

PUBLIC LANDS AREAS QUICK REFERENCE

Charts of public lands regulations are now available online at fw.ky.gov instead of in the guide. Scan this QR code to access the online charts.



KEYWORD SEARCH

Use keywords to find the information you need fast when you go online to fw.ky.gov. Type the words highlighted below into the search bar and you're on your way.

Quota Hunts

Information about quota hunts offered in Kentucky. These limit the num-

ber of hunters allowed on a property during certain dates. Species include deer, waterfowl, pheasants and doves. This page includes detailed information about deer quota hunt choices on public land throughout the state.

WMA Maps

This includes links to a number of resources, including lists, acreages and contact information for managers of various properties around the state. The "get directions" tabs on the "Wildlife Management Area and Public Lands Search" link takes you to road maps and satellite images of each area.

Deer Reports

These annual reports provide a

wealth of information for hunters about deer in Kentucky. Statistics include deer population estimates, county-by-county deer harvest results, quota hunt results, deer permit sale trends and more.

Harvest Results

Breakdown of harvest results for deer, turkey, elk, bear, bobcat, otter and sandhill cranes. Deer hunters can see harvest totals of each county and all public lands.

Learn to Hunt

Find basic information about how to hunt squirrel, deer, dove, turkey and elk. Links include hunter education courses and how to prepare your harvest for the table.

QUOTA HUNTS

OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife conducts quota hunts for deer, pheasant and migratory birds (waterfowl and mourning doves). Quota hunts control the number of hunters in an area to provide quality hunting opportunities and regulate harvests at specific areas.

Some hunts are mentored hunts for youth and accompanying adults. Some hunts are open to mobility-impaired hunters only.

Any resident or nonresident may apply for quota hunts. Only the person(s) successfully drawn for quota hunts may hunt. Substitutions are not allowed.

Complete details for all quota hunts are available online. Click the "Hunt" tab on fw.ky.gov, choose "Quota Hunts" from the dropdown menu and scroll to the appropriate hunt.

Applicants drawn for quota hunts must purchase applicable licenses and permits to legally hunt during the quota hunts.

HOW TO APPLY

Quota hunt applications are available online only at fw.ky.gov.

Apply for dove quota hunts Aug. 4-15. Apply for deer, pheasant and waterfowl quota hunts Sept. 1-30. Hunters may apply for multiple quota hunts for different species at the same time.

The non-refundable application fee is \$3 per hunter for each hunt.

To see if you were drawn for a hunt, go online to fw.ky.gov and check under the "MyProfile" section. You may also call Kentucky Fish and Wildlife weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern time) at 1-800-858-1549.

QUOTA DEER HUNTS

Deer quota hunts are held on 16 WMAs, and five state parks (Dale Hol-

Follow the rules!

Hunters who do not comply with quota hunt requirements are ineligible to apply for any quota hunt the following year (including deer, pheasant and waterfowl), and will lose any accumulated preference points.

low Lake, Greenbo Lake, Green River Lake, Kenlake, Kincaid Lake). Additionally there are quota deer hunts for mobility-impaired hunters on Green River Lake WMA, Taylorsville Lake WMA and Zilpo-Twin Knobs Campgrounds (on Cave Run Lake).

If applying for a deer quota hunt as a group, each applicant's preference points will be used to calculate an average point total for the group. A group with a higher preference point average will be randomly selected before a group with a lower preference point average.

A maximum of 10 percent nonresi-

dents can be drawn in each deer quota hunt pool.

Drawn quota hunters may bring one non-hunting person along on their hunt. The non-hunting person is not required to have applied for the quota hunt but must check in and check out with the drawn quota hunter. Participants must abide by hunter orange requirements.

Ground blinds used during gun quota hunts for deer must have a hat or vest made of solid, unbroken hunter orange material attached to the blind so that it is visible from all sides. Hunter orange clothing requirements still apply for any persons inside the blind.

PHEASANT QUOTA HUNTS

Pheasant quota hunts are held on Yellowbank WMA, Green River Lake

WMA and Clay WMA. See the “Public Hunting Areas Quick Reference” charts for dates. All drawn pheasant hunters must buy (regardless of attendance) and carry while hunting a pheasant quota hunt permit, which is \$25 and may be purchased online or from license vendors anytime before the hunt. Permits are not transferrable.

DOVE QUOTA HUNTS

Youth hunters and an accompanying adult may participate in quota mentored dove hunts on a limited number of public fields. Apply online at fw.ky.gov from Aug. 4-15.

Locations of mentored hunts will be published in the Dove and Early Waterfowl Guide, available at fw.ky.gov in early August. The one-day quota mentored hunts are held in September.

Kentucky will also offer general quota dove hunts Sept. 1 and Sept. 6. Participants must be drawn for these hunts. Any legal hunter may apply online from Aug. 4-15 at fw.ky.gov.

MOBILITY-IMPAIRED QUOTA HUNTS

Persons with severe mobility restrictions may apply for a mobility-impaired quota hunt. At check in, drawn hunters must show a WMA Mobility-Impaired Access Permit, available in advance of the hunt date from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Criteria are available online at fw.ky.gov by searching under the keywords, “mobility access permit,” or by calling Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 800-858-1549.

