine teeth from which all soft tissue has been removed: hides and capes without any part of the head or lymph nodes attached; finished taxidermy mounts; and soft body tissue wrapped and packaged for use by a diagnostic research laboratory.

Out of state hunters traveling through Ohio may possess any Cervid carcass (or part of a carcass), provided the carcass or parts are not off-loaded from the vehicle.

Hunters returning to Ohio with a complete Cervid carcass or parts NOT on the list above, as well as hunters who wish to move a complete carcass or parts NOT on the list above, out of Disease Surveillance Areas, may do so provided that they present the complete carcass or parts not listed above to a certified processor or taxidermist authorized to handle these carcass parts within 24 hours of entering the state or leaving a Disease Surveillance Area.

WILD TURKEY HUNTING

SEASON	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	BAG LIMIT
Fall Wild Turkey: Select Counties	Oct. 1, 2025	Oct. 26, 2025	1 (either sex)
All Spring Wild Turkey	To be announced		

Please refer to the HuntFish OH app or wildohio.gov for the spring wild turkey season dates and hours, which should be available by January 2026.

WILD TURKEY HUNTING

A harvested wild turkey must be checked by 11:30 p.m. on the day of kill.

It is unlawful to hunt or take wild turkeys with the aid or use of bait. An area is considered baited for 10 days after the complete removal of any bait.

It is unlawful to use a live decoy while hunting wild turkeys.

It is unlawful to possess or use an electronic calling device while hunting wild turkeys.

It is unlawful to take or attempt to take a wild turkey while it is in a tree.

It is unlawful to possess more than one hunting implement while turkey hunting. See Concealed Handgun License on page 34.

A successful wild turkey hunter may aid or assist another hunter who is hunting wild turkeys if the turkey permit has been filled in, he or she does not carry any hunting implement commonly used to kill wild animals, and has a valid hunting license. Those persons exempted from having a hunting license and wild turkey permits for turkey hunting on their property are required to have a hunting license and turkey permit to aid another hunter off of their property or hunt turkey off of their property.

TAG AND CHECK

A hunter is required to complete the game check process following the harvest of a wild turkey. See page 14 for information.

YOUTH WILD TURKEY SEASON

- A valid hunting license and wild turkey permit are required, unless exempt.
- Hunting hours for youth turkey season are 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

FALL WILD TURKEY SEASON

- A valid Ohio hunting license and fall turkey permit are required, unless exempt.
- A wild turkey of either sex may be hunted during the fall season. The bag limit is one turkey.
- Fall wild turkey hunting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.
- It is legal to use dogs to assist in taking wild turkeys during the fall season only.



SPRING WILD TURKEY SEASON

- It shall be unlawful for any person to take or possess a wild turkey during the spring wild turkey season that does not have a visible beard.
 - A valid Ohio hunting license and spring turkey permit are required, unless exempt.
 - It is legal to use a leashed dog to recover wounded wild turkeys in the spring turkey season.

2025 FALL WILD TURKEY OPEN COUNTIES MAP Williams Fullon Consult Counties C

LEGAL WILD TURKEY HUNTING EQUIPMENT

Shotgun: 10-gauge or smaller shotgun using shot, includes muzzleloading shotguns.

Longbow or Bow: The minimum draw weight is 40 pounds. This includes compound bows and recurve bows. The arrow tip needs to have a minimum of two cutting edges which may be exposed or unexposed, and a minimum 3/4-inch width. Expandable and mechanical broadheads are legal.

Crossbow: The minimum draw weight is 75 pounds. The arrow tip needs to have a minimum of two cutting edges which may be exposed or unexposed, and a minimum 3/4-inch width. Expandable and mechanical broadheads are legal.

LISTEN TO THE WILL WILL OHIO PODCAST

Counties open for fall hunting

The Wild Ohio Podcast is available on popular streaming platforms such as Apple Podcasts, Spotify, YouTube, and iHeartRadio. New episodes of the podcast are available monthly, featuring interviews with guests about their areas of expertise. Enjoy topics such as Ohio's white-tailed deer and wild turkey populations, birding the shores of Lake Erie, walleye and saugeye fishing, amphibian migration, and much more!





Outfitter Accreditation

Hunt PrOH is a voluntary accreditation program developed as a partnership between the Division of Wildlife and outfitters operating within the state. The program aims to improve consumer confidence when selecting an outfitter or guide based on their accreditation status, strengthen the reputation of the outfitting industry in Ohio, and enhance communication with stakeholders.

Scan the QR code for more information or visit wildohio.gov.



2025-26 OHIO HUNTING & TRAPPING REGULATIONS GAME CHECK

All hunters who harvest a white-tailed deer or wild turkey are required to complete the game check process.

For deer, the hunter must complete the game check process and receive a confirmation code by noon the day after the kill. If the deer is killed on the last day of a season, it must be checked in by 11:30 p.m. on the day of the kill. For wild turkey, the hunter must complete the game check process and receive a confirmation code by 11:30 p.m. on the same day it was killed.

FILL IN THE PERMIT OR TAG

- Fill in the deer or wild turkey permit immediately upon harvest and prior to moving the carcass with the date, time and county of kill. Submitting through the Division of Wildlife's mobile application fulfills this requirement. A temporary tag or mobile photo of a permit does not fulfill this requirement. The game must be tagged once the hunter leaves the animal unattended or arrives at a residence or temporary lodging.
- Exempt landowners are required to make a tag and include their name, date, time, and county of kill. Submitting through the Division of Wildlife's mobile application fulfills this requirement. The tag may remain unattached until the hunter leaves the animal unattended or arrives at a residence or temporary lodging.
- Once the hunter leaves the game unattended, the completed permit or tag, or confirmation code, must be attached. The permit or confirmation code is required to remain with the game at all times.

Regardless of game check method, the hunter must provide the 10-digit permit number, which is printed in large numbers on every permit. Exempt landowners do not need to provide a permit number.

The hunter must answer a series of guestions. The hunter will be issued a confirmation code at the end of the process.

The confirmation code may be written on the corresponding permit or tag and attached to the game. When a hunter checks a deer or wild turkey by internet, agent, or mobile application, they will receive a game check receipt with their confirmation code printed on it. Hunters using the telephone game check method will receive the confirmation code over the phone. Hunters using the Division of Wildlife's mobile application will receive their confirmation code once their phone has service.

The confirmation code must remain attached to the game and its parts. The code may be written on the back or bottom of a mount.

A game check receipt may be printed by accessing Ohio's Wildlife Licensing System at ohiogamecheck.com after the game check process is complete.

The game check process must be completed prior to skinning or removing the head from a deer, and prior to removing the feet, beard, meat, or feathers from a wild turkey. This does not include field dressing.

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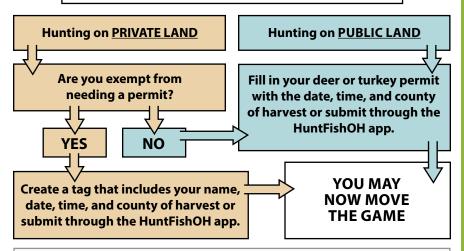


Linkedin.com /company/ohio-division-of-wildlife

COMPLETING THE GAME CHECK PROCESS

WHITE-TAILED DEER & WILD TURKEY

Congratulations on your Ohio deer or turkey harvest! Before you move your game, follow the steps below.



Complete the game check process through one of the following approved methods

MOBILE APP: HuntFish OH

ONLINE: ohiogamecheck.com

CALL: 1-877-TAG-IT-OH (1-877-824-4864) automated

IN-PERSON: Visit any authorized

license sales agent

LANDOWNERS ONLY: 1-866-703-1928

(operator assisted, fees apply)

You will be issued a confirmation code when finished. The code may be written on the corresponding permit or tag and attached to the game. Keep this code attached to the game and its parts, including mounts.

Proceed with processing or butchering the carcass.

ENJOY THE REWARDS OF A SUCCESSFUL HARVEST!

SUNRISE AND SUNSET RESOURCES

Sunrise and sunset times are available from a variety of sources, including:

- The Ohio Division of Wildlife's HuntFish OH app
- Sunrise-sunset and weather apps
- Local newspaper, television, or radio outlets



- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) solar calculator: gml.noaa.gov
- U.S. Navy Astronomical Applications Dept.: https://aa.usno.navy.mil

2025-26 OHIO HUNTING & TRAPPING REGULATIONS

SMALL GAME & FURBEARER HUNTING

SEASON	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	DAILY LIMIT
Crow: Friday, Saturday, & Sunday only	June 6, 2025 June 5, 2026	March 1, 2026 March 7, 2027	No Limit
Squirrel (red, gray, black, fox)	Sept. 1, 2025	Jan. 31, 2026	6
Ruffed Grouse: Select counties	Nov. 7, 2025	Nov. 30, 2025	1
Cottontail Rabbit	Nov. 7, 2025	Feb. 28, 2026	4
Ring-necked Pheasant	Nov. 7, 2025	Jan. 11, 2026	2 (males only)
Chukar	Nov. 7, 2025	Jan. 11, 2026	4
Bobwhite Quail: Select counties and wildlife areas	Nov. 7, 2025	Nov. 30, 2025	2
Fox, Raccoon, Skunk, Opossum, Weasel	Nov. 10, 2025	Jan. 31, 2026	No Limit
Coyote	No close	d season	No Limit
Groundhog	No close	d season	No Limit
Youth Small Game	Oct. 25, 2025 Nov. 1, 2025	Oct. 26, 2025 Nov. 2, 2025	Same as the regular season

YOUTH SMALL GAME SEASON

Youth small game hunting season is open for rabbit, pheasant, chukar, and quail (in select areas), as well as all other legal game that is in season.

