

Fieldwork and Turkey Hunting

By: Janice Pulver


York County Mosquito Control

Hunting Rules and Regulations

- Every hunter, 12 or older, has to take a Hunter Education course
- Hunters have to purchase licenses annually for what and how they are going to hunt
- You can't hunt whenever you want, however you want, and at anything you want to



Customer Information		
FULL NAME	JANICE GARDNER PULVER	
License Items		
ITEM	VALID FOR	PRICE
HIP Registration	09/26/2020 - 06/30/2021	0.00
Resident State Hunting	10/03/2020 - 10/02/2021	23.00
Resident Archery	10/03/2020 - 10/02/2021	18.00
Resident Muzzleloader	10/03/2020 - 10/02/2021	18.00
Resident Deer Turkey	07/01/2020 - 06/30/2021	23.00

← Notch Tags 

JANICE PULVER:

AVAILABLE NOTCHED ALL HISTORY

- Deer - Either Sex
Expires: 6/30/2022
- Deer - Either Sex
East of Blue Ridge Only
Expires: 6/30/2022
- Turkey - Fall or Spring
Expires: 6/30/2022
- Turkey - Fall or Spring
Expires: 6/30/2022
- Turkey - Spring Only
Expires: 6/30/2022

Turkey Season

- Bag Limit
 - 1 per day, 3 per license year, no more than 2 in the fall
- Legal Time
 - Half hour before sunrise until noon
 - Turkey breeding season
 - Half hour before sunrise to sunset
 - Changes in late spring because most hens are incubating and run a lower risk of being accidentally shot



April 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						3
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

October 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- Youth Weekend
- Spring Turkey-half hour before sunrise till noon
- Spring Turkey

- Archery
- Fall Firearm

Where to Hunt and Blaze Orange

- Where can I hunt?
 - Your own property
 - Public land where hunting is allowed
 - Land with permission from land owner
 - 200 yards away from a place of worship and/or dwelling
- Blaze Orange
 - Has to be a solid color, worn on the upper body, and visible 360 degrees
 - In Virginia, you only have to wear a hat



Do I Need to Wear Blaze Orange During Spring Turkey Season?

No



Turkey Biology – Males

- Jake
 - Young male turkey
 - Fan not uniform
 - Small beard and spurs
 - Usually in small flocks together during the breeding season
- Tom
 - Older male turkey
 - Uniform fan
 - Typically the longer the beard and spurs, the older the bird
 - More solitary
- Overall
 - Scat looks like a “j”, but can be a pile
 - Head color is an indicator of mood
 - More caruncles and longer snood than a hen
 - Strut



Turkey Biology – Females

- Jenny
 - Young female
- Hen
 - Older female
 - Can have beards and strut
 - Have a smaller snood, a line of feathers going up their head, and less caruncles
- Scat looks like a pile/circle



Turkey Biology – Poults

- Hatch covered with feathers and can start to walk around shortly after hatching
- Can start to fly within weeks
- At about 2.5 months of age, they start losing the feathers around their head



Turkey Biology – Basic Vocalizations

Male

- Gobble
 - More likely to hear in the early morning

Either sex

- Cluck and/or purr
 - Content bird

Female

- Yelp
 - Can mean different things
 - What you call a male turkey in with



Turkey Sign

- Dust bowl
- Scat under a tree where they roost
- Scat in open areas where males have strutted
- Lines in sandy areas where males were strutting
- Feathers
- Feeding in the leaves
- Hear them



How to Hunt Turkeys

- Spring-Call in and 2/3 rule
 - Listen for a gobble
 - Cut the distance to the bird by about 2/3
 - Call him in the other 1/3 by mimicking a hen
- Spring-Fan-in
 - Use a turkey fan to make a Tom come running to you
 - Only use if you trust hunters around you
- Spring and Fall-Stand Hunting
 - Wait for one to come by
- Clothing
 - HAVE to wear camo head to toe, usually wear leafy suits
 - Turkey's eye sight and hearing is exceptional



"If a turkey could smell, you would never kill one"



Fieldwork and Turkey Hunting

- In my opinion, spring turkey hunting is more dangerous than deer hunting
 - Head to toe camo
 - Typically not staying in one spot, you are going after birds gobbling
 - Someone else nearby could be doing the same
 - Shooting from the ground and out instead of a more downward angle from a tree stand
 - More vegetation to obstruct your vision in the Spring



Fieldwork and Turkey Hunting cont.

- If you are concerned about hunters in the woods:
 - Act as if there is always the potential they are there
 - Talk
 - Rustling lets a hunter know something is there, but not what
 - It can be fairly dark close to full day legal times
 - Wear something bright



Turkeys and Mosquitoes?

- Turkeys and chickens can get a virus called fowl pox
 - Characterized by dark scab like areas on their exposed skin
- Mosquitoes are vectors of fowl pox and can spread it within a flock
- There is no treatment, you just have to let it run its course
 - Mortality is low



Thank you