WATERFOWL QUOTA HUNTS

WATERFOWL/MIGRATORY BIRD QUOTA HUNTS

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is migrating much of its waterfowl and migratory bird hunting information to its website. Find information not covered in this printed guide online at fw.ky.gov, including a form downloadable to smartphones. This page covers basic information.

Season-long blind drawings are available at Barkley Lake, Barren River Lake, Doug Travis and Green River Lake. Drawings are typically held from August through October. These are separate from general quota hunt drawings held in September. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife announces dates and locations for these waterfowl blind drawings in August. Check online at fw.ky.gov for more information.

PUBLIC LAND HUNTING

Ballard WMA (Ballard County)

Hunters are not required to hunt from blinds maintained by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Hunters will be drawn for one of 14 hunting units. The party who draws that unit can hunt anywhere within the unit.

- Hunts available through quota draw for individual dates only.

- Apply for quota hunts Sept. 1-30 online at fw.ky.gov.

Sloughs WMA - Sauerheber Unit (Union and Henderson counties)

Successfully drawn hunters will be assigned one of 12 hunting units. The hunter who draws that unit can hunt anywhere within the unit, except in specified units where you must hunt from a blind.

- Hunts available through quota draw for individual dates only.
- Apply for quota hunts Sept. 1-30 online at fw.ky.gov.
- Hunters must check-in the Sunday prior to the hunt.

Sloughs WMA - Jenny Hole Unit (Henderson County)

Unit is a quota hunt-only area.

- Hunting spots (10) assigned by weekly drawings held Monday evenings at Sloughs WMA office. Only one member of a hunting party needs to be present at the drawing. Two spots available through quota draw for individual dates only.
- Apply for quota hunts Sept. 1-30 online at fw.ky.gov.
- Access is limited to drawn hunters only, and only on quota hunt days, with no access after 2 p.m. (local time).

MENTOR/MOBILITY-IMPAIRED HATCHERY HUNTS

Minor Clark and Pfeiffer Fish Hatcheries (Rowan and Franklin counties)

- Open to mobility-impaired hunters with access permit, and youths under the age of 16 accompanied by an adult mentor. A mentor may hunt.
- Hunters must apply online between Nov. 1-15.
- Hunt dates available Jan. 3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 24-25 and Jan. 31 (2026).
- Mentor/youth hunt groups limited to four hunters, with no more than two hunting adults.

Doug Travis WMA Mobility-impaired Hunt (Carlisle and Hickman counties)

- Two blinds available.
- Applications accepted by mail, Sept. 1-30.

SANDHILL CRANES

- Apply in September at fw.ky.gov for the Sandhill Crane permit drawing.
- Hunters may be drawn for up to three permits a season.
- Portions of Green River Lake and Barren River Lake are refugee areas and closed to crane hunting.
- Hunters must pass a migratory bird identification test before receiving their sandhill crane permit.

2025-26 DEER QUOTA HUNT CHOICES

| WMA - Outdoor Recreation Area choices | | Dates | # of slots | Min. # pref. pts. of 2024 participants | | Hunt Remarks (Quota hunts are for either sex deer unless otherwise noted) |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------|------------|--|----------|---|
| | | | | All | Non Res. | |
| 1 | Ballard WMA | Nov. 1-2 | 100 | 2 | 3.3 | Hunters awarded one preference point for each antlerless deer harvested, up to four. Scouting permitted through Oct. 14. |
| 2 | Beaver Creek WMA | Nov. 1-2 | 330 | 0 | 0 | Antlered deer only. |
| 3 | Big Rivers WMA & State Forest #1 | Oct. 20-Nov. 30 | 130 | 1 | 4 | Archery and crossbow only. Closed during the two-day quota hunt that starts the first Saturday in November. Department issued hang tags required. Must telecheck harvested deer. |
| 4 | Big Rivers WMA & State Forest #2 | Nov. 1-2 | 100 | 1 | 3 | |
| 5 | Clay WMA | Nov. 1-2 | 225 | 1 | 1 | Limit four, only one of which may be antlered, during quota hunt. Hunters awarded one preference point for each antlerless deer harvested, up to four. |
| 6 | Dewey Lake WMA | Nov. 1-2 | 150 | 0 | 0.6 | Limit one during quota hunt. |
| 7 | Fishtrap Lake WMA | Nov. 22-23 | 200 | 0 | 0 | Limit one during quota hunt. |
| 8 | Green River Lake & Dennis-Gray WMAs | Nov. 1-2 | 400 | 0 | 0.5 | |
| 9 | Green River Lake & Dennis-Gray WMAs Mobility-Impaired* | Nov. 1-2 | 15 | 0 | 0 | Open only to mobility-impaired persons. |
| 10 | Higginson - Henry WMA #1 | Oct. 20-Nov. 30 | 60 | 1.6 | 4 | Archery and crossbow only. Closed during the two-day quota hunt that starts the first Saturday in November. Department issued hang tags required. Must telecheck harvested deer. |
| 11 | Higginson - Henry WMA #2 | Nov. 1-2 | 45 | 1.6 | 4 | |
| 12 | Kentucky River WMA | Nov. 1-2 | 65 | 0 | 0 | |
| 13 | Kleber and Rich WMAs #1 | Nov. 1-2 | 200 | 0 | 0 | |
| 14 | Kleber and Rich WMAs #2 | Dec. 6-7 | 200 | 0 | 0 | |
| 15 | Paintsville Lake WMA | Nov. 1-2 | 125 | 0 | 0 | |
| 16 | Pennyrile State Forest/Tradewater WMA | Nov. 1-2 | 300 | 0 | 1 | |
| 17 | Taylorsville Lake WMA #1 | Nov. 1-2 | 268 | 0.75 | 0.8 | Hunters awarded one preference point for each antlerless deer harvested, up to four. |
| 18 | Taylorsville Lake WMA Mobility-Impaired* #1 | Nov. 1-2 | 7 | 0 | 0 | Open only to mobility-impaired persons. Hunters awarded one preference point for each antlerless deer harvested, up to four. |
| 19 | Taylorsville Lake WMA #2 | Dec. 6-7 | 268 | 0 | 0 | Hunters awarded one preference point for each antlerless deer harvested, up to four. |
| 20 | Taylorsville Lake WMA Mobility-Impaired* #2 | Dec. 6-7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | Open only to mobility-impaired persons. Hunters awarded one preference point for each antlerless deer harvested, up to four. |
| 21 | Veterans Memorial WMA | Nov. 1-2 | 50 | 0.8 | 1 | |
| 22 | West Kentucky WMA | Nov. 22-25 | 135 | 0 | 0 | Shotgun and muzzleloader only. Tract 1 is closed to public access. |
| 23 | West Kentucky WMA youth mentor | Nov. 22-25 | 10 | 0 | 0 | Shotgun only, youth mentor hunt on portions of "A" tracts. Only youth hunters apply. No more than two youth hunters may accompany an adult mentor. No more than one adult can mentor a youth hunter. An adult mentor may take a deer during the hunt. |

