

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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HUNTING RESULTS SPRING WILD TURKEY SEASON, 1995

by

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This report presents the results of a mail survey to hunters who were licensed to hunt wild turkeys (Meleagris gallopavo) in Michigan during the 1995 Spring Turkey Season. A random sample of 16,684 hunters were asked to summarize their turkey hunting results. Estimates were derived from 15,089 returned questionnaires. The 90 percent response rate was the result of an original mailing, postcard reminder, plus two follow-up mailings.

An estimated 54,789 individuals hunted 225,248 days during the 1995 Spring Turkey Season. The 1995 Spring Turkey Season set a harvest record of 13,119 turkeys, up 13 percent from 1994. Hunter success increased from 24 percent in 1994 to 27 percent in 1995.

Most hunters were satisfied with their 1995 spring turkey hunting experience. The 1995 spring season was rated by hunters as 14 percent "excellent", 18 percent "very good", 28 percent as "good", 21 percent "fair" and 19 percent "poor".

The increase in hunter harvest can be attributed to an increase in the number of licensed hunters and the increase in the wild turkey population. Winter turkey population counts were at 86,076 in 1995.

The wing tip and breast feathers collected from hunters showed that out of 2,644 samples, 59 percent of the turkeys harvested were adults and 41 percent were juveniles.

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1995 SPRING TURKEY SEASON
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF HUNTERS, HARVEST AND
HUNTING EFFORT BY AREA

Unit	Licenses Issued	Number of Hunters	Harvest	Licenses Hunting %	Licenses Successful %	Hunters Successful %	Hunter Days	Days Hunted per Hunter
M	821	732	118	89	14	16	3,223	4.4
N	1,701	1,514	600	89	35	40	6,073	4.0
O	525	485	154	92	29	32	1,937	4.0
U.P. Unit	3,047	2,731	872	90	26	29	11,233	4.1
A	2,500	2,253	689	90	28	31	11,145	4.9
AA	1,500	1,302	269	87	18	21	5,625	4.3
B	984	845	238	86	24	28	3,635	4.3
C	2,450	2,207	346	90	14	16	9,398	4.3
D	3,617	3,082	698	85	19	23	15,717	5.1
E	2,800	2,546	767	91	27	30	10,448	4.1
F	3,008	2,677	528	89	18	20	11,275	4.2
G	1,100	962	99	87	9	10	4,092	4.3
H	1,700	1,532	382	90	22	25	7,028	4.6
J	6,500	5,844	1,792	90	28	31	31,387	5.4
K	16,000	14,684	3,905	92	24	27	62,488	4.3
V	1,500	1,322	271	88	18	20	5,612	4.2
W	1,900	1,726	542	91	29	31	8,635	5.0
Northern Unit	45,559	40,982	10,526	89	21	24	186,485	4.6
L	570	530	207	93	36	39	2,185	4.1
P	150	139	31	92	21	22	704	5.1
PA	180	151	39	84	22	26	889	5.9
PB	227	204	58	90	26	28	1,008	4.9
PC	150	136	43	91	29	32	604	4.4
PD	75	68	19	91	25	28	277	4.1
Q	175	156	50	89	29	32	875	5.6
QA	90	83	26	92	29	32	360	4.4
QB	75	66	11	88	15	17	298	4.5
R	206	192	65	93	32	34	869	4.5
S	780	715	151	92	19	21	3,312	4.6
T	475	429	128	90	27	30	2,656	6.2
TA	270	249	58	92	21	23	1,318	5.3
U	530	509	198	96	37	39	2,643	5.2
X	975	864	197	89	20	23	3,973	4.6
Y	225	215	73	96	32	34	858	4.0
YA	435	402	165	92	38	41	1,632	4.1
Z	400	375	122	94	30	32	2,342	6.2
ZA	195	181	80	93	41	44	727	4.0
Southern Unit	6,183	5,664	1,721	91	27	30	27,530	4.8
STATE TOTAL	54,789	49,377	13,119	90	24	27	225,248	4.6

