



Spring Fever

HUNTING, FISHING & OUTDOORS GUIDE



PHOTOS BY DAVE MARNER

MID-MO FISHING TEAM members and parents are pictured (top) following the group's March 11 tournament at Peaceful Valley Lake. Cool and damp conditions prevailed throughout the day-long tournament but that didn't seem to bother participants including Cody Lenauer (above) and Cameron Ryerson (left) who landed bass weighing 2.28 pounds and 3.24 pound respectively in their efforts to claim the big bass title. Ryerson's bass placed second in the tournament. The title was claimed by George Vandegriffe who landed one weighing 3.37 pounds. Kyle Meyer prepares Lenauer's entry for the official weigh-in.



PHOTOS BY DAVE MARNER

TOP FINISHERS in the Mid-Mo Fishing Team tournament March 11 at Peaceful Valley Lake included (from left) Luke Karg (third place), Jarrett Jones (second), Blake Alexander (first), and George Vandegriffe (big bass). Alexander checked in five fish weighing a combined 6.53 pounds to win the tournament. Vandegriffe (above) turned in the largest bass which weighed 3.37 pounds to claim that title. Weighing in the entries was Kyle Meyer.



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MID-MO FISHING Team members and family members take shelter from a light mist which fell during their March 11 tournament at Peaceful Valley Lake. This is an organization for middle and high school-aged kids to gain experience in the tournament fishing world and gives them opportunities to win scholarships in state and national tournaments. The team currently has 27 active student members, according to Kyle Meyer. "We are seeking to grow our local organization to keep kids on the water and outdoors," said Meyer. "We hold one tournament a month and fishing practices and seminars. We will be holding a fundraiser at the Springfest in Owensville." Look for Mid-Mo Fishing Team members during the Owensville Springfest car show hosted by the Gasconade Timing Association on Saturday, April 22.

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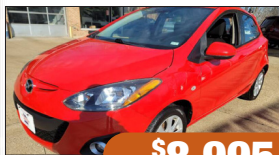
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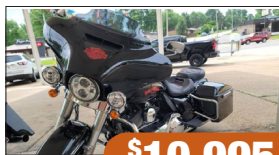
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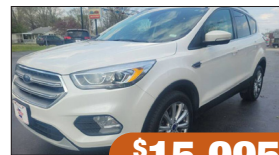
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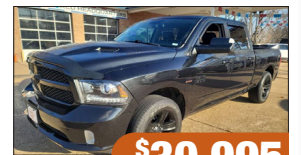
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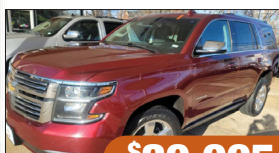
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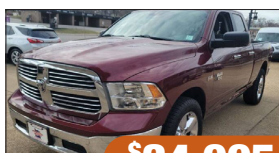
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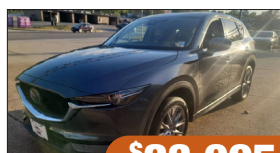
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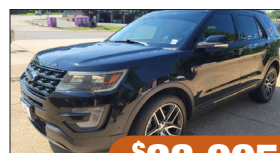
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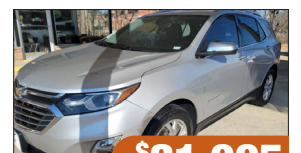
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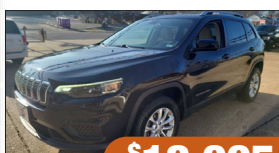
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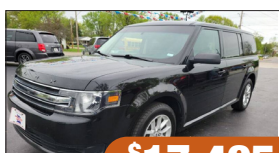
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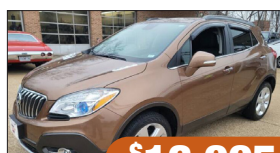
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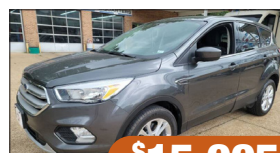
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MDC reports 117 new cases of CWD for 2022 surveillance year

Deer harvested in Gasconade County tests positive for CWD

BY JILL PRITCHARD
Mo. Dept. of Conservation

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) reports that it sampled and tested more than 33,000 deer for chronic wasting disease (CWD) during the 2022 CWD surveillance year between July 2022 and April 2023. Of the more than 33,000 deer sampled, 117 tested positive for CWD.

