



DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

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Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
TURKEY SEASON RESULTS, SPRING 2015

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Delaware, OH 43015

Spring wild turkey hunters harvested 6.6 percent more turkeys in 2015 than in 2014 (Fig. 1). Youth harvested 1,589 turkeys during the two-day youth season (April 18 – 19, 2015). An additional 16,063 turkeys were harvested during the four-week season open from April 20 through May 17.

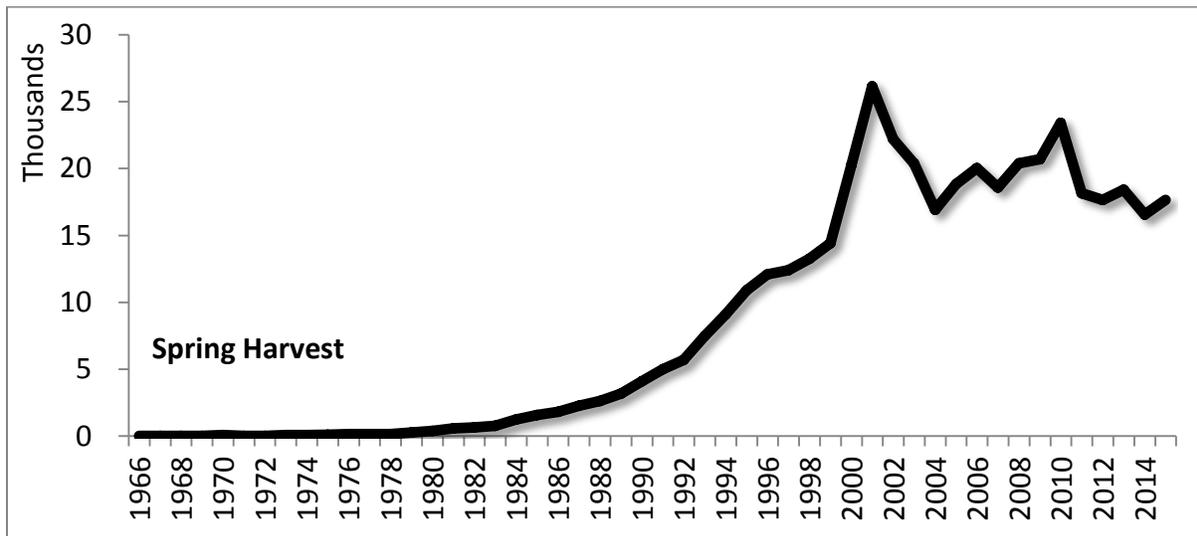


Figure 1. Spring wild turkey harvest, 1966-2015.

Spring turkey permit sales dropped 4.5 percent in 2015 and were 10.9 percent lower than 2013 (Table 1). Resident adult hunters purchased the most spring turkey permits, followed by youth hunters (Fig. 2). Overall permit success rate jumped from 18.8 percent in 2014 to 21 percent in 2015. Nonresident hunters had the highest success rate (Fig. 3).

The eastern half of the state continues to be the best place to hunt turkeys in Ohio (Fig. 4). Ashtabula County led the state in 2015 harvest, followed by Belmont, Guernsey, Monroe and Muskingum counties. The 2015 harvest increased in most counties, but a few areas, notably northeast Ohio counties, did see a decline in harvest. Cuyahoga County saw the highest percent increase in harvest from 2014, followed by Hancock County (Fig. 5).

Most hunters harvested a turkey on private land (90 percent); 10 percent harvested a turkey on public land. However, the number of turkeys harvested per square mile of public land was three times greater than on private land. Landowners harvested 3,786 gobblers, 21 percent of the total harvest.

Hunters experienced the most success during the first half of the 2015 season, when 73 percent of the spring turkey harvest occurred. The two-day youth season accounted for 9 percent of the total harvest (Fig. 6).

