Information for:
Spring and Fall Seasons
Youth Hunting

New for 2012:
Extended fall season

OutdoorNebraska.org
Size:
The wild turkey is the largest of North America’s game birds.

Adult males, known as toms or gobblers, normally weigh between 16 and 24 pounds. Females, known as hens, are smaller than males and usually weigh between 8 and 10 pounds.

Feathers:

**Males:** Gobblers have iridescent red, green, copper, bronze and gold feathers. They use these bright colors to great advantage when attracting females during breeding season.

**Females:** Hens have drab, usually brown or gray feathers. They make great camouflage and hide hens when they sit on their nests.

**Color Phases:** A few wild turkeys grow unusually colored feathers. These are known as color phases. There are four color phases, a smokey gray color phase, a melanistic color phase (all black), an erythritic color phase (reddish coloration) and an albino color phase (very rare).

Head:

**Males:** Males have brightly colored, nearly featherless heads. During breeding season, the color of their heads alternates between red, white and blue, often changing in a few seconds.

**Hens:** A hen’s head is gray-blue and has some small feathers for camouflage.

**Caruncles and Snoods:** Both males and females have fleshy growths on their heads known as caruncles. They also both have snoods, fleshy protruberances that hang over their bills and can be extended or contracted at will. The snood of an adult male is usually much larger than that of a female.

(Source: National Wild Turkey Federation)
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GAME AND PARKS PERMITTING OFFICES

- **Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium**
  - Address: 21502 W. Neb. Hwy. 31, Gretna
  - Phone: 402-332-3901

- **Alliance district office**
  - Address: 299 Husker Rd.
  - Phone: 308-763-2940

- **Bassett service center**
  - Address: 524 Panzer St.
  - Phone: 402-684-2921

- **Chadron State Park (SP)**
  - Address: 15951 U.S. Hwy. 385
  - Phone: 308-432-6167

- **Fort Robinson SP**
  - Address: 3200 U.S. Hwy. 20, Crawford
  - Phone: 308-665-2900

- **Kearney service center**
  - Address: 1617 First Ave.
  - Phone: 308-865-5310

- **Lake McConaughy SRA**
  - Address: 1475 Neb. Hwy. 61, Ogallala
  - Phone: 308-284-8800

- **Niobrara SP**
  - Address: 89261 522 Ave.
  - Phone: 402-857-3373

- **Norfolk district office**
  - Address: 2201 N. 13th St.
  - Phone: 402-370-3374

- **North Platte district office**
  - Address: 301 E. State Farm Road
  - Phone: 308-535-8025

- **Omaha metro office**
  - Address: 1212 Bob Gibson Blvd.
  - Phone: 402-595-2144

- **Ponca SP**
  - Address: 88090 Spur 26E
  - Phone: 402-755-2284

- **Lincoln headquarters**
  - Address: 2200 N. 33rd St.
  - Phone: 402-471-0641

- **Wildcat Hills SRA**
  - Address: 210615 Neb. Hwy. 71, Gering
  - Phone: 308-436-3777

Need a place to Hunt and Fish?

More than 230,000 acres of private land is available for public hunting and fishing through our Open Fields and Waters program.

Take advantage of this new public land to pursue your passion. Look in the Public Access Atlas to locate Open Fields and Waters land near you.
**SEASON DATES**

### SPRING

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth Archery</td>
<td>March 25 – May 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archery</td>
<td>March 25 – May 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Shotgun</td>
<td>April 7 – May 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shotgun</td>
<td>April 14 – May 31</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### FALL (Season extended for 2012)

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth Archery and Shotgun</td>
<td>Sept. 15 – Jan. 31, 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: New in 2012 is an expanded fall season, with the closing date moved back one month to Jan. 31, 2013.

**Spring** – Hunters must use archery equipment March 25-April 13 and may use either archery equipment or a shotgun April 14-May 31. Youth hunters must use archery equipment March 25-April 6 and may use either archery equipment or a shotgun April 7-May 31.

