

- Season bag and possession limits for both antlerless and antlered deer, including Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Cards, that apply to the general archery, blackpowder, and gun deer seasons also apply to the Urban Archery Season.
- Deer of either sex may be harvested in participating areas during the Urban Archery Season. Hunters harvesting an adult buck that has dropped its antlers should validate the kill and insert the harvest authorization number on an authorization space specified for an antlerless deer on the hunter's Big Game Harvest Report Card or Bonus Antlerless Harvest Report Card.

**Information for cities, towns and villages**

The Urban Archery Season is available for cities, towns and villages that submit to the Wildlife Resources Commission by April 1 of each year a letter of intent to participate in the season. A map clearly defining the area included in the season should also accompany the letter of intent. Interested municipalities should call the Wildlife Management Division at 919-707-0050 and request to be contacted by a district wildlife biologist.

**WILD TURKEY**

**WILD TURKEY SEASONS**

Daily limit 1; Possession and season limit 2, only one of which may be taken during the youth season

Youth Season (male or bearded turkey only): Apr. 7 – 13, 2018

Turkey hunting by youth during this season is allowed statewide, but some game lands will require a permit (see Game Lands section). Only youth can hunt during this season and only one weapon is allowed per youth hunter. Each youth must have a Big Game Harvest Report Card and report harvests according to instructions in this Digest. License-exempt youth should report their harvest using a Big Game Harvest Report Card for License-Exempt Hunters.

Statewide Spring Season (male or bearded turkey only)  
Apr. 14 – May 12, 2018

Note: For information on permit hunts for select Game Lands, refer to the Game Lands section.

**Restrictions** It is unlawful to:

- Use dogs during the spring wild turkey season.
- Use any type of handgun or rifle to hunt wild turkey.
- Take wild turkeys from an area in which bait has been placed. (An area is considered baited until 10 days after the bait has been consumed or otherwise removed.)
- Possess live wild turkeys or live birds that are indistinguishable from wild turkeys.

**BIG GAME HARVEST REPORTING**

**Validating a Harvest** Upon harvesting a bear, deer or wild turkey, and before moving the animal from the site of kill, the successful hunter must validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card, furnished with the big game hunting license, by cutting or punching out the crosshair symbol next to the appropriate authorization line. Instructions in this section also apply to the Bonus Antlerless Report Card. Hunters should retain only one copy of their Big Game Harvest Report Card per hunting season. If the hunter has received a replacement copy of their Big Game Harvest Report Card, the hunter must ensure that all previous harvest authorization numbers are copied over to their new card and destroy their original copy.

**Registering a Harvest** The hunter must register any harvested bear, deer or wild turkey within 24 hours of the harvest and before it is skinned, dressed or dismembered.

- Harvest ID. Harvest ID is the 9-digit number located on your Big Game Harvest Report Card. Hunters must locate the Harvest ID number next to the animal type they harvested and provide this number when registering the harvest through a participating wildlife service agent, the telephone reporting system or the online reporting system. Each Harvest ID can only be used once.
- Hunters who obtain their license and big game privilege by phone or internet will be given their Harvest ID numbers for temporary use until they receive their official Big Game Harvest Report Card in the mail. If the hunter harvests a big game animal before receiving their official Big Game Harvest Report Card, the hunter must retain the authorization number for the reported harvest. Immediately upon receipt of the Big Game Harvest Report Card, the hunter must transcribe those authorization numbers and validate the appropriate line on their card.
- Big game animals may be field dressed before being registered. Field dressing includes bleeding and removal of digestive, respiratory and circulatory organs, but the hunter may not mutilate the carcass in a manner that obscures the identity, age or sex.
- When a kill occurs in a remote area that prevents the animal from being transported as an entire carcass, the animal may be skinned and quartered before being registered.
- When a hunter harvests an animal in a remote area and plans to remain in the area for longer than a day, the 24-hour time is extended until the hunter leaves the area. However, the hunter must immediately register the animal upon leaving the remote area.
- Big game harvests may be registered in one of **three** ways:
  1. By calling the toll-free phone number, 800-I-GOT-ONE (800-446-8663). A touch tone telephone is required.
  2. By using the Internet and clicking the "Report a Harvest" link located on the NCWRC home page ([www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org)).
  3. By reporting the harvest to a participating wildlife service agent location ([www.ncalvin.org/WildlifeServiceAgentMVC](http://www.ncalvin.org/WildlifeServiceAgentMVC)).

**Recording the Authorization Number** When a successful hunter registers a big game harvest, the hunter will be issued an authorization number for the animal. The hunter shall then record the authorization number in the space provided, immediately adjacent to the validation mark that has been cut or punched out on the Big Game Harvest Report Card. This record shall thereafter constitute the authorization for continued possession of the carcass. It shall be unlawful for a person to possess a Big Game Harvest Report Card on which the species validation mark has been cut or punched out, but on which the authorization number has not been recorded, unless the animal is in the person's possession or it has been identified by with your name, hunting license number and date of kill.

**Identifying an Unattended Kill** Persons killing a big game animal and leaving it unattended must identify the carcass with their name, hunting license number and date of kill. Once an unattended animal is registered, it need only be identified with the authorization number.

**Reporting for License-Exempt Hunters** Persons who are by law exempt from the Big Game Hunting License requirement shall obtain a License-Exempt Big Game Harvest Report Card from a wildlife service agent at no cost. Upon harvesting a bear, deer or wild turkey, the exempt person shall validate the License-Exempt Big Game Harvest Report Card and report the big game kill using the same registration methods listed above.

**Deer Management Assistance Program Harvest Reporting** Persons harvesting deer under the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) shall follow the tagging and reporting requirements described in the instructions they have received as a participant in the DMAP.