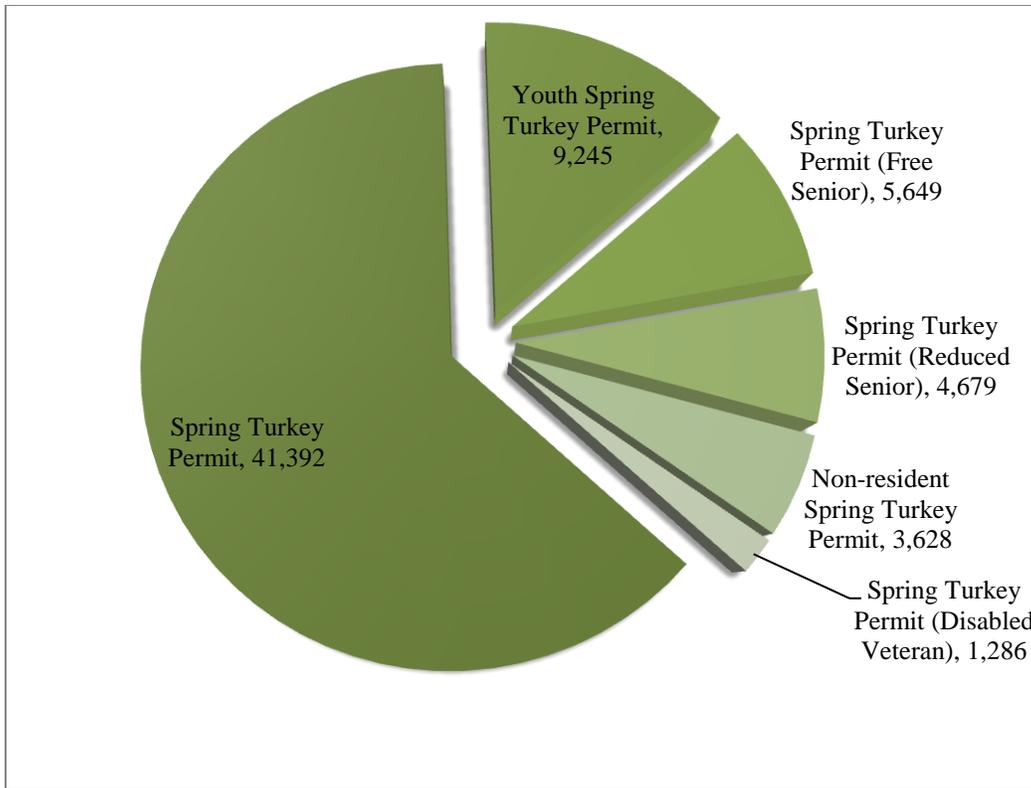


Figure 2. Spring wild turkey permit sales by permit type, 2015.