- Quail may be taken only in those counties and wildlife areas which are open to quail hunting.
- Pheasant releases will occur for youth hunts on the following wildlife areas: Appalachian Hills, Berlin, Caesar Creek, Camp Belden, Darke, Delaware, Fallsville, Grand River, Killdeer Plains, Oxbow Lake, Resthaven, Ringneck Ridge (by permit only, find additional information at lovemyparks.com), Rush Run, Spencer, Spring Valley, Tiffin River, Tri-Valley, and Charlemont Metro Park (Lorain County). Daily bag limits are the same as during the regular hunting season.

FOX, RACCOON, SKUNK, OPOSSUM, AND WEASEL

No restrictions on hours. Hunters must purchase a hunting license and a fur taker permit to hunt these species.

SQUIRREL HUNTING

Red, gray, black, and fox squirrels are legal game. Hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

2025 BOBWHITE QUAIL OPEN COUNTIES MAP



Counties open for quail hunting on private land only

QUAIL HUNTING

Hours are sunrise to sunset on private land in open counties, Tri-Valley Wildlife Area, and Crown City Wildlife Area (Crown City offers controlled hunts only). Quail hunting is closed on all other public hunting areas.

RABBIT HUNTING

Hours are sunrise to sunset.

PHEASANT HUNTING

Hours are sunrise to sunset. Only male pheasants may be killed.

The Division of Wildlife will release pheasants for the youth small game weekends, Oct. 25 and Nov. 1. Additional releases will occur for Nov. 7, Nov. 15, and Nov. 27.

Public releases will take place at Charlemont Metro Park (Lorain County), and the following wildlife areas: Appalachian Hills, Berlin, Caesar Creek, Camp Belden, Darke, Delaware, Fallsville, Grand River, Highlandtown, Indian Creek, Oxbow Lake, Resthaven, Rush Run, Spencer, Spring Valley, Tiffin River, Tri-Valley, West Branch, Wyandot, and Zepernick. Select pheasant hunting fields on Caesar Creek, East Fork, Fallsville South, Funk Bottoms, Killbuck Marsh, Kokosing, Parkersburg, Pater, Pickerel Creek, Shreve Lake, Tranquility, and Wolf Creek wildlife areas, as well as Hancock County Wildlife Area 5 and Wood County Wildlife Area 5, require a controlled access permit on all Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from Oct. 15 to Nov. 15; the Wednesday before Thanksgiving; and Thanksgiving Day. Killdeer Plains, Pleasant Valley, and Salt Fork wildlife areas offer both controlled access pheasant hunts and public hunts. A special permit is required to hunt on Ringneck Ridge Wildlife Area; find additional information from the Sandusky County Park District.

COYOTE HUNTING AND TRAPPING

Rifles and night vision scopes are legal for coyote hunting, except for hunting coyotes during any deer gun or deer muzzle-loader season, then the hours and legal hunting devices are the same as for the deer season.

LEGAL SMALL GAME & FURBEARER HUNTING EQUIPMENT

Longbow or Bow: includes compound and recurve

Crossbow

Shotgun: 10 gauge or smaller

Handgun: Any caliber

Rifle: Any caliber

Airgun

2025 RUFFED GROUSE OPEN COUNTIES MAP



Counties open for grouse hunting

GROUSE HUNTING

Hours are sunrise to sunset in open counties. The daily limit is one.

FERAL SWINE (WILD BOAR)

Feral swine are a non-native, invasive species. Feral swine are also known as wild boar, feral hogs, and feral pigs. Notify the Division of Wildlife within 24 hours if you are aware of the presence of feral swine on public or private property.

- Hunting feral swine (wild boar) is prohibited. The landowner or their agent can eradicate these animals without a hunting license provided they contact the Division of Wildlife and follow the division's instructions for handling, preserving, testing, and disposing of the carcass as soon as practical but no later than 24 hours after the eradication or attempted eradication. See wildohio. gov for additional information.
- Wild boar and feral swine cannot be taken on public hunting areas.



THIS QR CODE WILL TAKE YOU TO THE MOST CURRENT REGULATIONS.

WATERFOWL & MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING

SEASONS	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	DAILY LIMIT
Dove (Mourning and Europian Colleged)	Sept. 1, 2025	Nov. 9, 2025	45
Dove (Mourning and Eurasian Collared)	Dec. 13, 2025	Jan. 1, 2026	15
EARLY: Canada Goose	Sept. 6, 2025	Sept. 14, 2025	5
EARLY: Teal (Blue-winged, Green-winged, & Cinnamon)	Sept. 6, 2025	Sept. 14, 2025	6
Rail (Virginia, Sora)	Sept. 1, 2025	Nov. 9, 2025	25
Gallinule	Sept. 1, 2025	Nov. 9, 2025	15
Wilson's Snipe	Sept. 1, 2025	Nov. 19, 2025	8
wiison s Sinpe	Dec. 6, 2025	Jan. 1, 2026	0
American Woodcock	Oct. 11, 2025	Nov. 24, 2025	3

Hunting hours are sunrise to sunset, unless posted.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sets the frameworks for waterfowl and other migratory game birds. Migratory bird hunting is governed by both state and federal regulations. Waterfowl hunting is permitted when seasons are open during the youth deer gun season, the deer gun season, and the deer muzzleloader season. The possession limit for waterfowl and migratory birds after the second day is three times the daily bag limit.

OPENING DAY OF A SEASON

No person on the opening day of the season shall possess any freshly killed migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limit, or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies.

MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING

To hunt migratory birds in Ohio, you must have the following:

- A valid Ohio hunting license.
- Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification.

In addition to the requirements above, to hunt waterfowl in Ohio, you must also have the following:

An Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp endorsement is required of all persons 18 or older. A signed federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp (Duck Stamp), or federal Electronic Duck Stamp (E-Stamp) is required of all persons age 16 and older.

HIP SURVEY

All hunters, including landowners, who plan to hunt migratory game birds, including mourning doves, ducks, geese, woodcock, rails, coots, and snipe must have a Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification number on their hunting license. To complete the HIP certification requirement, call 1-877-HIP-OHIO (1-877-447-6446) or go to wildohio.gov and answer the survey questions. After the survey you will be given a certification number. Write the certification number on your annual hunting license in the space provided.

Multiyear license and lifetime license holders are required to complete the HIP certification requirement annually. The certification number is required to be carried while hunting.

OHIO WETLANDS HABITAT STAMP

The Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp will not be issued at the time of purchase. A license will be issued stating Ohio Wetlands Stamp. The stamp will be mailed later in the year. The stamp does not need to be carried while hunting.

WATERFOWL SEASONS	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	DAILY LIMIT	
Youth Waterfowl Season	Oct. 4, 2025	Oct. 5, 2025	Same as the regular season	
Military Waterfowl Season	Oct. 4, 2025	Oct. 5, 2025	Same as the regular season	
LAKE ERIE MARSH ZONE: Goose	Oct. 18, 2025 Nov. 15, 2025	Nov. 2, 2025 Feb. 2, 2026	<u>GEESE</u> 5 combined: Canada goose, white-fronted goose, and no	
LAKE ERIE MARSH ZONE: Duck, Coot, & Merganser	Oct. 18, 2025 Nov. 15, 2025	Nov. 2, 2025 Dec. 28, 2025	more than 1 brant. 10 combined: snow goose, blue goose, Ross's goose.	
NORTH ZONE: Goose	Oct. 18, 2025 Nov. 15, 2025	Oct. 26, 2025 Feb. 9, 2026	DUCKS The daily bag limit is 6 ducks, which may include no more than 4 mallards (only 2 hens),	
NORTH ZONE: Duck, Coot, & Merganser	Oct. 18, 2025 Nov. 15, 2025	Oct. 26, 2025 Jan. 4, 2026	3 wood ducks, 3 pintails, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks, or 1 mottled duck.	
SOUTH ZONE: Goose	Oct. 18, 2025 Nov. 16, 2025	Oct. 27, 2025 Feb. 9, 2026	One scaup during the first 15 days of the season; 2 scaup during the next 45 days.	
SOUTH ZONE: Duck, Coot, & Merganser	Oct. 18, 2025 Dec. 13, 2025	Oct. 27, 2025 Jan. 31, 2026	MERGANSERS & COOTS 5 mergansers (only 2 hooded), and 15 coots.	

Hunting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset during the regular waterfowl season, unless posted.

FEDERAL REGULATIONS AND FEDERAL MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING STAMP (DUCK STAMP)

Federal regulations relating to migratory game birds are located in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20.

For additional information on federal regulations, go to fws.gov or ecfr.gov

Hunters should know:

- Federal Duck Stamps are valid from July 1 through the following June 30.
- You must sign the front of your Duck Stamp in order for it to be valid. Remember: only you may use your Federal Duck Stamp.
- The E-Stamp may be purchased through any participating state, even if you are not a resident of that state. An E-Stamp is valid immediately and for the entire length of the season. Hunters are required to carry either a signed physical Duck Stamp or an E-Stamp certification while hunting. Your purchase/credit card receipt is not valid as a Duck Stamp. Physical duck stamps are mailed to E-Stamp purchasers after the season.