CWD is a 100% fatal disease in white-tailed deer and other members of the deer family. The disease has been attributed to significant deer population declines in other states. Learn more at mdc.mo.gov/cwd.

Those 117 deer bring the total number of CWD cases found in the state to 409 since the first case in wild deer was confirmed by MDC in early 2012. Including recent sampling efforts, more than 243,000 tissue samples from wild deer have been collected for CWD testing in Missouri since MDC began CWD surveillance in 2002.

Nearly 19,400 of the 33,000-plus deer

tested this past CWD surveillance year were sampled as part of MDC mandatory CWD sampling efforts in select counties during the opening weekend of the November portion of firearms deer season, Nov. 12 and 13. Most of the remaining samples resulted from MDC's voluntary sampling efforts conducted throughout the deer season in partnership with taxidermists and meat processors throughout the state.

Of the more than 33,000 samples, about 3,500 were collected during MDC's targeted culling efforts conducted in cooperation with landowners on a voluntary basis after the close of regular deer season in localized areas near where CWD has been found. Through targeted culling, 41 CWD-positive deer were removed to help slow the spread of CWD.

"The goal of targeted culling is to remove CWD-positive deer from the landscape and reduce deer density in these localized areas to slow the spread of the disease and protect Missouri's deer herd," explained MDC Wildlife Health Program Supervisor Deb Hudman. "Targeted culling is a proven

method to slow the spread of CWD and Missouri is one of several states that uses it to manage the disease."

Of the deer tested, MDC found CWD-positive deer in 23 counties: Adair (3), Barry (1), Barton (9), Carroll (1), Cedar (1), Crawford (2), Dallas (1), Franklin (22), Gasconade (1), Hickory (1), Jefferson (7), Linn (15), Livingston (1), Macon (13), Perry (4), Putnam (3), Ray (1), St. Clair (1), St. Francois (1), Ste. Genevieve (20), Stone (4), Sullivan (3), and Taney (2).

"During this past year, we found CWD in a number of new counties," Hudman said. "Cases were detected for the first time in Barton, Carroll, Dallas, Gasconade, Hickory, Livingston, Ray, St. Francois, and Sullivan counties."

She added that MDC expects CWD to spread but the goal is to slow the spread while researchers work to develop a cure and additional management tools, and to keep the percentage of infected deer low.

In Missouri this past year, less than one percent of tissue samples from hunter-

harvested deer tested positive for CWD.

"That is good news," she said. "It is a testament to our ability to find the disease early in new areas and apply management actions to slow its spread."

She added that if MDC does not continue to act aggressively to slow the spread of the disease, CWD could have significant effects on the deer population, hunting culture, and economy.

"There are areas of the country where over half of hunter-harvested adult bucks test positive for CWD," Hudman explained. "We must do everything we can to not let this happen in Missouri and we need the help of hunters and landowners in this fight."

Hunters and landowners are critical partners in the fight against CWD and can assist MDC by continuing to deer hunt, by participating in CWD sampling, by following regulations designed to slow CWD spread, and by cooperating with targeted culling efforts. Learn more at mdc.mo.gov/cwd.



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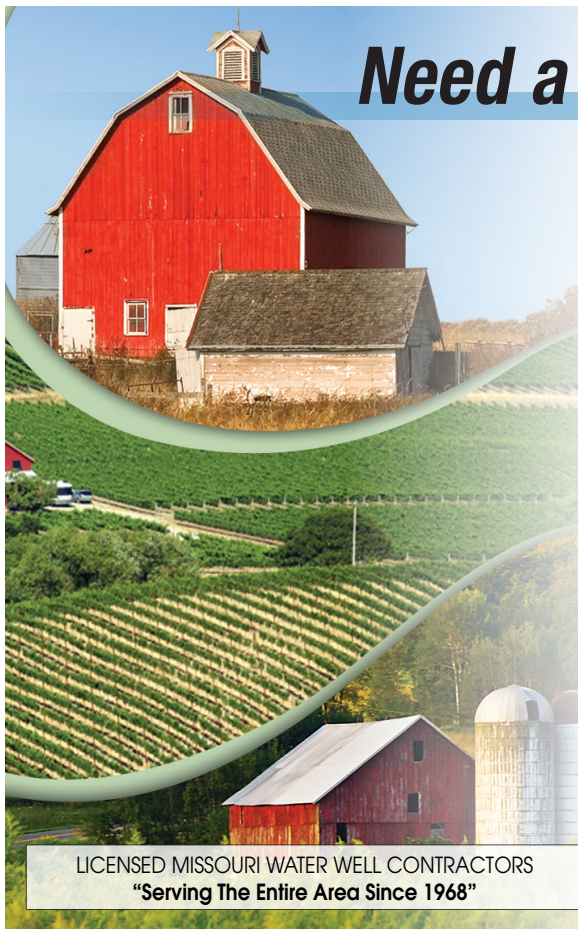
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MDC STAFF collect tissue samples from the neck of a hunter-harvested deer to have them tested for chronic wasting disease (CWD).