HOW RECENT SPRING TURKEY SEASONS COMPARE

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
UPPER PENINSULA UNIT								
Licenses available	1,425	2,050	2,075	3,075	3,075	3,275	3,375	3,375
Licenses issued	1,308	1,819	2,075	2,436	2,789	3,149	2,980	3,047
Hunters*	1,100	1,656	1,852	2,213	2,528	2,677	2,668	2,731
Turkey Harvest	393	709	735	746	842	875	761	872
Hunter days	4,058	5,643	7,184	8,350	10,985	12,882	11,176	11,233
Hunter success	36%	43%	40%	34%	33%	33%	29%	29%
NORHTERN UNIT								
Licenses available	18,235	21,830	27,150	32,600	36,650	43,550	46,194	46,500
Licenses issued	18,235	21,830	27,150	32,600	36,649	42,772	46,194	45,559
Hunters*	16,120	19,558	24,715	30,010	33,545	38,174	41,055	40,983
Turkey Harvest	4,136	5,352	7,532	8,554	10,250	10,964	9,376	10,526
Hunter days	64,985	77,692	101,263	123,782	163,693	192,959	188,116	186,485
Hunter success	26%	27%	30%	29%	31%	29%	23%	24%
SOUTHERN UNIT								
Licenses available	600	1,200	1,350	2,205	4,055	4,850	5,611	6,256
Licenses issued	564	1,200	1,350	1,653	3,242	4,364	5,214	6,183
Hunters*	443	985	1,161	1,456	2,877	3,818	4,631	5,664
Turkey Harvest	38	134	189	336	775	1,092	1,292	1,721
Hunter days	1,787	3,900	4,660	6,270	15,848	21,787	22,582	27,430
Hunter success	9%	14%	16%	23%	26%	29%	28%	30%
TOTAL STATE								
Licenses available	20,260	25,080	30,575	37,880	43,780	51,675	55,180	56,131
Licenses issued	20,107	24,849	30,575	36,689	42,680	50,285	54,388	54,789
Hunters*	17,653	22,199	27,728	33,679	38,950	44,669	48,354	49,377
Turkey Harvest	4,567	6,195	8,456	9,636	11,847	12,931	11,429	13,119
Hunter days	70,830	87,235	113,107	138,402	190,526	227,628	221,874	225,248
Hunter success	26%	28%	30%	29%	30%	29%	24%	27%

* Number of license holders actually hunting.

HOW TURKEY HUNTERS RATED THEIR HUNTING EXPERIENCE UNIT MEANS

Unit	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Number of Respondents
M	5	14	20	24	36	421
N	15	19	27	24	15	458
O	14	21	26	27	12	290
A	11	18	28	23	20	496
AA	12	14	26	23	24	808
B	13	13	28	22	24	211
C	7	9	21	24	39	1010
D	9	18	27	20	26	409
E	15	16	27	24	18	766
F	9	15	26	23	27	977
G	7	9	18	26	41	739
H	12	19	28	19	22	680
J	15	19	28	21	17	495
K	14	21	33	19	13	736
V	10	12	24	24	30	721
W	15	15	29	26	15	499
L	30	24	27	12	7	331
P	20	21	33	13	13	129
PA	19	20	28	14	19	119
PB	23	17	30	15	15	142
PC	30	23	20	16	11	106
PD	32	9	16	20	23	56
Q	22	17	24	18	19	119
QA	26	14	35	18	6	77
QB	15	13	43	25	3	53
R	28	22	21	18	10	162
S	14	16	26	20	24	371
T	17	18	25	22	17	302
TA	15	19	31	20	15	191
U	27	23	28	13	9	366
X	16	16	26	19	23	477
Y	30	23	23	19	6	178
YA	34	21	19	15	10	271
Z	22	15	26	18	19	272
ZA	25	25	30	17	4	141
State Mean	14	18	28	21	19	13,579