Hunters 16 years of age and older are required to purchase this stamp to hunt waterfowl. These stamps are available at many U.S. post office branches, usps. com, or duckstamp.com.



MILITARY WATERFOWL HUNTING

Active duty military and veterans may hunt waterfowl on Oct. 4 and Oct. 5, 2025. Bag limits are the same as the regular season. Active duty military and veterans and youth may hunt waterfowl together during this special season.

The hunter must be a veteran or a member of the armed forces on active duty.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING

Hunters 17 years old or younger may hunt waterfowl statewide (on public and private lands) on Oct. 4 and Oct. 5, 2025. Ducks, geese, and coots may be taken under bag limits established for the regular season. Hunting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

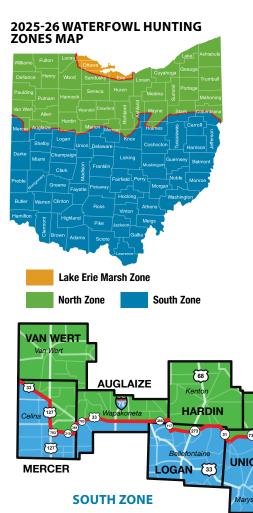
DOVE HUNTING

Hours for dove are sunrise to sunset. Doves may be hunted with lead shot. Dove field maps are available at wildohio.gov.

Doves may be hunted on areas that have been manipulated (for example, mowed or bush-hogged) for wildlife management purposes, in addition to areas that have been planted or harvested in a normal agricultural manner. Neither waterfowl nor doves may be hunted on areas where grain or other feed has been distributed once it has been removed from or stored on the field where grown. Contact a Division of Wildlife district office or a state wildlife officer for clarification on baiting regulations before you hunt.

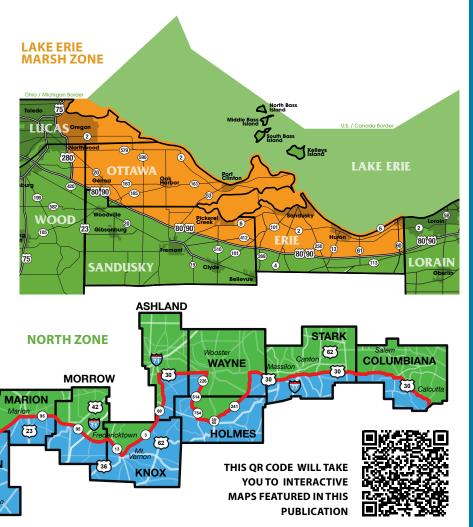
Harvest Information Program (HIP) certification is required to dove hunt. To complete the HIP certification requirement, call 1-877-HIP-OHIO (1-877-447-6446) or go to wildohio.gov and answer the survey questions. After the survey you will be given a certification number. Write the certification number on your annual hunting license in the space provided.

Multiyear license and lifetime license holders are required to complete the HIP certification requirement annually. The certification number is required to be carried while hunting.



TAGGING REQUIREMENT

No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than at their personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating their address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.



ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS

It is legal to take migratory game birds including waterfowl and coots on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas:

- Standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics);
- Standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation, or normal soil stabilization practice;
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation;
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of grain or other feed; or
- Standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds.

NONTOXIC SHOT

No person may take ducks, geese (including brant), rails, snipe, gallinules, or coots while possessing shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzleloading) other than approved nontoxic shot. For a list of approved nontoxic shot, see fws.gov.

ILLEGAL HUNTING METHODS

NO PERSONS SHALL TAKE MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS:

- With a crossbow, trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machinegun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance;
- From or by means, aid, or use of a sinkbox or any other type of low-floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water:
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind;
- 4. From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased;
- 5. By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation of this paragraph for any person to take migratory waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have

- been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl;
- By means or aid of any motor driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird;
- 8. With any device that emits recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds. It is illegal to possess such devices while hunting waterfowl in Ohio;
- **9.** By the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area.

LEGAL WATERFOWL & MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING EQUIPMENT

Shotgun: 10 gauge or smaller shotgun using nontoxic shot, includes muzzleloading shotguns. In order to hunt migratory game birds, your shotgun cannot be capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler incapable of removal without disassembling the gun. Only nontoxic shot may be used to take waterfowl, rail, snipe, and common gallinule. Dove and wood-

Longbow: This includes compound bows and recurve bows.

cock may be taken with lead shot.



2025-26 OHIO HUNTING & TRAPPING REGULATIONS FURBEARER TRAPPING

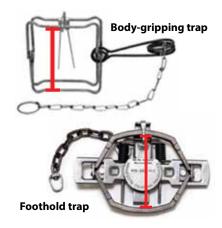
SEASON	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	BAG LIMIT
Fox, Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel	Nov. 10, 2025	Jan. 31, 2026	No limit
Mink, Muskrat	Nov. 10, 2025	Feb. 28, 2026	No limit
Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Opossum, Skunk, Weasel: Lucas County east of the Maumee river, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Erie Counties	Nov. 10, 2025	March 15, 2026	No limit
Beaver	Dec. 26, 2025	Feb. 28, 2026	No limit
River Otter	Dec. 26, 2025	Feb. 28, 2026	See page 24
Coyote	No close	d season	No limit

TRAPPING REGULATIONS

- A hunting license and a fur taker permit are required to hunt and/or trap furbearing animals (except coyote) in Ohio.
- Except for river otters, there are no restrictions on bag limits.
- All traps and snares must be checked and all animals removed once every calendar day.
- All foothold or foot-encapsulating traps set on land must have at least two swiveling points.
- Foothold traps set on land must be covered.
- Foothold traps that are submerged may not have an inside jaw spread greater than 8¼ inches.
- Deadfalls are illegal.
- Foothold traps set on land may not have an inside jaw spread greater than 5³/8 inches, except foothold traps greater than 5³/8 inches but 6 inches or less may be utilized provided they have a minimum of three swiveling points and the gripping surface is ⁵/16-inch or greater.
- Except for cage traps, no traps or snares may be set within 150 feet of another person's occupied residence without advising the resident.
- Body-gripping traps set on land, or in a tile, den, or burrow on land may not have an inside diameter jaw spread greater than 5 inches in diameter.
- Traps with teeth in the gripping surface are prohibited.

- Body-gripping traps with an inside diameter jaw spread greater than 5 inches, but less than or equal to 7 inches must be set in a natural body of water.
- Body-gripping traps with an inside jaw spread greater than 7 inches must be completely submerged in water and may only be utilized during the beaver or river otter season.
- All furbearers are required to be killed immediately and reduced to the person's possession, or released immediately at the capture site.
- No person may disturb a legally set trap or snare or remove a furbearing animal from a trap or snare of another person without permission.
- All flesh baits must be totally covered.

HOW TO MEASURE JAW SPREAD



RIVER OTTER BAG LIMITS

The season bag limit is three river otters, of which only one may be taken from river otter Zone B.

2025-26 RIVER OTTER TRAPPING OPEN COUNTIES MAP



OTTER TRAPPING TOTAL SEASON BAG LIMIT - 3

ZONE B – 1

ZONE A – 3

FIRST-TIME TRAPPERS

All first-time trappers, except apprentice license buyers, must successfully complete a hunter and a trapper education course offered through the Division of Wildlife before purchasing a hunting license and fur taker permit to trap furbearers.

RIVER OTTER CHECKING AND TAGGING REQUIREMENTS

The pelt of each harvested river otter is required to be checked in and tagged within five business days of take. The pelt may be checked and tagged by a wildlife officer (by appointment), at a designated otter check station (by appointment, go to wildohio. gov for locations), or at a district office (by appointment, call 1-800-WILDLIFE (800-945-3543) to schedule). All state offices are closed on holidays.

Each trapper must personally present their own river otter, and may not present a river otter taken by another person. Trappers must also provide a copy of their fur taker permit at the time of checking, and provide information about the date and location in which the river otter was trapped.

AVOIDANCE TECHNIQUES

Trappers who have reached the river otter bag limit are encouraged to implement river otter avoidance techniques while beaver trapping.

If you catch an otter in excess of your season bag limit and it is still alive, carefully release it without causing injury to yourself or the animal. If the otter is dead, leave it in the trap and contact the wildlife officer assigned to that county.

BEAVER AND OTTER TRAPPING ON PUBLIC HUNTING AREAS

Beaver and river otter trapping is prohibited on state managed areas, including state wildlife areas, state parks, and state forests without a special beaver and/or river otter trapping permit from the Division of Wildlife.

RIVER OTTER AND GRAY FOX CARCASS COLLECTION

The Division of Wildlife is partnering with The Ohio State University to research and monitor population trends in river otters and gray foxes in Ohio. Harvested or roadkill carcasses are requested to be turned in to aid in this research. Carcasses also provide valuable information on age and reproductive patterns, disease prevalence, diet, and other factors. Contact 1-800-WILDLIFE (1-800-945-3543) for more information.