PHOTO COURTESY OF MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



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Missouri fisherman catches two state record-worthy fliers

BY JILL PRITCHARD
Mo. Dept. of Conservation

JEFFERSON CITY—The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) congratulates Tyler Goodale of Doniphan for swiping the second state record fish of 2023 — an 11-ounce flier he caught March 26 from Duck Creek Conservation Area using the pole-and-line method. Goodale actually caught two record-worthy fliers that day, both identical in weight and length.

The previous Missouri record flier was a 10-ounce fish caught from a private pond back in 1991.

Fliers are a species of conservation concern in Missouri. Largest populations are found at Duck Creek Conservation Area and nearby Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, where extensive areas of standing-water habitat remain. Fliers prefer quiet, clear bodies

of water with little current and considerable aquatic vegetation and mud bottom.

MDC staff verified the fishes' weight using a certified scale in Wappapello.

This is the second state record Goodale has reeled in from Duck Creek Conservation Area. He caught a 5-pound, 4-ounce spotted sucker at Duck Creek in 2020 that also happens to be the current world record.

Learn more about fliers from MDC's online Field Guide at <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/field-guide/flier>.

MDC also congratulates Mitchell Dering of Fairdealing on shooting the third state record fish recorded in 2023 — a 4-pound brown bullhead. Dering shot the fish while bowfishing at Duck Creek Ditch #105 March 14. The previous state record brown bull-

head was a 2-pound, 7-ounce fish caught in 1994 from Wappapello Lake.

"I got off work that day and went out to one of the ditches in Duck Creek and just got lucky honestly," Dering said. "We shoot a lot of smaller fish. I knew it was a bullhead, but didn't know if was a brown bullhead. But I knew it was large for its size."

Dering contacted the MDC Southeast Regional Office the next day to get his fish weighed. MDC staff verified the fish's weight on a certified scale in Wappapello.

Derin's brown bullhead beats the current 3-pound, 4-ounce bowfishing world record.

Missouri state record fish are recognized in two categories: pole-and-line and alternative methods. Alternative methods include: trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line, jug line, gig, bow, crossbow,



MDC CONFIRMS Tyler Goodale of Doniphan is the new state record holder for flier after catching two 11-ounce fish from Duck Creek Conservation Area March 26.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TYLER GOODALE

underwater spearfishing, snagging, snaring, grabbing, or atlatl. For more information on state record fish, visit <http://bit.ly/2efq1vl>.

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LATE APRIL is a good time to find morel mushrooms. They often grow in bunches, but in varied places and not everywhere. Sometimes a morel seeker feels lucky to find just one, or if none, wild places are still fun to visit in the spring season.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

It's time for morels

JEFFERSON CITY – To the uninitiated, a morel does not have the most appetizing appearance. Its brain-like form looks like something out of a campy horror movie, and a morel's neutral, earthy color doesn't command much attention. From about late March to early May, however, foraging for these small mushrooms is serious business — a business so serious that many folks refuse to reveal their morel spots even to their closest friends and family!

The question many people ask this time of year is, "How can I find morels?" Well, morels are finicky fungal organisms. The underground portion of the fungus only produces mushrooms in some years — mostly based on soil temperature and moisture availability (but other factors play a role, too). Ultimately, most of what we know about finding morels is anecdotal and widely variable, but here are a few tips to help you narrow down good places to look for morels:

- Morels commonly appear after warm, moist spring weather with daytime temperatures in the low 70s and nighttime temperatures in the 50s.
- South and west facing slopes are good sites to look for morels early in the season, with north and east slopes being better for later-season morel hunting.
- Morels tend to favor tree species such as elms, ashes, cottonwoods, and even domesticated apples. Look around recently dead trees but beware of falling branches!
- Areas disturbed by flooding, fire, or logging often produce loads of morels.
- Morels peak when lilacs bloom!
- Most public lands in Missouri allow the collecting of mushrooms for personal use, but always check the regulations before you collect to be sure.

