

# Fall Turkey Hunting Questionnaire 2015

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## **Abstract**

The fall turkey hunting season was extended 32 days in most of the state in 2015. Sixty-three percent of all fall turkey hunters receiving a harvest permit hunted turkeys during the 2015 fall turkey season. The overall success rate for active hunting respondents was 16.1%. Statewide, the average number of days spent hunting for fall turkeys was 6.4; hunting pressure was highest on weekends. Most fall turkey hunters (31.6%) are hunting fall turkeys incidental to archery hunting. With larger hunting areas, only 8.2% of hunters were interfered with during their fall hunt. Overall satisfaction with the Wisconsin Wild Turkey Program remains high.

## **Methods**

A sample of fall turkey hunter names and addresses was drawn from the current fall turkey hunter permit file. A survey was mailed to approximately 6,000 fall turkey hunters after the completion of the fall turkey season. The questionnaire was mailed in proportion to the number of permits distributed in each zone. All questionnaires asked each hunter specific questions about their fall turkey hunting experience (Figure 1). A second mailing was made to 3,000 of the non-respondents. Data from all returned questionnaires were entered into the DNR production server and summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

## **Results**

A total of 2,687 hunter surveys were returned. After duplicates were removed, the resulting response rate was 44.8%.

Approximately 35% of respondents have fewer than 5 years of fall turkey hunting experience; 25% have between 6 and 10 years of experience; 17.8% have between 11 and 15 years of hunting experience, and only 21.6% have 16 or more years of experience (Table 1, Question 1). These results are very similar to previous years. It would appear that many hunters are still just discovering fall turkey hunting; Wisconsin has had a fall turkey season for 20+ years.

Like as had been done for several fall turkey seasons in the past couple of years, the fall turkey season was extended into the month of December in 2015. Since 2007 the season has opened on the second Saturday in September and went through the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in November. The season was extended in Turkey Management Zones (TMZ) 1-5 with the fall hunt reopening on 30<sup>th</sup> of November and going through the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. This was done to give hunters more opportunity to hunt fall turkeys. This added 32 days to the end of the season in 2015.

In an effort to simplify the fall turkey hunt, hunters were asked their views on eliminating the fall turkey permit drawing and making permits available to all hunters via over-the-counter sales. Most hunters (39.5%) agreed with eliminating the fall turkey permit drawing statewide, even in zones where all permits are allocated prior to the end of the season. If the fall turkey permit drawing were eliminated, a harvest quota or season bag limit within each zone would be needed to protect from over-harvest. Forty percent of hunters were in favor of a season bag limit of one turkey, with additional permits sold over-the-counter in zones that could support it (Table 1, Question 2 & 3).

The percent of hunters participating in the fall turkey hunt, 63.3%, increased from last year, 60.8% (Table 1, Question 4). Hunters spent a slightly higher amount of time in the field in 2015, averaging 6.4 days of hunting, vs. 6.3 days in 2014. Hunting pressure was high on the weekends, with 49.2% of days in the field being a Saturday or Sunday (Table 1, Question 5).

Fall hunter success, based on turkey harvest registration data, was 7.4%. This is uncorrected for non-hunters and is probably a low estimate. The overall success rate for active hunting respondents was 16.1%. Of those reporting, 13.0% with one tag killed one turkey; 24.4% with two tags killed one turkey, 13.5% killed two turkeys; for hunters with more than two tags 11.4% killed one turkey, 8.9% killed two turkeys, 6.3% killed 3 turkeys, 3.8% killed four turkeys, and 2.6% killed five or more (Table 1, Question 7). This success rate is biased high because hunters who were successful may have been more likely to return the survey than hunters who were unsuccessful.

Active hunters were asked if they hit any turkeys they were unable to retrieve: 3.3% were unable to find their bird; 45 hunters reported hitting one turkey and 2 hunters reported hitting 2 turkeys (Table 1, Question 8).

Hunters were asked what weapon they used most, and what weapon they used to kill their turkey, fifty-seven percent (57.2%) of respondents who hunted said that they used a gun to hunt fall turkeys, while 80.2% said that they used a gun to harvest a fall turkey (Table 1, Question 9).

Most hunters were fall turkey hunting incidental to archery deer hunting (31.6%). Surprised from concealment (29.4%) was the next most common method (Table 1, Question 10). Shoot from the roost (0.6%) and drives (0.6%) were the least utilized hunting methods.

Eighty-two percent of respondents hunted on private land, while 16.1% on public land. Of those who hunted on private land, 44.9% own the land (Table 1, Question 11). The mean number of turkeys seen by hunters while afield hunting was 27.5, a decrease from 28.3 in 2014 (Table 1, Question 12).