TRAPPERS MAY DO THE FOLLOWING:

- 1. Set, use, and maintain snares for the purpose of taking furbearing animals. All snares must have a relaxing lock and a stop to prevent the opening of the snare from closing to less than 2½ inches in diameter, or a relaxing lock system with a breaking point of not greater than 350 pounds.
- 2. Attach a drag to a foothold trap.
- Trap coyotes without a fur taker permit. However, anyone hunting, trapping, or snaring coyotes must have a valid hunting license.

TRAPPERS MAY NOT DO THE FOLLOWING:

- 1. Pursue, hunt, trap, or snare furbearing animals between sunset and sunrise without use of a continuous white light visible for at least ¼ mile. However, persons hunting fox, coyote, or raccoon with a call from a stationary position may use a continuous single beam of light of any color. When two or more people are hunting or trapping together for these animals only one light is required and may be carried by any member of the party.
- Use or possess climbers or any other device, except climbing tree stands, that may be used for climbing trees while hunting, trapping, or pursuing furbearing animals.
- 3. Erect, post, or place any stake, flagging, or any other type of marker for the purpose of identifying a potential trap set location on any area designated as a public hunting area, unless authorized by the chief of the Division of Wildlife.
- Set, use, or maintain a trap or snare in or upon any path or road ordinarily used by domestic animals or humans.
- 5. Set, use, or maintain a trap or snare to take a wild animal, unless that trap or snare has attached to it a durable, waterproof tag bearing the name and mailing address or the unique Division of Wildlife Customer ID Number of the user in English that is legible at all times, or which has the name and mailing address or the unique Division of Wildlife Customer ID Number of the user stamped into the trap in English that is legible at all times.
- **6.** Set a snare with a loop diameter of more than 15 inches.

- Attach a snare to a drag. Snares must be staked or otherwise attached to an immovable object.
- 8. Set traps on state public hunting areas, including state parks and state forests, for beaver or river otter without a permit (See Beaver and Otter Trapping on Public Hunting Areas).
- Set, use, or maintain a snare on public hunting areas, except for beaver and river otter (See Beaver and Otter Trapping on Public Hunting Areas).
- **10.** Use any snare constructed of any material other than multi-strand steel cable.
- **11.** Have attached to a snare any spring-loaded or mechanical device to assist the snare in closing.
- 12. Set, use, or maintain any snare that does not comply with the requirements listed above.
- 13. Set, use, or maintain a foot-encapsulating trap that has an opening greater than 2 inches in diameter or 2 inches along one side.
- **14.** Game birds and game quadrupeds may not be taken by trapping.



2025-26 OHIO HUNTING & TRAPPING REGULATIONS **CONTROLLED HUNTING &** TRAPPING OPPORTUNITIES

ТҮРЕ	SPECIES	APPLICATION METHOD	APPLICATION PERIOD
	Turkey	online/phone	March 1 - March 31
Hunting	Deer, Small Game, Dove, Waterfowl, and Waterfowl Blind	online/phone	July 1 - July 31
Trapping	Beaver, Otter, and Furbearer	in-person	October 4 , 2025 (1 day)

Controlled access lotteries offer a unique opportunities for you to pursue several different species across the state on areas not normally open to hunting and trapping. Successful applicants will receive a permit, rules, and a hunting area map. Permits are offered for dove, quail, waterfowl, white-tailed deer, ring-necked pheasant, small game, and turkey hunting and furbearer trapping. Controlled access permits may not be bought, sold, bartered, traded, or exchanged.

CONTROLLED HUNTING

Controlled hunting permits are selected through a computer-generated random lottery system. Hunters may apply at wildohio.gov, on the HuntFish OH app, or by calling 1-866-703-1928 with a convenience fee. A non-refundable \$3 application fee applies to each hunt. Customers may apply for more than one hunt but can only apply for each hunt once per year.

All applicants, youth and adult, are required to possess a valid Ohio hunting license and meet age requirements. Youth hunters must be under 18 at the time of the hunt to participate. Adults must be 18 or older at the time of the application.

CONTROLLED DEER HUNTS

Those wishing to apply for controlled deer hunts are required to have a valid deer permit, along with a valid hunting license, at the time of applying. Participants may use a deer management permit during controlled deer hunts. Deer management permits may also be used in controlled hunts not administered by the Division of Wildlife if the entity holding the hunt has received authorization from the chief of the Division of Wildlife. It is the hunter's responsibility to check with the agency administering the hunt to see if deer management per-

mits may be used. A deer harvested during a controlled hunt does not count toward a county and statewide bag limit. Up to six total additional deer may be taken during controlled hunts. Only one antlered deer maybe be taken per season across all regular season dates and controlled hunts.

DEER ARCHERY HUNTS

Deer archery hunts will be open to all applicants, except the Deer Creek SP and Steinen WA youth archery hunts which will be open for youth applicants only, and the Buck Creek SP veterans archery hunt which will be open to veterans only. Permittee and one hunting partner will be allowed to hunt. The hunting partner must remain the same for the duration of the permit. Permits will be issued for 2-week periods throughout the season generally starting on a Sunday and ending on a Saturday. This may vary at the beginning and end of the season. If permitted, refer to the dates listed on the permit.

DEER FIREARM HUNTS

Hunts will be offered for adults, youth, mobility impaired, and mentor/mentees. Permittee and one hunting partner will be allowed to hunt. Permits will be issued for one day, on a Saturday or Sunday. If permitted, refer to the date listed on the permit.

TURKEY

Turkey hunts are open to all applicants. Permittee and one hunting partner will be allowed except for youth hunts. For youth turkey hunts only the permitted youth may hunt and must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult. Youth permits will be issued for one day during the youth weekend. Throughout the regular season, permits will be issued for three-day periods: Thursday-Friday-Saturday for mentor hunts and Sunday-Monday-Tuesday for regular hunts.

SMALL GAME

Pheasant, squirrel, and quail hunts will be available at select locations. Refer to the Controlled Hunting Access Lotteries webpage at wildohio.gov for more information.

MOURNING DOVE HUNTS

Dove hunts will be open to all applicants. Youth and mentor hunts will be offered at select locations. Permittee and one hunting partner will be allowed to hunt. One-day permits will be issued for either September 1 or September 2.

WATERFOWL BLIND LOTTERIES

Waterfowl blind lotteries will be open to all applicants. Permits will be issued for August 16, 2025. Permittees are responsible for arriving at the address listed on the permit at 8 a.m. on August 16, 2025 to make their blind selection.

WATERFOWL HUNTS

Waterfowl hunts will be open to all applicants. Youth hunts will be offered for the vouth waterfowl weekend. Permittee and two hunting partners will be allowed to hunt. Youth hunts allow the permittee, one vouth hunting partner, and one non-hunting adult. Beyond those opportunities, permits for additional waterfowl hunting will be issued for Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays throughout the season. Permits will be offered via online lottery on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Lotteries will be complete by 1 p.m. and permits issued for Tuesday and Thursday hunts at select locations. Scan OR code below for more information.

CONTROLLED TRAPPING

Controlled trapping permits are issued via **in-person** lotteries held annually on the first Saturday in October at each Division of Wildlife district office. Trappers will be randomly drawn from submitted applications and successful applicants will be annunced at that time.

Each permittee may select one partner to accompany them for the duration of the season. Beaver and river otter trapping lotteries are grouped by region; trappers may apply in only one district (central, northeast, northwest, southeast, southwest). Beaver and river otter trapping permits are valid from Dec. 26, 2025, to Feb. 28, 2026.



HOW TO APPLY

You must be fully licensed and permitted to hunt the species for which you are applying. Hunters may apply for each hunt once annually. Apply online in **March** for turkey hunts, **October** for trapping, and **July** for all other species. Each application is \$3 and is non-refundable. Scan the QR code for more information.

Ohio Landowner-Hunter ACCESS PARTNERSHIP

The Ohio Landowner-Hunter Access Partnership program (OLHAP) is a way for Ohio hunters to get access to private properties. Access will be granted through an online check-in system from Sept. 1 to June 1 each year between the hours of 5:30 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Visit wildohio.gov or scan the QR code.



LICENSES AND PERMITS

CATEGORIES		
Youth	For anyone 17 years old and younger.	
Resident Adult	For Ohio residents age 18-65.	
Nonresident Adult	For all nonresidents 18 years old and older.	
Apprentice	For residents and nonresidents accompanied by a licensed hunter.	
Resident Senior	For Ohio residents age 66 and older born on or after January 1, 1938.	
Resident Free Senior	For Ohio residents born on or before December 31, 1937.	

OHIO RESIDENCY STATUS

An Ohio resident is a person who has resided in the state of Ohio for the past six consecutive months. All others are considered nonresidents and must purchase a nonresident license. Nonresident students who are actively enrolled full-time in an Ohio college or university qualify for a resident license if they live in Ohio at the time of purchase.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

A permanent customer identification number will be assigned to all applicants of hunting or fishing licenses.

Every customer who applies for a license or permit is required to provide their Social Security Number (SSN). Federal Statute 42 requires the SSN of any individual to whom the state issues a recreational hunting or fishing license. Applicants who do not have an active SSN must affirm their status at the time of application. Applicants must also declare their residency and provide their full name, date of birth, gender, mailing address, height, weight, hair color, and eye color. Once provided and recorded in the licensing system, applicants will only be required to update their information on file if it changes.