**Fall** – Hunters may use either archery equipment or a shotgun.

### PERMIT TYPES AND PRICES

**Spring turkey** – Valid statewide during the spring turkey season for one male or bearded female turkey per permit.
- Resident $23 *
- Nonresident $90 *

**Spring youth turkey** – Valid statewide during the spring turkey season for one male or bearded female turkey per permit.
- Resident $5 *
- Nonresident $5 *

**Spring landowner turkey** – Valid during the spring turkey season for one male or bearded female turkey per permit.
- Resident $11.50 *
- Nonresident $45 *

**Fall turkey** – Valid statewide during the fall turkey season for two turkeys of either sex per permit.
- Resident $23 *
- Nonresident $90 *
Fall youth turkey – Valid statewide during the fall turkey season for two turkeys of either sex per permit.
Resident $5 *
Nonresident $5 *

Fall landowner turkey – Valid during the fall turkey season for two turkeys of either sex per permit.
Resident $11.50 *
Nonresident $45 *

Nebraska Habitat Stamp – $20

* issuing fee not included

PERMIT LIMIT
• Spring – three per person per calendar year
• Fall – two per person per calendar year
• Landowner permits – one permit in the spring and one in the fall

PERMIT RULES
• Permits must be signed by the permittee.
• It is unlawful to transfer or lend a permit to another person.

WHO NEEDS A TURKEY PERMIT?
• Anyone age 16 or older who hunts turkey in Nebraska needs a spring turkey or fall turkey permit.
• Anyone under the age of 16 years who hunts turkey in Nebraska needs a spring youth turkey or fall youth turkey permit. There is no minimum age to hunt turkey in Nebraska.

WHO MAY OBTAIN A LANDOWNER TURKEY PERMIT? (Spring and Fall)
Residents:
• Any resident who owns or leases 80 acres or more of farm or ranch land for agricultural purposes may obtain one landowner permit per season.
• Spouse and children are eligible, but only one permit may be issued per person.
• Eligible family members may hunt together on the same farm or ranch property.
• Siblings sharing ownership of the qualifying land also are eligible.
• The permit is restricted to the land owned or leased by them and listed on the permit.
• The maximum number of landowner permits allowed for one farm or ranch is one for each 80 acres.
Nonresidents:
• Nonresidents who own 320 acres or more of land dedicated to agricultural production may receive a limited spring or fall permit.
• Only one permit may be issued per 320 acres.
• Spouse and children of the landowner also are eligible.

WHO NEEDS A NEBRASKA HABITAT STAMP?
Any resident age 16 or older and all nonresidents who hunt turkey in Nebraska. Only one habitat stamp is needed for all hunting of any species in a calendar year.

Exceptions:
• Residents who hold a veteran fee-exempt or 69-and-older permit do not need to purchase a habitat stamp to hunt turkeys. They must carry the veteran fee-exempt permit or 69-and-older permit while hunting.
• Persons hunting on their own land with a landowner permit do not need a habitat stamp.

WHAT IS A RESIDENT?
A resident is any individual who has lived in Nebraska continuously for 30 days and intends to become a resident of this state. A new resident should be prepared to provide documentation of residency (driver’s license, voter registration card, etc.) to an officer when in possession of a resident permit.

PURCHASING PERMITS
When?
• Spring permits – May be purchased beginning on Jan. 9, 2012, at 1 p.m. Central Time through the final day of the season
• Fall permits – May be purchased beginning on Aug. 13, 2012, at 1 p.m. Central Time through the final day of the season

How?
• Visit Game and Parks permitting offices (see page 3)
• Visit OutdoorNebraska.org
• Complete and mail in application (see page 9-12)

Any program that receives federal funding from the National Park Service, or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, marital status, national origin, age, disability or political affiliation. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, facility, or service, should contact the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln, NE 402-471-0641, the Equal Opportunity Commission, Lincoln, NE 402-471-2024, TTY/TDD 402-471-4693; United States Fish Wildlife Service, Civil Rights Coordinator, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203; Director, Equal Opportunity Program, U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW, Mail Code 0008, Washington, D.C. 20240-0001.
GENERAL TURKEY REGULATIONS

BAG LIMIT
Spring – One male or bearded female turkey per permit
Fall – Two turkeys of either sex per permit

SHOOTING HOURS
(Spring and Fall)
Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. It is unlawful to take or attempt to take any turkey perched in a tree before sunrise.