The percentage of survey respondents who reported the presence of other hunters interfering with their fall turkey hunting was 8.2%. Respondents reported archery deer hunters as the most common cause of interference (34.7%). The second most common source of interference was hunters hunting small game (26.9%) (Table 1, Question 13).

Despite concerns that hunters in larger zones would interfere with each other, only twelve percent (12.0%) responded to "other hunters kept me from hunting where I wanted to" with 'definitely yes,' or 'somewhat.' Similarly, 9.0% of respondents answered "there was too much competition from other hunters where I hunted" with 'definitely yes,' or 'somewhat.' Only 6.5% of the respondents indicated that other hunters interfered with their chance to bag a bird (Table 1, Question 14).

The number of hunters who rated their hunting experience as "Fairly High" or "Very High" was 34.4%. This was greater than the hunters who rated their hunt as "Fairly Low" or "Very Low", 21.7% (Table 1, Question 15).

Hunters were asked to rate several factors that influenced their perception of a "quality" fall turkey hunt. The most important factor leading to a "quality" turkey hunt was "seeing turkeys". The next most important factor was "an opportunity to harvest a turkey". The least important factors were "weather" and "not seeing other turkey hunters" (Table 1, Question 16).

Forty respondents reported knowing of 1 or more turkeys that were tagged but not registered. Thirty-eight respondents reported knowing of 1 or more turkeys that were neither tagged nor registered. (Table 1, Question 17).

For the 2015 season, the hunting of fall turkey with the aid of dogs was allowed in all counties. Only 2.8% of hunters hunted fall turkey with the aid of dogs (Table 1, Question 18).

Most hunters (74.5 %) would like to see the number of permits available in the zone they hunted remain unchanged, while 21.1% would like to see the number of permits increased. Only 4.5% would like to see permit number decrease (Table 1, Question 19). Most hunters (74.7%) felt the number of turkeys in the zone they hunted decreased or stayed the same from the year before (Table 1, Question 20).

Respondents were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with the Wisconsin Wild Turkey Program. Seventy-eight (78.8%) of fall turkey hunters were 'Very satisfied' or 'Satisfied' with the Turkey Program. Only 5.2% responded as 'Dissatisfied' or 'Very dissatisfied' (Table 1, Question 21).

**Table 1.** Responses to the 2015 Fall Turkey Hunter Questionnaire.

Question 1. How many years of fall turkey hunting experience do you have? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
0-5	30.4	39.2	29.8	36.5	41.5	44.6	63.9	35.2
6-10	19.8	25.0	26.4	32.8	33.5	14.3	22.2	25.4
11-15	16.5	18.8	22.1	13.3	12.8	17.9	11.1	17.8
16+	33.3	17.0	21.7	17.4	12.2	23.2	2.8	21.6

No Response = 53

Question 2. Fall turkey hunting permits have always been allocated via a drawing process, with remaining permits being sold over-the-counter. In some zones, there are unsold permits remaining at the end of the season. In an effort to simplify the fall turkey hunt, the DNR is exploring the impacts of eliminating the fall drawing. If the fall turkey permit drawing were eliminated, permits would be available to all hunters via over-the-counter sales. Regarding the fall turkey permit drawing, which statement best reflects your views. (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Statewide elimination of the fall turkey permit drawing, even in zones where all permits are allocated prior to the end of the season	39.6	39.4	37.6	41.2	40.7	33.9	58.3	39.5
Elimination of the fall turkey permit drawing only in zones that traditionally have unallocated permits remaining at the end of the season	23.9	20.0	20.0	20.9	19.8	32.1	11.1	21.1
Retaining the current fall turkey permit drawing process	32.9	37.3	38.6	36.2	36.5	32.1	30.6	36.2
None of the above / some other system	3.6	3.4	3.8	1.7	3.0	1.8	0.0	3.2

No Response = 58

Question 3. If the fall turkey permit drawing were eliminated, we would need to implement either a harvest quota or season bag limit within each zone to protect from over-harvest. Which of the following options would you most prefer? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
A season bag limit of one turkey per hunter	21.7	25.9	20.2	23.8	23.2	33.9	36.1	23.4
A season bag limit of two turkeys per hunter	22.3	22.5	26.1	22.7	22.6	3.6	11.1	22.8
A season bag limit of one turkey, with additional permits sold over-the-counter in zones that can support this	42.0	39.8	37.7	39.8	41.7	46.4	52.8	40.3
A quota system, where hunters could continue to purchase permits (one/day) and harvest turkeys until the quota is reached for that zone, at which point the season would be closed	12.1	10.5	13.7	12.2	8.3	14.3	0.0	11.7
None of the above / some other system	2.0	1.3	2.3	1.5	4.2	1.8	0.0	1.9