PURCHASE A HUNTING LICENSE

Visit an authorized agent, the HuntFish OH mobile app, or wildohio.gov to purchase a license or permit. Authorized agents are located in every county in Ohio. Visit wildohio.gov or call 1-800-WILDLIFE (1-800-945-3543) to find an agent.

HUNTING LICENSES

Ohio's annual hunting licenses are valid from March 1 to the last day in February. Multiyear licenses are valid from the date of purchase to the same date in three, five, or 10 years, whichever applies. All costs include a writing fee. A transaction fee may apply for online and in-app purchases. All sales are final. No refunds.

All hunters, regardless of age, must carry a valid hunting license to hunt or trap game in Ohio. Hunting deer, turkey, waterfowl, or hunting or trapping of furbearers requires the hunter to possess an additional game-specific permit.

Licenses and permits purchased at retail outlets or at home will be printed on plain white paper. The paper may be trimmed and folded down. It is highly recommended to protect your licenses and permits from the elements. Customers must be present to purchase a license or permit.

ELECTRONIC LICENSES

Licenses and permits may also be purchased on a mobile device or through the Division of Wildlife's mobile application, HuntFish OH. Hunters must carry their licenses and permits at all times while hunting, and must present their license upon request. Licenses and permits may be displayed on a mobile device.

DUPLICATE LICENSES & PERMITS

Lost, stolen, or destroyed licenses and permits may be re-issued at any license sales location or at wildohio.gov. Reprints are free at wildohio.gov and cost \$4 at a license agent.

	LICENSES	COST
Youth	Resident & Nonresident Youth 1-Year Hunting License	\$10.00
	Resident & Nonresident Youth 1-Year Apprentice License	\$10.00
	Resident Youth 3-Year Hunting License	\$27.04
LICENSES	Resident Youth 5-Year Hunting License	\$45.07
	Resident Youth 10-Year Hunting License	\$90.14
	Resident Youth Lifetime Hunting License	\$430.56
	Resident 1-Year Hunting License	\$19.00
	Resident 1-Year Apprentice License	\$19.00
	Resident 3-Year Hunting License	\$54.08
	Resident 5-Year Hunting License	\$90.14
Adult	Resident 10-Year Hunting License	\$180.27
LICENSES	Resident Lifetime Hunting License	\$449.28
	Nonresident 1-Year Hunting License	\$180.96
	Nonresident (Tourist) 3-Day Hunting License Nonresident 3-day license not valid for deer, turkey, or furbearers	\$40.56
	Nonresident 1-Year Apprentice Hunting License	\$180.96
	Resident Senior 1-Year Hunting License	\$10.00
	Resident Senior 1-Year Apprentice License	\$10.00
Senior	Resident Senior 3-Year Hunting License	\$27.04
RESIDENTS	Resident Senior 5-Year Hunting License	\$45.07
ONLY	Resident Senior Lifetime Hunting License	\$84.24
	Resident Free Senior Hunting License	Free



Get our free app! HuntFish OH

- Purchase hunting and fishing licenses, permits, and stamps, then display them without connection.
- Submit game check even without a connection and obtain confirmation code once service is reestablished.
- Purchase Wild Ohio magazine, apply for controlled hunts, and report wildlife sightings.
- Interact with maps of Ohio's public lands, boat ramps, lakes, shooting ranges, and license agents.
- Access hunting and fishing digests, calendar of events, and other popular resources for outdoor enthusiasts.
- Check current weather conditions and sunrise/sunset times before heading out on the water or in the field.



Official licensing app of the Ohio Division of Wildlife

	PERMITS & STAMPS	COST
	Adult Permit: Resident	\$31.20
Either-Sex DEER PERMITS	Adult Permit: Nonresident	\$76.96
	Youth Permit: Resident & Nonresident	\$16.00
	Senior Permit: Resident Only	\$12.00
	Free Senior Permit: Resident Only	FREE
Deer	Adult and Youth Permit: Resident & Nonresident	\$15.00
Management	Senior Permit: Resident Only	\$15.00
PERMITS	Free Senior Permit: Resident Only	FREE
	Adult Permit: Resident	\$31.20
	Adult Permit: Nonresident	\$38.48
Fall Turkey PERMITS	Youth Permit: Resident & Nonresident	\$16.00
PERIMITS	Senior Permit: Resident Only	\$12.00
	Free Senior Permit: Resident Only	FREE
	Adult Permit: Resident	\$31.20
	Adult Permit: Nonresident	\$38.48
Spring Turkey	Youth Permit: Resident & Nonresident	\$16.00
PERMITS	Senior Permit: Resident Only	\$12.00
	Free Senior Permit: Resident Only	FREE
Migratory Bird	Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp	\$25.00
& Waterfowl	Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp: Resident & Nonresident	\$15.00
STAMPS	Free Senior Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp: Resident Only	FREE
	Adult Permit: Resident & Nonresident	\$15.00
	Youth Permit: Resident & Nonresident	\$8.00
	Senior Permit: Resident Only	\$8.00
Fur Taker	Free Senior Permit: Resident Only	FREE
PERMITS	Apprentice Adult Permit: Resident & Nonresident	\$15.00
	Apprentice Senior Permit: Resident & Nonresident	\$8.00
	Apprentice Youth Permit: Resident & Nonresident	\$8.00
	One-Year Permit: Resident & Nonresident	\$24.00
	One-Day Permit: Resident & Nonresident	\$5.00
Shooting Range PERMITS	Annual Permit & Hunting License Combo: Resident	\$29.12
. 2	Valid until Feb. 28, 2026 Annual Permit & Apprentice Hunting License Combo: Resident Valid until Feb. 28, 2026	\$29.12
A transaction fee may apply for online and in-app license and permit sales.		

THE OHIO CONSERVATION CARD

The Ohio Conservation Card is available with the purchase of a lifetime or multiyear license. Lifetime licenses are only sold at Division of Wildlife offices, online at wildohio.gov, and through a mailed application. Multiyear licenses are available for purchase at license agents.

INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT

Ohio is a member of the agreement between states that if a person loses their hunting, trapping, or fishing privileges in one of those states, they may lose those privileges in all of the member states. If you lose your right to hunt, trap, or fish in Ohio, it is your responsibility to check with any other state before you hunt, trap, or fish there to ensure you have not lost your privileges in that state as well.

HUNTER AND TRAPPER EDUCATION

All first-time hunting license buyers, except apprentice license buyers, must successfully complete a hunter education course before purchasing a hunting license. The hunting course is designed to instill a code of ethics and responsibility, as well as provide instruction on guns and how they work, types of ammunition, gun handling, field care of game, wildlife identification, wildlife management, hunting regulations, and other topics. Statistics show that hunter education has helped reduce the number of hunting related injuries and incidents.

Anyone applying for a hunting license is required to successfully complete a hunter education course. Applicants must do one of the following:

- Present a previously held hunting license.
- Present evidence of having successfully completed a hunter education course (from any state).
- Attest they are 21 years of age or older and previously held a legal hunting license (from any state).
- Obtain an apprentice license.

The trapper education course, taken after successful completion of a hunter education course, covers trap set making,

trapping equipment, pelt preparation, furbearer life history, identification, and management. These courses provide an opportunity for adults to introduce another person to hunting and trapping and to share the excitement that goes with it. To obtain a fur taker permit for trapping, applicants must do one of the following:

- Present a previously held trapping license (from any state).
- Present evidence of having successfully completed a trapper education course.
- Attest they are 21 years of age or older and previously held a legal trapping license (from any state).
- Obtain an apprentice permit.

APPRENTICE LICENSE PROGRAM

Ohio residents and nonresidents may purchase an apprentice hunting license or apprentice fur taker permit without having taken a hunter or trapper education course.

Apprentice hunting licenses and apprentice fur taker permits allow new hunters and trappers, both adults and youth, to sample the experience of hunting and trapping under the mentorship of a licensed adult prior to completing a hunter or trapper education course.

To hunt or trap, apprentice license and permit holders must be accompanied by a licensed hunter or trapper 21 years old or older. The licensed hunter may not accompany more than two apprentice license holders at the same time.

Accompany means to go along with another person while staying within a distance from the person that enables uninterrupted, unaided visual and auditory communications.

Having previously held an apprentice license does not qualify the holder to purchase a regular hunting license or fur taker permit. To obtain a regular hunting license, a hunter education course must be successfully completed. To obtain a regular fur taker permit, a hunter education course and trapper education course must be successfully completed. Apprentice licenses and fur taker permits are available to both Ohio residents and nonresidents, youth and adults.

LICENSE EXEMPTIONS

Certain categories of persons are exempted from buying licenses, permits, and stamps.

1. Ohio resident landowners, spouses, and their children are not required to have a hunting license, fur taker permit, either-sex deer permit, deer management permit, spring or fall turkey permit, or Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp when hunting or trapping on land they own.