HUNTER ORANGE
Spring – Recommended, but not required
Fall – Turkey hunters must wear at least 400 square inches of hunter orange on their head, chest and back when hunting during the November firearm deer season.

HUNTING METHODS
(Spring and Fall)
• Archery – Hunters must use archery equipment with arrows that have a sharpened hunting head with a blade of at least 7/16-inch radius, or a blunt (bludgeon) head with a diameter of at least 9/16-inch.
  Legal archery equipment:
  • Longbows
  • Crossbows
  • Recurve bows
  • Compound bows
• Shotgun – Hunters must use a shotgun with shells that contain shot size 2 to 7½ only. Slugs are illegal.

UNLAWFUL METHODS
Use of the following is unlawful:
• Electronic calls
• Visible laser or light-projecting sights
• Baiting (placing grain or other feed to entice turkeys)
• Live decoys

HUNTING AREA
Permits are valid statewide, except on state and federal sanctuaries or refuges, unless otherwise authorized.
TAGGING
Immediately after a turkey is taken, the hunter must punch or notch the permit tag showing the date the bird was taken. Punching/notching the permit tag automatically cancels the permit tag. This permit must be kept with the permit holder and/or turkey at all times. When the turkey is not with the permit holder, the entire permit tag must be attached to the turkey.

POSSESSION
It is unlawful for any person other than a successful permit holder to possess any turkey or any portion of it. However, any person may receive as a gift any portion of the turkey, provided a statement of such gift is available for inspection. The statement shall include: the hunter’s name, telephone number, permit number, species and quantity of each, signature of donor, name of recipient, and date of transfer.

TRANSPORTATION
If the permit holder does not accompany the turkey during transportation, the cancelled permit must be attached to the carcass of the turkey.

**Spring** – The head, beard or one leg of the turkey must remain naturally attached to the carcass until the turkey is delivered to a commercial processing facility or the hunter's home. Any bearded female turkey harvested in the spring season must have the beard naturally attached.

**Fall** – The head or one leg of a turkey must remain naturally attached to the carcass until the turkey is delivered to a commercial processing facility or the hunter's home.

HUNTER SURVEY
At the end of each season, hunters who provided e-mail addresses at the time they purchased their permits may receive an e-mail survey that is used to determine hunter success and total harvest. Those receiving surveys are asked to reply promptly. It is important when buying permits online that hunters use an updated e-mail address. Survey results are posted at [OutdoorNebraska.org](http://OutdoorNebraska.org).

HUNTER EDUCATION
Hunters age 12 through 29 must have completed firearm hunter education when hunting turkeys with a firearm or crossbow. Bow hunter education is not required for bow and arrow hunting of turkeys.

APPRENTICE HUNTER EDUCATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE
An Apprentice Hunter Education Certificate provides a novice hunter between the ages of 12 and 29 an opportunity to try hunting and receive guidance from an experienced hunter before completing Hunter Education. A hunter using this certificate must be accompanied at all times while hunting by a licensed adult age 19 or older. This certificate may be purchased twice – in consecutive years – in a person's lifetime for $5 each time. The certificate expires on Dec. 31. Applicable hunt permits are required.
NEBRASKA TURKEY APPLICATION

Instruction: Check all applicable boxes and provide information as requested. Submitting incomplete information will result in the return of your application. Make checks payable to Nebraska Game and Parks and enclose the appropriate fee with your application. Mail to: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, PO Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503-0370. May be photocopied as needed.

Permit

Resident

- Spring turkey - $2

- Youth spring turkey - $6

- Fall turkey - $24

- Youth fall turkey - $6

Nonresident

- Spring turkey - $6

- Youth spring turkey - $6

All permit prices include a $1 issuing fee except deployed military permits and Habitat Stamp.

- Habitat Stamp - $20

E-mail address of applicant for permit notification:

Hair Color

- Eye Color

- Ft.       In.