No Response = 53

Question 4. Did you hunt turkeys this fall? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Yes	61.8	63.5	66.4	57.6	66.5	66.7	64.9	63.3
No	38.2	36.5	33.6	42.4	33.5	33.3	35.1	36.7

No Response = 7

Question 5. Please check each day you hunted during the 2015 fall turkey season: (Percent)

Date <sup>a</sup>	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total	Date <sup>a</sup>	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
12 Sep.	0.27	0.39	0.42	0.17	0.08	0.04	0.03	1.39	2 Nov.	0.39	0.33	0.39	0.2	0.1	0.01	0.05	1.47
13 Sep.	0.25	0.33	0.37	0.14	0.07	0.02	0.03	1.21	3 Nov.	0.41	0.38	0.4	0.22	0.07	0.03	0.04	1.55
14 Sep.	0.05	0.15	0.13	0.07	0.1	0.01	0.02	0.53	4 Nov.	0.36	0.39	0.43	0.24	0.08	0.02	0.03	1.54
15 Sep.	0.04	0.11	0.14	0.04	0.11	0.02	0.01	0.46	5 Nov.	0.4	0.36	0.41	0.26	0.09	0.03	0.02	1.55
16 Sep.	0.05	0.15	0.08	0.1	0.09	0.02	0.01	0.49	6 Nov.	0.52	0.55	0.72	0.27	0.13	0.05	0.02	2.26
17 Sep.	0.05	0.13	0.06	0.06	0.08	0.02	0.02	0.43	<b>7 Nov.</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>1.12</b>	<b>1.02</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>0.08</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>3.83</b>
18 Sep.	0.1	0.22	0.18	0.06	0.09	0.02	0.01	0.66	<b>8 Nov.</b>	<b>0.66</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>2.51</b>
19 Sep.	0.3	0.54	0.59	0.18	0.15	0.05	0.02	1.84	9 Nov.	0.21	0.26	0.23	0.16	0.09	0.02	0.01	0.97
20 Sep.	0.22	0.41	0.46	0.15	0.11	0.04	0.02	1.4	10 Nov.	0.18	0.25	0.21	0.15	0.08	0.03	0.02	0.91
21 Sep.	0.03	0.15	0.1	0.07	0.08	0.02	0.02	0.46	11 Nov.	0.19	0.29	0.25	0.13	0.08	0.05	0.02	0.99
22 Sep.	0.07	0.15	0.19	0.05	0.09	0.01	0.02	0.57	12 Nov.	0.22	0.27	0.22	0.19	0.08	0.03	0.02	1.03
23 Sep.	0.07	0.15	0.19	0.05	0.07	0	0.01	0.54	13 Nov.	0.32	0.3	0.35	0.16	0.12	0.02	0.02	1.29
24 Sep.	0.08	0.15	0.19	0.08	0.09	0.01	0.01	0.59	<b>14 Nov.</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.73</b>	<b>0.63</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>2.52</b>
25 Sep.	0.19	0.28	0.28	0.06	0.12	0	0.02	0.95	<b>15 Nov.</b>	<b>0.37</b>	<b>0.47</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>1.65</b>
26 Sep.	0.46	0.7	0.66	0.29	0.17	0.04	0.04	2.37	16 Nov.	0.12	0.15	0.17	0.05	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.54
27 Sep.	0.32	0.54	0.44	0.22	0.12	0.03	0.04	1.72	17 Nov.	0.09	0.13	0.09	0.09	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.46
28 Sep.	0.06	0.14	0.11	0.11	0.06	0.02	0.03	0.53	18 Nov.	0.09	0.11	0.11	0.08	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.44
29 Sep.	0.08	0.24	0.14	0.13	0.09	0.02	0.03	0.73	19 Nov.	0.09	0.17	0.11	0.08	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.49
30 Sep.	0.09	0.21	0.15	0.09	0.09	0.02	0.04	0.68	20 Nov.	0.04	0.06	0.02	0.02	0	0	0	0.14
1 Oct.	0.04	0.1	0.11	0.07	0.09	0.01	0.01	0.43	1 Dec.	0.08	0.09	0.05	0.02	0.02	0	0.01	0.26