HUNTING LICENSE EXEMPTIONS UNDER ORC 1533.10

- 2. Some nonresident landowners, and their spouse and children living with them, may qualify for license exemptions. Please follow the QR code link above for additional information. Qualifying nonresident landowners, and their spouse and children living with them, are exempt from obtaining a hunting license, fur taker permit, eithersex deer permit, deer management permit, spring or fall turkey permit, or Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp, to hunt and trap on the land they own in Ohio.
- 3. A member of a limited liability company or partnership is a landowner provided the member is an Ohio resident and the limited liability company or limited liability partnership consists of three or fewer individual members or partners, or the beneficiary or trustee of a trust that has three or fewer trustees and beneficiaries.
- 4. Tenants and their children on land on which they reside, pay rent, and from which they derive the majority (more than 50 percent) of their income from agricultural production on that land are not required to have a hunting license, fur taker permit, either-sex deer permit, deer management permit, spring or fall turkey permit, or Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp when they are hunting or trapping on land where they reside.
- 5. Ohio resident landowners' grandchildren who are under 18 years of age are not required to have a hunting license or an Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp while hunting on their grandparents' land. All other licenses and permits are required.

6. Members of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty while on leave or furlough are not required to purchase a hunting license, Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp, or fur taker permit. All other licenses and permits are required.

Members of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty stationed in Ohio, but NOT on leave or furlough are required to purchase a resident Ohio hunting license and other applicable permits before hunting deer, turkey, or hunting and trapping furbearers, and an Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp for hunting waterfowl.

FREE HUNTING LICENSE ELIGIBILITY

Free licenses may be obtained from a license agent and must be carried while hunting. License applications are available at wildohio. gov or by calling 1-800-WILDLIFE (1-800-945-3543).

- 1. Ohio residents born on or before Dec. 31, 1937 will receive a free fishing license, hunting license, either-sex deer permit, deer management permit, spring and fall turkey permits, Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp, and fur taker permit. Ohio residents age 66 and older who were born on or after Jan. 1, 1938 are eligible for reduced-cost licenses and permits.
- 2. Ohio residents who are holders of a veteran's license plate displaying the international wheelchair symbol must apply in writing for a free hunting license, fur taker permit, either-sex deer permit, spring or fall turkey permit, and an Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp endorsement. Applications must be certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- 3. Permanently and totally disabled veterans who receive pension or compensation due to their service-related injuries and who are Ohio residents must apply in writing for a free hunting license, fur taker permit, either-sex deer permit, turkey permit, and Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp. Applications must be certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- 4. Ohio residents who are former prisoners of war must apply in writing for a free hunting license, fur taker permit, and Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp. All other licenses and permits are required to be purchased. Applications must be certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Electronic callers may be used while hunting, except while hunting migratory game birds (waterfowl, rails, and shorebirds) and wild turkeys. It is lawful to use electronic callers for crow hunting.
- Spotlighting of wild animals from vehicles, including illuminating with headlights, is prohibited. Spotlighting is illegal whether hunting implements are carried in the vehicle or not.
- Persons hunting, trapping, or pursuing furbearing animals at night must carry a continuous white light visible for at least ¼ mile. When two or more persons are hunting or trapping together for furbearing animals, only one light is required and may be carried by any member of the party. Persons hunting foxes, coyotes, or raccoons with a call from a stationary position may use a single beam of light of any color.
- All hunting from motor vehicles, except boats and machinery being used in farm operations, is prohibited. Hunting small game and furbearers except mink, muskrat, otter, and beaver is lawful from a boat or powercraft if the motor has been completely shut off and the powercraft has come to rest.
- Using an aerial drone or aircraft to hunt or aid in the hunting of a wild animal is strictly prohibited, except as provided for deer recovery. Aerial drones may be used to aid in the recovery of a deer, provided that no one involved in the recovery is carrying a hunting device at the time. If the deer is found alive, the use of the drone will be discontinued before hunting can resume. In this limited case, the drone operator may provide the location where the deer was last located by the drone.
- Poisoned or explosive arrows are unlawful. While hunting, it is unlawful to have attached to a longbow or crossbow any mechanical, electrical, or electronic device capable of projecting a visible beam of light. This does not include a device such as a range finder that utilizes nonvisible light.

- It is unlawful to possess a hunting device while training or working a dog pursuing coyotes from sunset to sunrise.
- All hunters younger than 16 years old need to be accompanied by an adult. It is unlawful for the responsible adult to allow a person under 16 years of age to hunt alone.
- The holder of an all-purpose vehicle permit may hunt wild quadrupeds or game birds from a vehicle while on private property. Go to wildohio.gov for more information.
- It is unlawful to shoot from, on, across, or along a public road or highway, including the berm, shoulder, and road right of way.
- It is unlawful to receive or possess a deer or parts of a deer unless such deer or deer part is tagged as required, or unless the deer or part of a deer has a statement showing when and where legally taken, the date received, and from whom received; or a Division of Wildlife tag, seal, or certificate or other proof of ownership which shows the deer was killed by a motor vehicle in Ohio; or an official tag or seal and valid nonresident license issued by another state if taken from outside Ohio; or certificate of ownership or receipt issued by a law enforcement officer. Shed antlers do not require a certificate of ownership or receipt by a wildlife officer.

YOUTH HUNTING

All youth hunting opportunities are available to anyone who is 17 years old or younger during the season dates. All hunters are required to have the appropriate licenses and permits. All youth hunters participating in youth hunts, regardless of age, must be accompanied by a nonhunting adult. A nonhunting adult is any person age 18 or older who accompanies the youth hunter to and from the field and is present with the youth hunter while the youth hunter is engaged in hunting. The nonhunting adult may not possess any hunting implements and a hunting license is not required.

HUNTING WITH PERMISSION

Written permission is required to pursue a wild animal or their parts on the property of another, including for deer recovery and shed hunting, even without a hunting device. Permission slips are available at all Division of Wildlife district offices, at wildohio. gov, by calling 1-800-WILDLIFE (1-800-945-3543), and on page 37 of this publication.

THE PENALTY FOR HUNTING WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION

The maximum penalty for hunting without written permission of the landowner for a first offense is 60 days in jail and a \$500 fine. The maximum penalty for a second offense is 90 days in jail and a \$750 fine.

A person must carry written permission (see page 37) at all times while engaging in hunting or trapping on private land and exhibit it upon request to a state wildlife officer, sheriff, deputy sheriff, police officer, other law enforcement officer, owner of the land, or the landowner's authorized agent.

ON ALL WILDLIFE AREAS

It is unlawful to operate or park any vehicle on properties administered by the Division of Wildlife, except on designated roads and parking areas.

Portions of Deer Creek, Killdeer Plains, Resthaven, Lake La Su An, Berlin Lake, Big Island, Delaware, Grand River, Brush Creek, Waterloo, Cooper Hollow, East Fork, Woodbury, Spring Valley, and Fallsville wildlife areas will be open for persons with severe mobility impairments to drive their cars, trucks, or all-purpose vehicles to designated interior areas for hunting. Disabled persons are required to have an all-purpose vehicle permit. Find more information or download a permit application at wildohio.gov.

Camping is prohibited on state wildlife areas, except within posted designated camping areas at Appalachian Hills, Simco, and Woodbury wildlife areas. No person may camp for more than 14 days in any 30 day period, use more than one designated camping site, or park more than two motor vehicles at a designated site. Camping at Simco Wildlife Area and the Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area equine camp is limited to equine camping at designated sites. All campers at Woodbury Wildlife Area must

possess a valid hunting license, fishing license, or fur taker permit. Call 1-800-WILD-LIFE (1-800-945-3543) for more information.

All wildlife areas are closed to all activity other than hunting, trapping, and fishing from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Sept. 1 through May 1, and from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. May 2 through Aug. 31 of each year.

State parks have special hunting and trapping regulations. Some are not open to hunting or trapping. A permit is required to build a duck blind on state park lakes.

ON PUBLIC HUNTING LANDS

It is unlawful for any person to use a rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, or other firearm at any time on any land or water area controlled or administered by the Division of Wildlife except while lawfully trapping or hunting wild animals, or target practicing on a designated Division of Wildlife target range. Fully automatic firearms, trigger assisting devices that alter a firearm to shoot like a fully automatic firearm, and tracer ammunition are not permitted.

It is unlawful for any person to distribute, place, or scatter salt, grain, or other feed capable of luring, enticing, or attracting wild birds or deer on lands owned, controlled, or maintained by the Division of Wildlife, including lands managed by the division by virtue of a lease or an agreement.

A tree stand on Division of Wildlife public hunting areas is legal as long as it is portable and uses no nails, steps, or any other device placed or inserted into a tree. The tree stand may be installed from Sept. 1 to the last day in February, annually.

GINSENG

It shall be unlawful to dig, harvest, cut, root up, gather, or otherwise collect wild ginseng from its natural habitat except during the season of Sept. 1 through Dec. 31 of each year without written authorization from the chief of the Division of Wildlife. Full details are available in section 1501:31-40.

The landowner's written permission is required of anyone harvesting ginseng in Ohio. Anyone selling ginseng is required to show a state-issued photo identification card at the time of sale.

DOG TRAINING

The Division of Wildlife has established designated dog training areas on some of its wildlife areas. Dogs may not be trained or exercised on state public hunting areas from May 1 through Aug. 31 of each year, except on these designated dog training areas. A nonresident may not train, work, or exercise a dog in Ohio at any time if Ohio residents are not permitted to train, work, or exercise dogs in the nonresident's state. Training dogs while pursuing furbearing animals is permitted only from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Firearms may not be carried by persons training or working dogs during the closed season for furbearing animals.