- Date of Birth

- Month

- Day

- Year

- Weight

- Fr. In.

- Height

- Address

- City

- ZIP Code

- Last Name

- First Name

- Middle Initial

- Phone Number

- Credit Card # – Visa or MasterCard Only

- Card Expiration Date/Verification # see illustration

- Last 4 Digits of Social Security No.

- Yes    No

Archery Education Number – State Certified

Credit Card # – Visa or MasterCard Only

Expense Education Number – State Certified

Yes

No

I certify that I am a RESIDENT of the State of Nebraska as defined by the rules and regulations of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

I certify that my privilege to hunt, fish or harvest fur is NOT currently revoked in any state.

I certify that I am NOT dependent on any child support payments.

E-mail address of applicant for permit notification:

NEBRASKA TURKEY APPLICATION
The farm or ranch land listed in this application must be used for agricultural purposes.

***Check the box below that best certifies your qualifications for a limited landowner permit:***

☐ I qualify as the owner/leaseholder of the land listed.

☐ I qualify as the spouse or child of the owner or leaseholder, or sibling sharing ownership, of the land listed.

FARM AND RANCH LAND - LEGAL DESCRIPTION

(If additional room is needed, an attachment form is available). Photocopied applications are acceptable.

I certify that I am eligible to apply for a landowner permit to me or a member of my immediate household. I, as the qualified applicant, request a landowner permit be issued to me.

I certify that I am a RESIDENT of the State of Nebraska as defined by the rules and regulations of the Nebraska State, Game and Parks Commission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lease</th>
<th>Own</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>WM 1/2 NW 1/4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Check one box for each parcel listed.

I certify that I am eligible to apply for a limited landowner permit.

The farm or ranch land listed in this application must be used for agricultural purposes.

I certify that I am a RESIDENT of the State of Nebraska as defined by the rules and regulations of the Nebraska State, Game and Parks Commission.

☑ I certify that I am a RESIDENT of the State of Nebraska as defined by the rules and regulations of the Nebraska State, Game and Parks Commission.

☑ I certify that I am eligible to apply for a limited landowner permit.

☑ I qualify as the owner/leaseholder of the land listed.

☑ I qualify as the spouse or child of the owner or leaseholder, or sibling sharing ownership, of the land listed.

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☐ I certify that I am a RESIDENT of the State of Nebraska as defined by the rules and regulations of the Nebraska State, Game and Parks Commission.
LANDOWNER TURKEY APPLICATION

Instruction: Separate applications must be submitted for each permit request. Check applicable boxes and provide accurate name, mailing address, personal information, and your social security number. Submit applications with a $1 issuing fee with your application. Mail to: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, PO. Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503-0370.

Permit

Resident

__  Spring turkey $1.25

__  Fall turkey $1.25

Nonresident

__  Fall turkey $4.65

__  Spring turkey $4.65

All permit prices include a $1 issuing fee.
NEBRASKA TURKEY APPLICATION

Instruction: Check all applicable boxes and provide information as requested. Submitting incomplete information will result in the return of your application. Make checks payable to Nebraska Game and Parks and enclose the appropriate fee with your application. Mail to: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, PO Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503-0370. May be photocopied as needed.

Permit

Resident

<table>
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<th>Permit Type</th>
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<td>Fall turkey</td>
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<td>Youth fall turkey</td>
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Nonresident

<table>
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<td>Spring turkey</td>
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<td>Youth spring turkey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall turkey</td>
<td>$9.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth fall turkey</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
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All permit prices include a $1 issuing fee except deployed military permits and Habitat Stamp.

Habitat Stamp

<table>
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<td>$20.00</td>
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I certify that I am a RESIDENT of the State of Nebraska as defined by the rules and regulations of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

I certify that my privilege to hunt, fish or harvest fur is NOT currently revoked in any state.

Credit Card - VISA or MasterCard Only

Last 4 Digits of Social Security No.

Discard this card

3-digit card verification # on back of card

E-mail address of applicant for permit notification:

First Name          Last Name
Middle Initial  State Zip Code

Daytime Phone Number

Date of Birth

Sex

Month Year

Weight Ft. In.