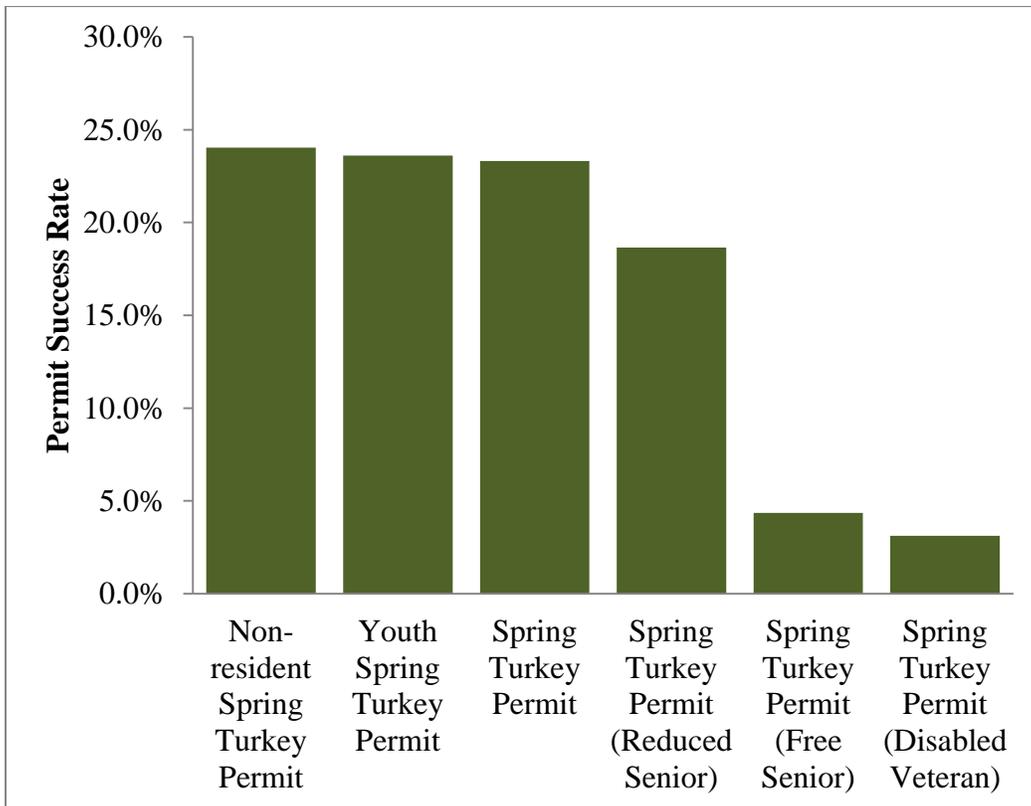


Figure 3. Permit success rate for 2015 spring turkey season.