Designated dog training areas are located on portions of Appalachian Hills, Berlin, Caesar Creek, East Fork, Delaware, Fallsville, Grand River, Indian Creek, Killdeer Plains, Kokosing, Lake La Su An, Magee Marsh, Oxbow Lake, Pickerel Creek, Resthaven, Rush Run, Salt Fork, Spencer, and Tri-Valley wildlife areas.

POSSESSION

It is unlawful to buy, sell, or possess nongame birds or their parts, dead or alive.

Game birds may be possessed for up to 10 days without obtaining a noncommercial propagating license when they are accompanied with a proper receipt.

A hunter may not receive or possess a deer or parts of a deer unless such deer or deer part is tagged as required, or unless the deer or part of a deer has a statement showing when and where legally taken, the date received, and from whom received; or a Division of Wildlife tag, seal,

or certificate or other proof of ownership which shows the deer was killed by a motor vehicle in Ohio; or an official tag or seal and valid nonresident license issued by another state if taken from outside Ohio; or certificate of ownership or receipt issued by a law enforcement officer. Shed antlers do not require a certificate of ownership or receipt by a wildlife officer.

Live furbearing animals, amphibians, reptiles, game quadrupeds, or game birds may not be held in captivity or sold except by propagation permit.

Hides of furbearing animals taken legally during the open season may be sold during that open season or may be held for sale until June 15 following the close of the season.

Furbearers may not be taken alive during open hunting and trapping seasons.

Those who buy green or dried fur must have a fur dealer's permit.

CONCEALED HANDGUN

A person legally allowed to possess a concealed handgun may carry it while hunting. They may also hunt with their concealed handgun as long as it meets all of the requirements for the game that is being hunted.

FIREARM SUPPRESSOR

A person authorized through state and federal law to own a firearm noise suppressor is permitted to use it to hunt legal game animals. A valid hunting license is required to hunt with a suppressor. A suppressor is also called a silencer.



LEGAL DEFINITIONS

As used in Chapters 1531 and 1533 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Code.

ACCOMPANY means to go along with another person while staying within a distance from the person that enables uninterrupted, unaided visual and auditory communications.

ACTIVE DUTY means full-time duty in the Armed Forces (U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard, including the reserve components thereof), other than active duty for training; Service as a cadet at the U.S. Military, Air Force, or Coast Guard Academy, or as a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy.

BAG LIMIT means the number, measurement, or weight of any kind of crayfish, aquatic insects, fish, frogs, turtles, wild birds, and wild quadrupeds permitted to be taken.

BAITED AREA means any area where shelled or unshelled, shucked, or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed whatsoever capable of luring, attracting, or enticing game animals or birds is directly or indirectly placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered. Such area is considered a baited area for 10 days following complete removal of all such corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed.

BAITING means the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of shelled or unshelled corn, wheat, or other grain, salt, or other feed so as to constitute for wild turkeys, mourning doves, migratory birds, or other game animals a lure, attraction, or enticement to, on, or over any area where hunters are attempting to take them.

CROSSBOW means a device for propelling an arrow by means of limbs and a string, with a shoulder-mounted stock, and having a working safety.

HUNTING means pursuing, shooting, killing, following after or on the trail of, lying in wait for, shooting at, or wounding wild birds or wild quadrupeds while employing any device commonly used to kill or wound wild birds or wild quadrupeds, whether such acts

result in such killing or wounding or not. It includes every attempt to kill or wound and every act of assistance to any other person in killing or wounding or attempting to kill or wound wild birds or wild quadrupeds.

LONGBOW or **BOW** means a device for propelling an arrow by means of limbs, and a string which is hand held, hand drawn, and held in a drawn position by hand or a handheld mechanical release or by a mechanical device with a working safety. This would include compound bows and recurve bows.

MUZZLELOADING RIFLE AND
MUZZLELOADING SHOTGUN means a
primitive weapon that shoots a projectile

primitive weapon that shoots a projectile or projectiles loaded exclusively from the muzzle and that is incapable of firing modern-day ammunition.

TENANT means an individual who resides on land for which he or she pays rent and whose annual income is primarily derived from agricultural production conducted on that land, as agricultural production is defined in Section 929.01 of the Ohio Revised Code.



TRAPPING means securing or attempting to secure possession of a wild bird or wild quadruped by means of setting, placing, drawing, or using any device that is designed to close upon, hold fast, confine, or otherwise capture a wild bird or wild quadruped whether such means result in such capturing or not. It includes every act of assistance to any other person in capturing wild birds or wild quadrupeds by means of such device whether such means result in such capturing or not.

VETERAN means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.

2923.15 ORC No person, while under the influence of alcohol or any drug of abuse, shall carry or use any firearm or dangerous ordnance.

2923.16 and **1547.69 ORC** No person shall knowingly transport or have a firearm in a motor vehicle unless it is unloaded, and is carried in one of the following ways:

1. In a closed package, box, or case.

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- 2. In a compartment which can be reached only by leaving the vehicle.
- **3.** In plain sight and secured in a rack or holder made for the purpose.
- 4. If the firearm is at least 24 inches in overall length as measured from the muzzle to the part of the stock farthest from the muzzle, and if the barrel is at least 18 inches in length in plain sight with the action open or the firearm stripped, or, if the firearm is of a type which the action will not stay open or which cannot easily be stripped, in plain sight.

A person may carry a concealed handgun in compliance with motor vehicle transportation guidelines of the Ohio Revised Code.

As used in this section, unloaded means with respect to a firearm employing a percussion cap, flintlock, or other obsolete ignition system, that the firearm is uncapped, or that the priming charge is removed from the pan.

The above sections also apply to watercraft, except while lawfully engaged in hunting.

PERMISSION FOR HUNTING OR TRAPPING ON PRIVATE LAND

Permission is hereby granted to the undersigned sportsperson for hunting/trapping on land owned by the undersigned landowner or their agent for the date(s) listed.

In accepting this permit, I agree to assume and release the landowner from any or all liability for personal injuries, property damage, or for the loss of life or property resulting from, or in any way connected with the issuance of this permit.

DATE(S): / / TO	11	☐ DAILY ☐ SEASON
SPORTSPERSON'S SIGNATURE	TODAY'S DATE	
SPORTSPERSON'S ADDRESS:		
SPORTSPERSON'S TELEPHONE NO: ()	
VEHICLE LICENSE NO:	RESTRICTIONS:	
MAKE & MODEL:		

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PUBLIC SHOOTING RANGES

The Ohio Division of Wildlife provides public shooting ranges at state parks, fish hatcheries, wildlife areas, and other locations across Ohio to get you ready for upcoming hunting seasons.

Division of Wildlife shooting ranges are categorized by class, which will help you decide which range best fits your needs; Class A are supervised rifle and pistol target ranges; Class B are unsupervised rifle and pistol target ranges; Class C are unsupervised clay target shotgun ranges; Class D are unsupervised archery target ranges; and Class O are other public ranges not classified by the Division of Wildlife.

All Class A ranges have fully accessible parking, shooting benches, and restroom facilities and are staffed by knowledgeable range attendants. Not all Class B, C, or D ranges have a range attendant or restroom facilities. Anyone age 18 and older who is shooting on Class A, B, and C ranges is required to purchase a shooting range permit. You do not need a permit to visit any of the Division of Wildlife's public archery ranges. Range rules will be posted at the front of the range or shared with you during check-in at Class A, B, and C ranges.

Safety is a priority regardless of which implement you are using. Basic safety rules should be followed at all times when handling firearms or archery equipment.

Those new to gun ranges should consider visiting a Class A range first as there are staff available to assist you. At Class A ranges, you will need to check in and show your range permit. This is also a great time to ask any questions! Choose a bench in the appropriate area of the range. A range attendant or range safety officer can help you determine when to load and unload your implement.

Each year, the Ohio Division of Wildlife offers a free range day which allows anyone to try out Class A, B, and C ranges without purchasing a range permit. On-site instruction by trained firearms staff is also available at select locations.

SUPERVISED HOURS OF OPERATION

Hours of operation vary and can be found at wildohio.gov. All Class A ranges are open Wednesday through Sunday. All Class A ranges are closed on the following dates: New Year's Day, Easter, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

CLASS A, B, AND C RANGES

All persons age 18 and older are required to purchase a shooting range permit. Those age 17 and younger are not required to purchase a permit, but must be accompanied by an adult (age 18 and older) holding a valid range permit.

These permits can be purchased at wildohio.gov, on the HuntFish OH app, at all license agents, and at Division of Wildlife district offices.

One-year and one-day range permits may be printed or displayed on a mobile device.

Select ranges have handicap accessible parking, shooting benches, and restrooms. If interested, please contact the individual location for details.

CLASS D SHOOTING RANGES

No permit is required to shoot at Class D ranges.

HUNTER EDUCATION

The Division of Wildlife offers two types of hunter certification courses:

- Instructor-led training.
- Online testing for residents 12 and older.

While hunter education is a vital part of becoming an Ohio hunter, new hunters also have the option of hunting with an apprentice license before taking a hunter education course.

Call 1-800-WILDLIFE (1-800-945-3543 or 1-614-265-6300) or visit wildohio.gov for information on courses in your area.