Remember, these are just general guidelines — morels have been found growing in all sorts of locations and conditions!

Before setting off into the forest, make sure you know how to correctly identify morels. Misidentifying and consuming toxic mushrooms can cause anything from mild stomach issues to organ failure or even death! There are several mushroom species in Missouri, including the big red false morel, which are considered toxic and not recommended for consumption. Consult with field guides or a professional mycologist to be completely confident in species identification before consuming any mushrooms.

Browse MDC's mushroom field guide for photos of the more common and noticeable fungal species in Missouri. Click here to find tasty recipes using Missouri's wild mushrooms!

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THE KENTUCKY warbler is one of the warbler species people can learn about at a Missouri Department of Conservation virtual program on April 15.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MDC

Learn about warblers at MDC virtual program April 15

BY FRANCIS SKALICKY
Mo. Dept. of Conservation

SPRINGFIELD – Warblers are brightly marked birds that are heard much more often than they are seen. Because of their striking coloration and secluded habits, sightings of these birds are always notable events – even among experienced birders.

People can learn more about these interesting birds at the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) online program “Naturalist Notes: Wild Warblers Virtual Program.” This virtual program will be from 3:30-4:30 p.m. April 15 and is being put on by the staff of MDC’s Springfield Conservation Nature Center. This program will not be recorded. People can register at:

<https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/191235>

At this program, MDC Naturalist Jordanya Raos will discuss the species of warblers that can be seen in Missouri, where they can be seen, and what part of the year they are here in Missouri. “Naturalist Notes” is a series of Springfield Nature Center programs in which MDC naturalists showcase some of their favorite topics. This program is for all ages.

MDC’s Springfield Conservation Nature Center is located in southeast Springfield at 4601 S. Nature Center Way. People can stay informed about upcoming programs at the nature center and other nearby MDC facilities by signing up for text alerts and e-mail bulletins. People who have questions about how to sign up for text alerts from the Springfield Nature Center can call 417-888-4237

Staff at MDC facilities across the state are holding virtual and online programs. A listing of these programs can be found at mdc.mo.gov/events.

OUTDOORS IN THE OZARKS

I seen a few turkeys... once

I hunted wild gobblers for 50 years... but no more. The first hunt I went on was in the Ouachita Mountains in 1970 at a place called Muddy Creek WMA with an Arkansas Fish and Game biologist by the name of Gene Rush. Heckuva turkey hunter and a great guy. Hunting in four states since then I have killed a lot of turkeys, many times six or seven per year, and guiding other hunters for many years, the 70s, 80s and 90s, I made a lot of money out of wild turkeys by doing that. But brother, there were a lot of turkeys back then.

I quit guiding hunters about twenty years ago, and I quit hunting three years ago when I began to see the numbers of wild gobblers take a nosedive. I will hunt them “no more forever” as the old Indian Chief said. But I have to admit I called up and shot two just a

few days ago; shot them with my camera... which I enjoy just as much as I ever did, shooting at them with my old twelve-gauge. You other hunters would too. No lugging them back, no gutting and skinning, no giving money to a corrupt state agency in buying tags. And turkeys from the grocery store are cheap if you gotta eat one. I like baloney about as well. You can see several of my gobbler photos at www.larrydablemon-toutdoors.blogspot.com.

I wrote one book about turkey hunting 20 years ago. If you haven’t read it, contact me and I will inscribe one to you. I am going to write another in a year or so; with

some of the darndest photos you have ever seen. And experiences. I have seen some of the most unbelievable things happen in the spring woods you can imagine.

I got one of those occurrences on a movie camera about 1993, I think. I was on a hillside in southern Missouri listening to three or four gobblers on the roost across a small creek bottom. They flew down, but while gobbling a lot, they didn’t come to my call. But 20 minutes later a non-gobbling tom came strutting up to me. He had a nice beard, but half of his tail was missing. He was a half-tailed gobbler. I was just calling with my mouth, imitating a hen without any call, something I learned to do many years before. I began filming him when he was about 20 feet away, stomping and strutting and drumming, but never gobbling. Calling softly and quietly I got him all shook up and he decided there was an invisible hen before him. And then he began to mate with that hen he was sure was there!! He

See **Dablemont**, Page 9B



by **LARRY DABLEMONT**

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Dablemont from page 4B

really did, and completed the task. I have it all on film. I killed a monstrous 21-pound gobbler once with seven beards totaling 49 inches with one-inch spurs, and have photos to show it. In fact there is a picture of him in that book of mine. I was laid out in the leaves, calling in ticks, about noon, with the warm sun shining down, when he awakened me. There were two of them. I like to think his partner had eight beards!