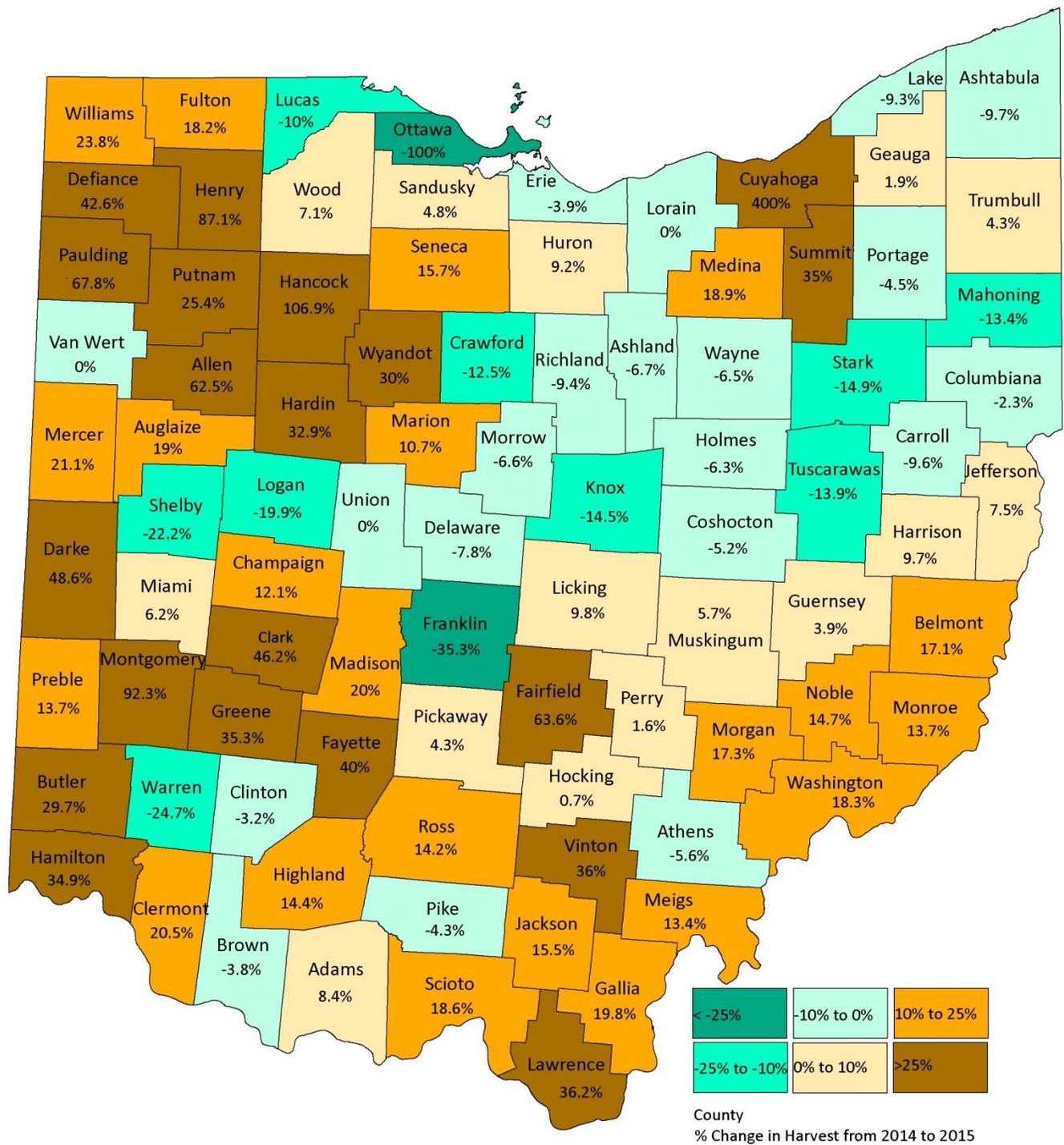


Figure 5. Percent change of spring wild turkey harvest from 2014 to 2015 by county.

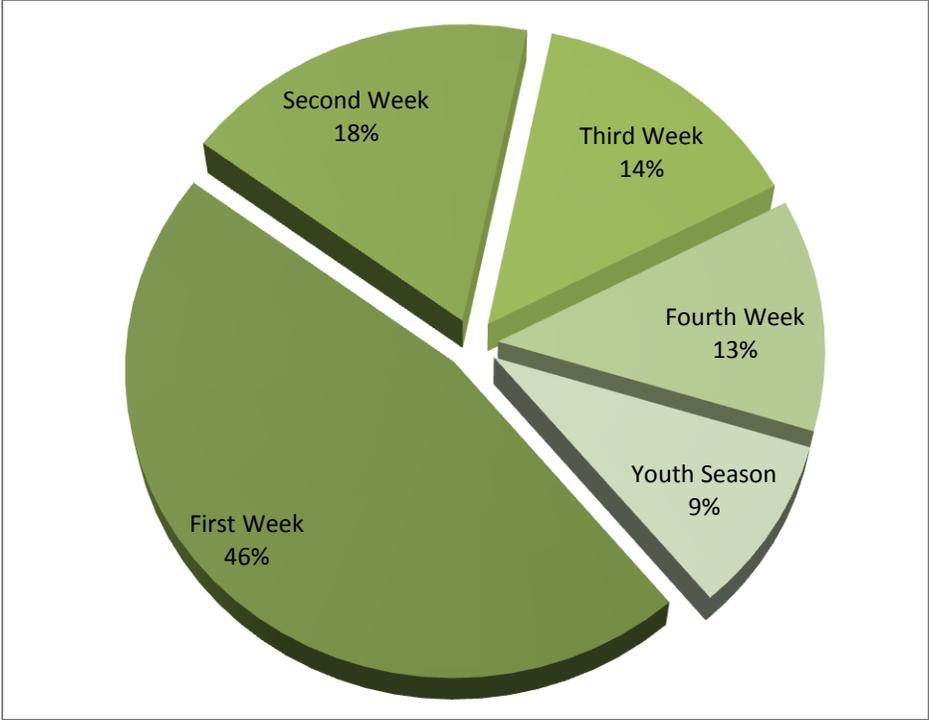


Figure 6. Percent of total spring wild turkey harvest for each week and the youth season, 2015.

Table 1. Ohio's spring turkey season dates, permits sold, and harvest, 1966-2015.