2 Oct.	0.12	0.15	0.21	0.05	0.12	0.02	0.02	0.69	2 Dec.	0.09	0.13	0.06	0.01	0.02	0	0	0.3
3 Oct.	0.44	0.49	0.63	0.25	0.15	0.05	0.03	2.04	3 Dec.	0.08	0.12	0.08	0.03	0.02	0	0	0.32
4 Oct.	0.26	0.3	0.49	0.2	0.12	0.05	0.03	1.44	4 Dec.	0.14	0.15	0.1	0.05	0.02	0	0	0.46
5 Oct.	0.04	0.1	0.22	0.11	0.1	0.02	0.02	0.6	5 Dec.	0.18	0.25	0.23	0.11	0.03	0	0	0.8
6 Oct.	0.04	0.12	0.2	0.09	0.11	0.01	0.02	0.59	6 Dec.	0.1	0.22	0.09	0.09	0.03	0	0	0.53
7 Oct.	0.05	0.17	0.25	0.08	0.1	0.02	0.03	0.69	7 Dec.	0.05	0.07	0.04	0.02	0.02	0	0	0.19
8 Oct.	0.12	0.13	0.22	0.05	0.12	0.02	0.02	0.67	8 Dec.	0.04	0.07	0.04	0.04	0.02	0	0	0.21
9 Oct.	0.24	0.19	0.34	0.06	0.11	0.02	0.03	0.99	9 Dec.	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.02	0.03	0	0	0.21
10 Oct.	0.65	0.71	0.74	0.3	0.17	0.05	0.05	2.67	10 Dec.	0.08	0.09	0.06	0.04	0.02	0	0	0.29
11 Oct.	0.45	0.41	0.53	0.24	0.1	0.04	0.02	1.79	11 Dec.	0.07	0.14	0.09	0.03	0.02	0	0	0.34
12 Oct.	0.15	0.19	0.22	0.09	0.08	0.02	0.01	0.76	12 Dec.	0.14	0.26	0.2	0.1	0.02	0	0	0.73
13 Oct.	0.18	0.17	0.24	0.12	0.1	0.02	0.02	0.85	13 Dec.	0.1	0.16	0.1	0.08	0.01	0	0	0.45
14 Oct.	0.2	0.19	0.3	0.09	0.12	0.02	0.02	0.94	14 Dec.	0.04	0.07	0.02	0.03	0.02	0	0	0.18
15 Oct.	0.19	0.16	0.22	0.14	0.12	0.02	0.03	0.87	15 Dec.	0.05	0.1	0.07	0.03	0.02	0	0	0.28
16 Oct.	0.31	0.24	0.35	0.18	0.13	0.01	0.04	1.25	16 Dec.	0.05	0.09	0.04	0.04	0.02	0	0	0.24
17 Oct.	0.74	0.72	0.71	0.36	0.21	0.05	0.04	2.84	17 Dec.	0.04	0.09	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.01	0	0.2
18 Oct.	0.52	0.5	0.53	0.26	0.15	0.04	0.05	2.06	18 Dec.	0.07	0.15	0.02	0.04	0.02	0	0	0.3
19 Oct.	0.18	0.18	0.15	0.09	0.1	0.01	0.02	0.71	19 Dec.	0.15	0.39	0.19	0.08	0.03	0.01	0	0.84
20 Oct.	0.12	0.25	0.22	0.13	0.11	0.01	0.02	0.85	20 Dec.	0.09	0.17	0.14	0.07	0.02	0	0	0.49
21 Oct.	0.2	0.26	0.23	0.12	0.11	0.02	0	0.93	21 Dec.	0.03	0.11	0.05	0.05	0.04	0	0	0.28
22 Oct.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.13	0.13	0.02	0.02	1	22 Dec.	0.04	0.11	0.05	0.05	0.05	0	0	0.3
23 Oct.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.22	0.15	0.01	0.02	1.49	23 Dec.	0.05	0.11	0.05	0.03	0.05	0	0	0.29
24 Oct.	0.78	0.82	0.78	0.4	0.26	0.05	0.05	3.13	24 Dec.	0.05	0.15	0.05	0.04	0.03	0	0	0.32
25 Oct.	0.57	0.6	0.56	0.32	0.18	0.03	0.05	2.3	25 Dec.	0.04	0.14	0.04	0.04	0.01	0	0	0.26
26 Oct.	0.16	0.25	0.27	0.12	0.09	0.01	0.04	0.94	26 Dec.	0.09	0.36	0.15	0.08	0.02	0	0	0.7
27 Oct.	0.17	0.23	0.31	0.14	0.08	0.01	0.04	0.97	27 Dec.	0.12	0.31	0.11	0.06	0.04	0	0	0.64
28 Oct.	0.26	0.29	0.32	0.17	0.1	0.02	0.05	1.19	28 Dec.	0.05	0.15	0.08	0.05	0.02	0	0	0.34
29 Oct.	0.35	0.39	0.35	0.16	0.11	0.04	0.05	1.45	29 Dec.	0.06	0.15	0.08	0.05	0.01	0	0	0.35
30 Oct.	0.5	0.5	0.56	0.22	0.15	0.05	0.04	2.02	30 Dec.	0.09	0.16	0.05	0.09	0.02	0	0	0.41
31 Oct.	0.85	0.72	0.75	0.36	0.17	0.05	0.05	2.95	31 Dec.	0.11	0.15	0.06	0.09	0.02	0	0	0.43
1 Nov.	0.66	0.53	0.58	0.31	0.11	0.04	0.05	2.28									