| WMA - Outdoor Recreation Area choices | | Dates | # of slots | Min. # pref. pts. of 2024 participants | | Hunt Remarks (Quota hunts are for either sex deer unless otherwise noted) |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|--|----------|---|
| | | | | All | Non Res. | |
| 24 | Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park #1 | Nov. 3-7 | 60 | 0 | 0 | Archery and crossbow only. Must telecheck harvested deer. |
| 25 | Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park #2 | Dec. 13-14 | 40 | 0 | 0 | Youth only. Must telecheck harvested deer. |
| 26 | Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park #3 | Jan. 3-4 | 50 | 0 | 0 | Must telecheck harvested deer. |
| 27 | Greenbo Lake State Resort Park #1 | Nov. 7-9 | 40 | 0 | 0 | Archery and crossbow only. Must telecheck harvested deer. |
| 28 | Greenbo Lake State Resort Park #2 | Nov. 14-16 | 40 | 0 | 0 | Archery and crossbow only. Must telecheck harvested deer. |
| 29 | Greenbo Lake State Resort Park #3 | Jan. 6-7 | 20 | 0 | 0 | Must telecheck harvested deer. |
| 30 | Green River Lake State Park #1 | Dec. 11-14 | 55 | 0.5 | 0.8 | Archery and crossbow only. No check in or out. Must telecheck harvested deer. |
| 31 | Green River Lake State Park #2 | Dec. 18-21 | 55 | 0 | 0 | Archery and crossbow only. No check in or out. Must telecheck harvested deer. |
| 32 | Kenlake State Resort Park #1 | Nov. 13-16 | 20 | 0 | 1 | Archery and crossbow only. Must telecheck harvested deer. |
| 33 | Kenlake State Resort Park #2 | Jan. 3-4 | 20 | 0 | 0 | Archery and crossbow only. Must telecheck harvested deer. |
| 34 | Kincaid Lake State Park #1 | Dec. 4-7 | 10 | 1.3 | 0 | Must telecheck harvested deer. |
| 35 | Kincaid Lake State Park #2 | Dec. 11-14 | 10 | 1 | 0 | Must telecheck harvested deer. |
| 36 | Twin Knobs Mobility-Impaired* | Dec. 13 | 12 | 0 | 0 | Open only to mobility-impaired persons. |

*Only hunters who are mobility-impaired as described on page 29 can apply and be drawn for this hunt.
Antlered deer taken during quota hunts count against the statewide limit of one antlered deer per hunter, per season.



Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry (KHFH) is a nonprofit, volunteer organization that encourages hunters to harvest and donate deer each season for distribution to homeless shelters and food banks throughout the state.

Hunters in Zone 1 counties have a unique opportunity to help. They may take an unlimited number of antlerless deer so long as they have purchased the appropriate additional deer permits.

Donated deer must be properly field dressed, recorded and telechecked. KHFH covers processing fees for donated deer. Hunters can find approved deer processors participating in the program and full instructions online at the KHFH website.



Detailed instructions about how to donate your deer and a list of participating processors are available online at

kyhuntersforthehungry.info