Year	Season Dates	Open Counties	Bag Limit	Permit Fee	Permits Sold <sup>a</sup>	Total Harvest <sup>b</sup>
1966	05/04 – 05/07	9	1	Free	500	12
1967	05/03 – 05/06	9	1	Free	898	18
1968	05/08 – 05/11	9	1	Free	914	20
1969	05/07 – 05/10	9	1	Free	945	37
1970	04/29 – 05/02	14	1	Free	909	30
	05/06 – 05/09				896	36
1971	04/28 – 05/01	14	1	Free	1,000	37
	05/05 – 05/08				1,000	17
1972	05/03 – 05/06	14	1	\$5.35	917	32
	05/10 – 05/13				881	25
1973	05/02 – 05/05	14	1	\$5.35	1,034	39
	05/09 – 05/12				1,034	32
1974	05/01 – 05/04	14	1	\$10.50	999	61
	05/08 – 05/11				184	10
1975	04/28 – 05/03	14	1	\$10.50	996	75
	05/05 – 05/10				267	19
1976	04/26 – 05/08	14	1	\$10.50	1,471	139
1977	05/02 – 05/14	14	1	\$10.50	1,751	137
1978	05/01 – 05/13	18	1	\$10.50	2,000	147
1979	04/30 – 05/12	18	1	\$10.50	2,000	265
1980	04/21 – 05/03	20	1	\$10.75	2,097	387
1981	04/27 – 05/09	20	1	\$10.75	3,458	577
1982	04/26 – 05/08	20	1	\$10.75	4,262	651
1983	04/25 – 05/07	21	1	\$10.75	5,141	764
1984	04/23 – 05/12	31	1	\$10.75	6,935	1,233
1985	04/22 – 05/11	31	1	\$10.75	10,084	1,583
1986	04/28 – 05/17	31	1	\$10.75	11,913	1,816
1987	04/27 – 05/16	32	1	\$10.75	13,396	2,268
1988	04/25 – 05/14	32	1	\$11.00	16,208	2,629
1989	04/24 – 05/13	36	1	\$11.00	18,887	3,171
1990	04/23 – 05/12	37	1	\$16.00	19,613	4,096
1991	04/22 – 05/11	38	1	\$16.00	22,898	5,009
1992	04/27 – 05/16	38	1	\$16.00	28,974	5,678
1993	04/26 – 05/15	42	1	\$16.00	29,538	7,470
			2	\$32.00	4,106	
1994	04/25 – 05/14	44	1	\$16.00	29,334	9,098
			2	\$32.00	5,187	
1995	04/24 – 05/13	44	1	\$20.00	30,837	10,892
			2	\$40.00	6,136	

Table 1. Continued.

Year	Season Dates	Open Counties	Bag Limit	Permit Fee	Permits Sold <sup>a</sup>	Total Harvest <sup>b</sup>
1996	04/22 – 05/11	46	1	\$20.00	31,003	12,098
			2	\$40.00	7,700	
1997	04/28 – 05/17	47	1	\$20.00	30,511	12,393
			2	\$40.00	8,130	
1998	04/27 – 05/16	50	1	\$20.00	31,037	13,251
			2	\$40.00	8,133	
1999	04/26 – 05/16	57	1	\$20.00	42,363	14,419
			2	\$40.00	7,846	
2000	04/24 – 05/14	88	1	\$20.00	49,982	20,276
			2	\$40.00	9,720	
2001	04/23 – 05/13	88	1	\$20.00	54,841	26,156
			2	\$40.00	11,092	
2002	04/22 – 05/19	88	1	\$20.00	48,821	22,190
			2	\$40.00	24,633	
2003 <sup>c</sup>	04/28 – 05/25	88	2	\$20.00	94,989	20,368
2004	04/26 – 05/23	88	2	\$24.00	74,119	16,927
2005	04/18 – 05/15	88	2	\$24.00	85,053	18,833
2006	04/24 – 05/21	88	2	\$24.00	85,248	20,023
2007	04/23 – 05/20	88	2	\$24.00	75,408	18,584
2008	04/21 – 05/18	88	2	\$24.00	79,962	20,389
2009	04/20 – 05/17	88	2	\$24.00	81,049	20,710
2010	04/19 – 05/16	88	2	\$24.00	78,388	23,421
2011	04/18 – 05/15	88	2	\$24.00	74,957	18,162
2012	04/23 – 05/20	88	2	\$24.00	68,952	17,657
2013	4/22 – 5/19	88	2	\$24.00	72,330	18,409
2014	4/21 – 5/18	88	2	\$24.00	68,959	16,568
2015	4/20 – 5/17	88	2	\$24.00	65,879	17,652

<sup>a</sup>Includes youth and senior spring turkey permits (Ohio residents 66 years of age and older).

<sup>b</sup>Total recorded harvest by all hunter types (paid, youth, senior, and exempt).

<sup>c</sup>The special bonus wild turkey permit was eliminated in 2003 and hunters no longer could be classified as one-bird or two-bird permit holders.