<sup>a</sup>Boldfaced dates represent weekends.

- Weekday of hunting. (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Sunday	21.8	20.4	20.7	20.9	15.7	21.5	19.8	20.5
Monday	7.4	8.5	8.4	9.6	11.0	7.2	12.1	8.6
Tuesday	7.7	9.2	9.2	10.4	12.0	9.9	12.9	9.4
Wednesday	8.7	10.0	9.7	10.3	12.0	10.3	11.6	9.9
Thursday	9.9	9.8	9.0	11.1	12.7	12.6	10.3	10.1
Friday	14.0	12.3	13.7	11.2	14.2	9.9	12.1	13.0
Saturday	30.6	29.8	29.3	26.7	22.4	28.7	21.1	28.7

- Number of days spent hunting. (Mean)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Mean	6.8	6.1	6.3	6.8	5.7	5.4	7.2	6.4

Question 6. What was the total number of **Fall** turkey permits you had for this season (mail issued + purchased over the counter). (Percent)

Permits	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
1	92.7	91.3	90.7	94.3	95.6	100.0	100.0	92.5
2	6.0	6.1	6.7	4.7	3.5	0.0	0.0	5.6
3	0.5	2.0	1.9	0.5	0.9	0.0	0.0	1.3
4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
5	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
5+	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1

Question 7. Did you harvest a turkey this fall? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Yes	13.4	19.2	15.2	13.5	21.6	10.5	12.5	16.1
No	86.6	80.8	84.8	86.5	78.4	89.5	87.5	83.9

No Response = 21

- If yes, what zone and how many? (Percent)

Zone 1							Zone 2						
Tags	None	1 Bird	2 Birds	3 Birds	4 Birds	> 4 Birds	Tags	None	1 Bird	2 Birds	3 Birds	4 Birds	> 4 Birds
1	90.1	9.9					1	84.8	15.3				
2	55.6	37.0	7.4				2	56.1	36.6	7.3			
>2	20.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	40.0	20.0	>2	35.7	28.6	14.3	21.4		
Zone 3							Zone 4						
Tags	None	1 Bird	2 Birds	3 Birds	4 Birds	> 4 Birds	Tags	None	1 Bird	2 Birds	3 Birds	4 Birds	> 4 Birds
1	88.2	11.8					1	88.5	11.5				
2	72.2	5.6	22.2				2	55.6	22.2				
>2	37.5	18.8	31.3	6.3	0.0	6.3	>2	75.0	0.0	0.0	25.0		
Zone 5							Zone 6						
Tags	None	1 Bird	2 Birds	3 Birds	4 Birds	> 4 Birds	Tags	None	1 Bird	2 Birds	3 Birds	4 Birds	> 4 Birds
1	78.3	21.7					1	89.2	10.8				
2	80.0	0.0	20.0				2	100.0					
Zone 7							Statewide						
Tags	None	1 Bird	2 Birds	3 Birds	4 Birds	> 4 Birds	Tags	None	1 Bird	2 Birds	3 Birds	4 Birds	> 4 Birds
1	87.0	13.0					1	87.0	13.0				
							2	62.2	24.4	13.5			
							>2	67.1	11.4	8.9	6.3	3.8	2.6

Question 8. Did you hit a turkey that you were unable to retrieve? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Yes	5.5	3.6	1.7	2.0	4.6	0.0	0.0	3.3
No	94.5	96.4	98.3	98.0	95.4	100.0	100.0	96.7

No Response = 26

- If yes, how many? (Frequency)

Number of Turkeys	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
1	18	14	7	2	4	0	0	45
2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2