Height

Eye Color

Hair Color

Month Day Year

City Address

NEBRASKA TURKEY APPLICATION

3-digit card verification # on back of card
ACCOMPANIMENT
The following turkey hunters must be accompanied:
- Those under age 12
- Those using an Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate

The accompanying person must:
- Be a licensed “experienced” hunter age 19 or older.
- Be certified in hunter education if he or she is between the ages of 19 and 29.
- Not accompany more than two holders of an exemption certificate at one time.
- Be at all times in unaided visual and verbal communication with the hunter/hunters he or she is accompanying.

WHEN IT IS UNLAWFUL TO HUNT
It is illegal to hunt:
- when trespassing on private land; get permission.
- as a party hunt; every hunter must shoot his or her own game.
- with a rifle within 200 yards of an inhabited dwelling or feedlot and hunt with all other equipment within 100 yards, unless permission has been granted by the owner or tenant.
- harvest any game birds by baiting or attracting them to the place where hunted by distribution of grain or other feeds.
- drive or disturb game birds or game animals with or from any aircraft or boat propelled by power or sail.
- harvest or trap any game bird from a vehicle.

OTHER UNLAWFUL ACTS
It is unlawful to:
- waste game.
- spotlight from a vehicle or vessel while in possession of a firearm or bow and arrow.
- dig, cut or destroy natural or planted vegetation on any state-owned or controlled area.
- cause game birds or game animals to depart from a game reserve or game sanctuary.
- use electrically amplified imitations of bird calls, including records, tapes, compact discs, and digital audio files, to take game birds.
- sell or trade the meat of any game bird or game animal.
- communicate the location of any game animal or game bird by radio or other electronic device to or from any aircraft, vessel, vehicle, snowmobile, or other conveyance one day before or during the open season.
- carry a firearm, archery equipment or other projectile device on a snowmobile, except when unloaded and in a case.

WHEN IT IS UNLAWFUL TO SHOOT
It is illegal to shoot:
- from any public highway, road or bridge, including the traveled surface and the right-of-way, whether on foot or from a vehicle,
- or attempt to shoot any bird, fish or other animal from an aircraft.
REGULATIONS AND STATUTES

Sportsmen are responsible for knowing the regulations and statutes (state laws) before hunting or trapping in Nebraska. Failure to do so is not an excuse. This publication is only a guide to those regulations and statutes.

To read them, visit the following links:
Regulations: [http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/admin/regulations/regulations.asp](http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/admin/regulations/regulations.asp)
Statutes: [http://law.justia.com/nebraska/codes/s37index/s37index.html](http://law.justia.com/nebraska/codes/s37index/s37index.html)

GAME VIOLATIONS
The Nebraska Legislature has passed statutes that increased the fines and penalties for a variety of game and fish violations. The new fines range from $25 to $15,000, depending on the severity of the violation and the species involved. The liquidated damages (assessed in addition to court costs) are set by the legislature as replacement costs for wildlife taken illegally. The damages apply to each animal taken illegally and apply to wanton waste. For a complete overview of the specific fines and penalties, visit OutdoorNebraska.org. Call Nebraska Wildlife Crimestoppers toll-free at 800-742-7627 to report a game violation.

Who taught you?

Sometime in the past, someone gave you a great gift: they taught you how to hunt or fish.

Repay this gift by teaching someone else.