PUBLIC SHOOTING RANGES

RANGE CLASS DEFINITIONS

- **A** = Supervised Rifle & Pistol Target Range
- $\boldsymbol{B} = \text{Unsupervised Rifle \& Pistol Target Range}$
- **C** = Unsupervised Clay Target Shotgun Range
- **D** = Unsupervised Archery Target Range
- **O** = Other Public Ranges; not classified by the Division of Wildlife

DIV	ISION OF WILDL	IFE RANC	GES
PUBLIC AREA	COUNTY	CLASS	TYPE
Deer Creek Wildlife Area	Fayette	B C D	Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun, & Archery
Delaware Wildlife Area	Delaware	A C D	Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun, & Archery
Spring Valley Wildlife Area*	Greene	ACD	Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun, & Archery
Woodbury Wildlife Area	Coshocton	B C D	Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun, & Archery
Grand River Wildlife Area	C	losed for ren	ovations until 2026
Indian Creek Wildlife Area	Brown	B C D	Shotgun & Archery
Wolf Creek Wildlife Area	Morgan	BCD	Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun, & Archery
Monroe Lake Wildlife Area	Monroe	В	Rifle & Pistol
Tranquility Wildlife Area	Adams	В	Rifle & Pistol
Oxbow Lake Wildlife Area	Defiance	C	Shotgun
Resthaven Wildlife Area	Erie	C	Shotgun
Rush Run Wildlife Area	Preble	C	Shotgun
Salt Fork Wildlife Area	Guernsey	C	Shotgun
Wyandot Wildlife Area	Wyandot	C	Shotgun
Berlin Lake Wildlife Area	Portage	D	Archery
Cooper Hollow Wildlife Area	Jackson	D	Archery
Wildlife District Two Office	Hancock	D	Archery
Wildlife District Five Office	Greene	D	Archery
Fallsville Wildlife Area	Highland	D	Archery
Hebron State Fish Hatchery	Licking	D	Archery
Spencer Lake Wildlife Area	Medina	D	Archery
St. Marys State Fish Hatchery	Auglaize	D	Archery
Tri-Valley Wildlife Area	Muskingum	D	Archery

OTHER STATE AGENCY RANGES			
PUBLIC AREA	COUNTY	CLASS	CONTACT
Fernwood State Forest	Jefferson	c o	(330) 339-2205
Barkcamp State Park	Belmont	D	(740) 484-4064
Beaver Creek State Park	Columbiana	D	(330) 385-3091
Caesar Creek State Park	Warren	D	(513) 897-3055
East Harbor State Park	Ottawa	D	(419) 734-4424
Geneva State Park	Ashtabula	D	(440) 466-8400
Hocking Hills State Park	Hocking	D	(740) 385-6842
Hueston Woods State Park	Butler, Preble	D	(513) 523-6347
Lake Hope State Park	Vinton	D	(740) 596-4938
Lake Vesuvius/ Wayne National Forest	Lawrence	D	(740) 534-6500
Paint Creek State Park	Highland, Ross	D	(937) 393-4284
Punderson State Park	Geauga	D	(440) 564-2279
Rocky Fork State Park	Highland	D	(937) 393-4284
Salt Fork State Park	Guernsey	D	(740) 439-3521
Shawnee State Park	Scioto	D	(740) 858-6652
Veto Lake	Washington	D	(740) 589-9930
Wingfoot Lake	Portage	D	(330) 962-2048
Dillon Lake	Licking, Muskingum	0	(740) 452-3529
Harrison State Forest	Harrison	0	(419) 994-5125
Mohican State Park	Ashland	0	(937) 393-4284
Zaleski State Forest	Vinton	0	(740) 596-5781

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION: 1-800-WILDLIFE (1-800-945-3543)

To report a wildlife violation: 1-800-POACHER (1-800-762-2437)

OHIO WILDLIFE OFFICERS

ADAMS	Gus Kiebel	(937) 776-0688	LU
ALLEN	Craig Barr	(419) 348-7243	M
ASHLAND	Evan Huegel	(330) 245-3044	M
ASHTABULA	Joshua Quail	(330) 802-9171	M
ATHENS	Ryan Donnelly	(740) 541-8266	M
AUGLAIZE	Mark Schemmel	(937) 728-4192	M
BELMONT	Breyer Ehrnfield	(614) 563-1680	M
BROWN	Micah Collier	(513) 646-4014	M
BUTLER	Andrew Dowdell	(513) 403-6591	M
CARROLL	Scott Cartwright	(330) 802-9163	M
CHAMPAIGN	Nick Oliver	(937) 206-9320	M
CLARK	Mathew Bourne	(937) 206-9321	M
CLERMONT	Lucas Wildman	(513) 673-1566	M
CLINTON	Isaiah Gifford	(937) 776-1850	Ν
COLUMBIAN		(330) 245-3039	0
COSHOCTON	N Jerrod Allison	(740) 502-4586	PA
CRAWFORD	Nathan Cass	(419) 429-8380	PI
CUYAHOGA	Michael Greer	(330) 245-3033	PI
DARKE	Vacant	(937) 621-5779	PI
DEFIANCE	Austin Dickinson	(419) 429-8381	P
DELAWARE	Maurice Irish	(614) 400-0631	PI
ERIE	Michele Butler	(419) 356-8213	PI
FAIRFIELD	Jade Heizer	(614) 307-5519	RI
FAYETTE	John Coffman	(614) 565-2538	R
	Mark T. Williams, Jr.	(614) 956-8479	S
FULTON	Adam Stachler	(419) 356-4706	S
GALLIA	Levi Boggs	(614) 563-1843	SI
GEAUGA	Matthew Madgar	(330) 245-3035	SI
GREENE	Alex Almeter	(937) 545-6327	S
GUERNSEY	Taylor Combs	(614) 563-2355	S
HAMILTON	Jacob Losekamp	(513) 446-7028	TF
HANCOCK	Ryan Burke	(419) 202-0090	TU
HARDIN	Ryan Kennedy	(419) 429-8385	U
HARRISON	Nick Turner	(330) 245-3049	V
HENRY	Matthew R. Smith	(419) 889-8312	٧
HIGHLAND	Matt Roberts	(937) 205-3020	W
HOCKING	Vacant	(614) 257-7792	W
HOLMES	Cory Burroughs	(330) 390-0180	W
HURON	Matthew D. Smith	(419) 346-9038	W
JACKSON	Ted Witham	(614) 563-4138	W
JEFFERSON	Craig Porter	(330) 245-3050	W
KNOX	Austin Levering	(614) 400-0731	_
LAKE	Ryan Pawlus	(330) 245-3034	E/
LAWRENCE	Darin Abbott	(614) 563-3946	W
LICKING	Antoinette Freet	(614) 400-0744	_
LOGAN	Adam Smith	(937) 441-5224	C
LORAIN	Randy White	(330) 802-9172	N

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LUCAS	Mike Ohlrich	(419) 345-8821
MADISON	Matt Teders	(614) 309-3465
MAHONING	Tom Frank	(330) 245-3038
MARION	Chad Grote	(614) 745-7210
MEDINA	Eric Moore	(330) 245-3043
MEIGS	Chris Gilkey	(614) 563-4492
MERCER	Brad Buening	(419) 236-8787
MIAMI J	asmine Grossnickle	(937) 470-1917
MONROE	Jacob Parker	(614) 563-5033
MONTGOMER	Y Jeff Wenning	(937) 545-6768
MORGAN	Ben Smith	(614) 563-5338
MORROW	Tyler Eldred	(614) 400-0756
MUSKINGUM	Jeffrey Berry	(740) 447-0570
NOBLE	Anthony Lemle	(614) 563-7705
OTTAWA	Reid Van Cleve	(419) 429-8389
PAULDING	Levi Farley	(614) 852-7879
PERRY	Mark Basinger	(614) 565-0137
PICKAWAY	Josh Elster	(614) 203-3406
PIKE	Matt Van Cleve	(614) 565-0140
PORTAGE	Marino Pellegrini	(330) 245-3040
PREBLE	Brad Turner	(937) 510-1154
PUTNAM	Jason Porinchok	(419) 957-2524
RICHLAND	Nathan Kaufmann	(419) 565-1311
ROSS	Bob Nelson	(614) 565-9754
SANDUSKY	Charles McMullen	(419) 345-7173
SCIOTO	Tyler Fields	(614) 565-9064
SENECA	Brock Williamson	(419) 619-9832
SHELBY	Logan Ambrister	(937) 545-5849
STARK	Scott Traver	(330) 245-3041
SUMMIT	Zach Hillman	(330) 245-3042
TRUMBULL	Marty Cisine	(330) 245-3037
TUSCARAWAS	Michael Budd	(614) 230-6347
UNION	Brian Motsinger	(614) 315-4999
VAN WERT	Nolan Johnson	(419) 348-0311
VINTON	Cole Tilton	(614) 565-0805
WARREN	Jason Keller	(513) 520-9896
WASHINGTON	N Scot Gardner	(740) 412-9184
WAYNE	Aaron Brown	(330) 323-2554
WILLIAMS	Ethan Bingham	(419) 619-6880
WOOD	Eric VonAlmen	(419) 356-3193
WYANDOT	Payton Phenicie	(419) 429-8398
	· · LAKE ERIE · ·	
EAST	Jason Warren	(740) 963-6036
WEST	Brian Baker	(419) 706-0702
	• • AT-LARGE • •	
CENTRAL	Brady Stevens	(614) 698-9503
NORTHEAST	Kiri Williams	(740) 602-8108