Question 9. What type of weapon did you use **most** while hunting turkeys this fall? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Gun	51.6	61.0	53.1	52.9	68.5	84.2	79.2	57.2
Bow	34.0	25.9	30.0	31.6	20.4	10.5	12.5	28.5
Crossbow	14.4	13.1	16.9	15.5	11.1	5.3	8.3	14.2

No Response = 38

- What type of weapon did you use to **harvest** a turkey this fall? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Gun	72.7	80.9	84.2	91.2	72.7	80.0	83.3	80.2
Bow	20.8	13.0	11.0	5.9	18.2	20.0	0.0	13.9
Crossbow	6.5	6.1	4.9	2.9	9.1	0.0	16.7	6.0

Question 10. Please select ONE of the 10 options below that best describes how you hunted:  
(Percent)

Method	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Scatter a flock and called a bird back	1.9	0.5	1.1	1.9	1.3	1.9	0.0	1.2
Called a bird without scattering a flock	8.8	8.4	6.6	5.2	8.2	5.6	3.0	7.5
Surprised from concealment	26.4	32.6	31.1	25.3	30.4	25.9	18.2	29.4
Still hunt, stalking	19.5	23.3	18.1	19.7	23.4	29.6	36.4	21.0
Drives	1.0	0.8	0.0	0.7	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.6
Shoot from the roost	0.2	0.6	1.1	0.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.6
Aid of dog	1.0	1.1	0.4	1.1	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.9
Incidental to archery hunting	35.8	25.8	37.1	36.7	20.9	16.7	24.2	31.6
Incidental to small game hunting	5.4	6.9	4.6	10.0	12.7	20.4	18.2	7.2
Incidental to other hunting	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Question 11. What percentage of your time hunting did you spend on private vs. public land:

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Private	85.1	83.2	83.3	85.9	69.4	57.8	63.1	82.2
Public	12.0	15.0	14.6	16.7	28.5	38.0	32.9	16.1

Question 11a. If you hunted private land how did you obtain access? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
I own the land	41.1	33.2	51.1	54.6	59.8	76.9	57.9	44.9
I lease the land	5.8	3.9	5.7	1.7	1.1	0.0	0.0	4.2
I hunted land owned by a friend or relative	36.2	36.4	29.8	28.4	22.8	15.4	31.6	32.4
I hunted a friend's or neighbor's land	7.3	9.6	6.6	6.3	12.0	3.9	5.3	7.9
I obtained permission from a non-related landowner	9.6	17.1	6.8	9.1	4.4	3.9	5.3	10.6

Question 12. How many turkeys did you see while you were afield hunting turkeys? Do not include turkeys sighted from a vehicle. (Mean)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Mean	30.5	28.6	25.4	24.8	28.6	15.4	22.3	27.5

Question 13. While you were afield this fall, did the presence of other hunters interfere with your turkey hunting? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Yes	8.7	10.9	7.7	3.1	6.3	7.9	4.2	8.2
No	92.3	89.1	92.2	97.0	93.7	92.1	95.8	91.7

No Response = 30

- If yes, what were the other hunters hunting? (Percent)

Hunting	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Archery Deer	23.9	41.6	34.8	36.4	30.0	33.3	0.0	34.7
Small Game	30.4	24.7	26.1	18.2	40.0	33.3	0.0	26.9
Turkeys	8.7	11.7	13.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	10.4
Gun Deer	8.7	2.6	8.7	18.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.2
Unknown	28.3	19.5	17.4	27.3	20.0	33.3	0.0	21.8

Question 14. For each statement below, please check the response which best reflects your fall hunt. (Percent)

- Other hunters sometimes kept me from hunting where I wanted to.

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Definitely Yes	4.3	5.9	3.2	1.0	4.5	0.0	4.2	4.0
Somewhat	8.2	10.0	8.3	3.1	8.1	5.3	0.0	8.0
Not Much	15.2	21.0	14.8	16.8	18.0	15.8	16.7	17.2
No Never	72.3	63.1	73.7	79.1	69.4	79.0	79.2	70.8

No Response = 42

- There was too much competition from other hunters where I hunted.

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Definitely Yes	2.4	4.8	2.9	0.0	0.9	0.0	4.2	2.8
Somewhat	6.8	7.6	5.4	4.1	6.5	2.6	4.2	6.2
Not Much	15.5	21.5	17.2	15.8	19.4	21.1	12.5	18.1
No Never	75.3	66.1	74.5	80.1	73.2	76.3	79.2	72.9

No Response = 62

- Other hunters interfered with my chance to bag a bird.