Replace Yourself. The new ethic in hunting and fishing.
CONSERVATION OFFICERS

ADMINISTRATION
Lincoln
Craig Stover • 402-471-5532

NORTHWEST
Alliance
Jim Zimmerman (S) • 308-763-2940
Greg Hesse • 308-760-3647

Gering
Scott Brandt • 308-631-0663

Gordon
Heath Packett • 308-360-0682

Harrison
Dan Kling • 308-430-0572

Valentine
Frank Miller • 402-389-0444

NORTHEAST
Bassett
Dale Davis • 402-760-0712

Columbus
Steve Oberg • 402-910-3366

Fremont
Daniel Roberts • 402-719-1108

Fullerton
Randy Pomplun • 308-550-0489

Hartington
Jeff Jones • 402-762-5022

Kennard
Jon Reeves • 402-889-8508

Norfolk
Tom Zimmer (S) • 402-370-3374

Neligh
Tim Williams • 402-929-0051

O’Neill
Patrick George • 402-340-0787

Ord
Doug Pollard • 308-778-7101

West Point
Cory Krause • 402-380-6410

SOUTHWEST
Broken Bow
Ray Dierking • 308-870-0322

Cambridge
George Sund • 308-655-0028

Cozad
Michael Thome • 308-529-8146

Doniphan
Terry Brentzel • 402-469-5795

Elwood
Matt Andrews • 308-746-2418

Imperial
Dirk Greene • 308-882-0015

Kearney
Jerry Pecha (S) • 308-865-5327
Dale Johnson • 308-440-3847

North Platte
Roger Thompson (S) • 308-535-8025
Dudley Sorensen • 308-530-0016

Ogallala
Dennis Thompson • 308-289-0755
Nicholas Fix • 308-289-0427

Republican City
Rich Routh • 308-920-0367

SOUTHEAST
Ashland
Sean McKeehan • 402-521-0159

Auburn
William Krause • 402-274-8063

Colon
Mike Luben • 402-443-6392

Cortland
Dan Zuehlke • 402-806-9084

Gretna
Duane Arp (S) • 402-332-2965

Hebron
Darin Gress • 402-768-8665

Lincoln
Douglas Kramer • 402-890-6465
Dina Barta • 402-890-6463
Stacey Lewton • 402-890-7140

Louisville
Levi Krause • 402-949-0593

Milford
Robert Finke • 402-947-1363

Nebraska City
Russell Mort • 402-209-1506

Papillion
Dan Evasco • 402-616-5961

Valley
Jeff Clauson • 402-658-7057

(S) Denotes area supervisor
SPRING AND FALL TURKEY HARVEST
1990-2010

- SPRING
- FALL
TURKEY HUNTING MAP and PUBLIC ACCESS OPTIONS

Pine Ridge Complex:
The Pine Ridge area has the state’s best Merriam’s turkey population and plenty of public access. Best access areas: Pine Ridge District of the Nebraska National Forest, Fort Robinson State Park area, Gilbert Baker, Ponderosa, Peterson, Metcalf, Bordeaux and Bighorn WMAs.

Niobrara River Drainages:
Boyd, Keya Paha and northern Rock and Brown counties have good numbers of birds and public access areas.

North and South Platte Rivers:
Both river drainages hold good numbers of birds, and public access is available at WMAs.

Platte, Elkhorn Rivers and Drainages:
Good numbers of birds can be found along both river valleys.

Southwest Reservoirs, Republican River Drainages:
Nearly 40,000 acres of public access at Harlan, Medicine Creek, Swanson, Red Willow and Enders reservoirs.

Central Loess Hills and Loup River System:
River valleys and crop fields with cedar-filled draws hold many birds.

Southeast WMAs:
Many WMAs in the southeast hold birds and provide excellent public access.
Wild Turkey Index (Turkey/100 miles)
Means are weighted by miles traveled per mail carrier.
Beard:
A male turkey grows a cluster of long, hair-like feathers (beard) from the center of its chest. On adult males, these beards average about 9 inches in length. Ten to 20 percent of hens also grow beards.

Legs:
Wild turkey legs are reddish-orange. They have four toes on each foot. Male wild turkeys grow large spurs on the backs of their lower legs. These spurs are pointed, bony spikes and are used for defense and to establish dominance. Spurs can grow up to 2 inches in length.

Tail:
Wild turkey tails are usually 12 to 15 inches long and banded at their tips. The color of the bands in the tail varies by subspecies. Male wild turkeys fan their tails when displaying to attract a mate. All tail feathers of adult males (toms) are the same length. The feathers forming the center of a tail of a juvenile (Jake) are usually longer than the rest of the feathers in the tail.

(Source: National Wild Turkey Federation)
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