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Definitely Yes	1.9	3.1	2.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	4.2	2.0
Somewhat	5.7	6.2	3.9	1.0	2.8	2.6	0.0	4.5
Not Much	12.7	18.9	11.3	12.8	14.7	13.2	12.5	14.4
No Never	79.8	71.9	82.8	86.2	81.7	84.2	83.3	79.2

No Response = 58

Question 15. Overall, how would you rate the quality of your Wisconsin fall wild turkey hunt this year? (Percent)

Rating	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Very High	13.4	17.1	14.7	13.6	16.2	13.2	4.2	14.9
Fairly High	21.8	20.7	18.6	14.1	18.9	18.4	25.0	19.5
Average	45.1	45.3	40.1	49.5	37.8	44.7	41.7	43.9
Fairly Low	13.9	12.5	18.4	17.2	18.9	13.2	12.5	15.3
Very Low	5.8	4.4	8.2	5.6	8.1	10.5	16.7	6.4

No Response = 26

Question 16. Please rank the factors that most influence your perception of a "quality" fall turkey hunt. Enter a value of 1 through 7 next to each statement, with "1" having the most effect and "7" having the least effect on your hunting experience. (Mean response)

Factor	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
An opportunity to harvest a turkey	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.7	3.3	2.6	3.5	3.0
Seeing turkeys	2.4	2.8	2.5	2.4	2.7	2.4	3.4	2.6
Harvesting a mature Tom	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.1	3.9	4.2	4.1
Harvesting a turkey (either sex)	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.2	3.8	3.7	4.3	4.1
Weather	4.4	4.3	4.6	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.4
Not seeing other turkey hunters	4.6	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.8	3.7	4.2	4.5
Spending time with friends and family	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.8	4.5	3.6

Question 17. How many turkeys do you know of that were shot by people this fall and were:

- Tagged but not registered.

Number of Turkeys	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
1	4	9	5	2	3	0	0	23
2	3	3	4	0	0	0	0	10
3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
>3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	4

- Not tagged or registered.

Number of Turkeys	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
1	2	6	4	0	1	0	0	13
2	2	4	2	2	1	1	0	12
3	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	5
>3	2	4	1	0	1	0	0	8

Question 18. Did you hunt fall turkeys with the aid of dog(s) in 2015?

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Yes	1.8	3.8	1.5	2.5	7.2	0.0	4.2	2.8
No	98.2	96.2	98.5	97.5	92.8	100.0	95.8	97.2

No Response = 30

Question 19. Would you like to see the number of permits available for the zone(s) you hunted changed? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Increased	14.1	28.9	16.3	15.8	27.7	35.4	30.6	21.1
Stay the same	80.4	68.4	78.0	78.6	68.9	60.4	69.4	74.5
Decreased	5.5	2.7	5.7	5.6	3.4	4.2	0.0	4.5

Question 20. Do you feel that the turkey numbers have changed from last year in the zone(s) you hunted this fall? (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Increased	21.5	26.4	18.9	25.6	21.0	31.9	31.4	23.2
Stay the same	48.1	50.0	42.3	38.7	42.9	34.0	40.0	45.2
Decreased	28.4	22.1	37.9	31.7	34.5	23.4	25.7	29.5
Did not hunt same zone	2.0	1.6	0.9	4.0	1.7	10.6	2.9	2.1

Question 21. Rate your overall satisfaction with the Wisconsin Wild Turkey Program. (Percent)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Total
Very Satisfied	30.5	30.9	31.5	27.1	27.9	36.8	20.8	30.3
Satisfied	46.8	50.2	46.5	49.8	52.3	39.5	62.5	48.5
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	16.3	15.3	16.2	16.6	16.2	18.4	8.3	15.9
Dissatisfied	5.5	3.2	3.9	5.0	1.8	2.6	4.2	4.0
Very Dissatisfied	0.8	0.4	1.9	1.5	1.8	2.6	4.2	1.2

No Response = 26

Dear Wisconsin Turkey Hunter:

The increase and expansion of wild turkey numbers since their reintroduction to the state in the 1970s has certainly been an incredible wildlife success story, and turkey hunting now ranks as a favored pastime among many state hunters. To successfully manage turkeys and maintain the high quality of Wisconsin's turkey hunt, biologists require data from hunters as well as data on turkeys themselves. You have been randomly selected from a list of fall turkey hunters to participate in this year's survey. Even if you did not get out into the field during this year's hunt, please take a moment to fill out this survey. It is important that we hear from as many hunters as possible so that we can develop an accurate understanding of issues that are important to hunters in the state. All information that you provide will remain entirely confidential, and will not be used for any other purpose. Completion of this survey is voluntary.

Although postage is not required to return this questionnaire, placing a stamp on the enclosed envelope will allow more dollars to be put into habitat management and maintenance, to ensure the future of Wisconsin's wild turkeys.

Thank you for your time on behalf of Wisconsin's turkey resource and your fellow hunters.

Sincerely,

*Krista McGinley*

Krista McGinley  
Assistant Upland Wildlife Ecologist

This survey is available **online**, please go to:  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/surveys.html>  
Click on the link **Mail-selected surveys** tab,  
and click on the link **Fall turkey hunting questionnaire**  
Enter the following when prompted:  
**Password:** fallturkey15

**Filling out the questionnaire online will save the department dollars that can be used for management**

1. How many years of fall turkey hunting experience do you have? (Check ONE)

- 0-5     6-10     11-15     16+

2. Fall turkey hunting permits have always been allocated via a drawing process, with remaining permits being sold over-the-counter. In some zones, there are unsold permits remaining at the end of the season. In an effort to simplify the fall turkey hunt, the DNR is exploring the impacts of eliminating the fall drawing. If the fall turkey permit drawing were eliminated, permits would be available to all hunters via over-the-counter sales. Regarding the fall turkey permit drawing, which statement best reflects your views? (Check only ONE):

- Statewide elimination of the fall turkey permit drawing, even in zones where all permits are allocated prior to the end of the season
- Elimination of the fall turkey permit drawing only in zones that traditionally have unallocated permits remaining at the end of the season
- Retaining the current fall turkey permit drawing process
- None of the above / some other system

3. If the fall turkey permit drawings were eliminated, we would need to implement either a harvest quota or season bag limit within each zone to protect from over-harvest. Which of the following options would you most prefer? (Check only ONE)

- A season bag limit of one turkey per hunter
- A season bag limit of two turkeys per hunter
- A season bag limit of one turkey, with additional permits sold over-the-counter in zones that can support this
- A quota system, where hunters could continue to purchase permits (one/day) and harvest turkeys until the quota is reached for that zone, at which point the season would be closed
- None of the above / some other system

4. Did you hunt turkeys this fall?     Yes     No

**IF YOU DID NOT HUNT, PLEASE STOP HERE AND RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRE.**

5. Please check [X] a box for each day you hunted during the 2015 fall turkey season.

September						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
		-	-	-	-	
						12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
				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						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	30					

December						
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
		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		

6. What was the total number of **Fall** turkey permits you had for this season (mail issued + purchased over the counter):

Zone	# of Permits
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Did you harvest a turkey this fall?  Yes  No

If yes, what zone and how many?	Zone	# Harvested
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

8. Did you hit a turkey you were unable to retrieve?  
 Yes  No If yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What type of weapon did you use **most** while hunting turkeys this fall?  Gun  Bow  Crossbow  
 What type of weapon did you use to **harvest** a turkey this fall?  
 Gun  Bow  Crossbow

10. Please select ONE of the 10 options below that best describes how you hunted:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scattered a flock and called a bird back | <input type="checkbox"/> Drives               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Called a bird without scattering a flock | <input type="checkbox"/> Shoot from the roost |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surprised from concealment               | <input type="checkbox"/> Aid of dog           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Still hunt, stalking                     |   |

Incidental to other hunting:

- Bow deer  
 Small game  
 Other: If another method, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

11. What percentage of your time hunting did you spend on private vs. public land:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ % Private land \_\_\_\_\_ % Public land

11a. If you hunted Private land how did you obtain access? (Check only ONE)

- I own the land  
 I lease the land  
 I hunted land owned by a friend or relative  
 I hunted a friend's or neighbor's land  
 I obtained permission from a non-related landowner

12. How many turkeys did you see while you were afield hunting turkeys? Do not include turkeys sighted from a vehicle.

Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of turkeys: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of turkeys: \_\_\_\_\_

13. While you were afield this fall, did the presence of other hunters interfere with your turkey hunting?

Yes  No

If yes, what were the other hunters hunting? (Check all that apply.)

- Archery Deer  Gun Deer  
 Small Game  Unknown  
 Turkeys

14. For each statement below, please check the response which best reflects your fall hunt.

	Definitely Yes	Somewhat	Not Much	No Never
Other hunters sometimes kept me from hunting where I wanted to.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There was too much competition from other hunters where I hunted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other hunters interfered with my chance to bag a bird	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Figure 1.** *Continued.*

**Figure 1.** *Continued.*