But here is something I have never written about. You might figure out why. You ain't gonna believe this! One morning about ten o'clock I heard a lot of gobbling about a mile away so I walked about halfway and called and the hillside rattled with their answering gobbles. I moved closer and found the most accommodating brushpile there ever was, about 150 yards from them. I got hid really well behind a clump of multiflora rose with some saplings in it. Was I ever hid... though one foot stuck out in front a couple of feet.

I called and three gobblers came easing up to see where the hen was, strutting and blowing and magnificent. In no time they were before me, and, to use an expression my old mentor Clyde Trout often used, "I

uncapped his head."

The other two just instantly jumped on that thrashing tom beside them and gave him what-for for a good three minutes. When he lay still, they just stood there like they didn't know what to do. So I called and here they came, up to about 10 feet away, where they seemed to be seeing who could gobble the best. Now I know that many times readers have thought I was a doggone liar, but this is the truth and I will swear to it in court!! Those two gobblers walked up to me and gobbled right in my face, again and again and again. I was frozen, looking right down their throats; and one actually stepped on my boot. I can say this... gobblers have a rather unsmell-good breath, and a gobble at that closeness is really different; a rattling, loud variant of what you hear that sounds entirely different when it is 100 yards away.

I guess while they were searching for that hen in the brushpile, they each gobbled six or eight times. In about five minutes that morning they gave up and wandered away, wondering. I was a little relieved. Two 20 pound tom turkeys appeared to be capable of flogging and spurring me good

should revenge be on their mind.

Well, come next Sunday at our fish fry at the Brown Hill Church out east of Houston, Mo. I will tell some more stories about turkey hunting, and give away some of my homemade turkey calls and show folks how to make and use them. Church service is at 11 a.m. and the dinner starts

at noon. If it rains, then we will postpone it one week.

Just let me know if you are coming. I need to know how many fish to bring, and how many turkey calls.

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2023 Event Schedule

Trap Practice—Tuesday, 4:00PM ~ Field Captain: Glenn Oder 573-301-6475

Sporting Clays: 9AM-2PM
Field Captain: Shane Achterberg
573-263-0021

Sunday, April 2
Sunday, June 4
Sunday, July 9
Sunday, Aug. 6
Sunday, Sept. 10
Sunday, Oct. 22

Shotgun Triathlon: 9AM-2PM
Sunday, May 7
Sunday, Oct. 1

50 Bird/Trap Derby: 6PM
Field Captain: Glenn Oder
573-764-3220
Held every Monday, April 3
thru Oct. 2, except May 29
& Sept. 4

NRA HP Rifle Match:
Field Captain: Mark Ehlert
573-569-0614

Sign up 8AM Start 8:30AM;
Sunday, June 11
Sunday, Aug. 13
Sunday, Sept. 10

CMP vintage Rifle, M1 Garand & Carbine: 9AM-3:30PM Field Captain, Jim Miller 636-583-8613:

Sat., April 1 - CMP Appreciation & Awards
Sunday, April 16*
Sunday, May 21*
Sunday, June 25*
Sunday, Aug. 20*
Sunday, Sept. 17*
Sunday, Oct. 1*

*M1 for Vets Presentation at 08:00 AM;
Field Captain: John Colombo 314-604-3005

Board Meetings: Thursdays, April 6, June 22, Sept. 14 & Nov. 9

President: Glenn Oder 573-764-3220
Vice Pres.: Adam Southerland 573-259-3223
Secretary/Treas.: Linda Thiedke

CHECK OUR WEB SITE FOR UPDATES: www.OwensvilleGunClub.org

NOTE: The Club requests that members who have moved or changed their mailing address to please notify the club by mail at: OGC, PO Box 518, Owensville, MO 65066



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MDC reports young hunters took 2,550 turkeys over youth weekend

BY JOE JEREK

Mo. Dept. of Conservation

JEFFERSON CITY – Preliminary data from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) shows that young turkey hunters in Missouri harvested 2,550 birds over the past youth weekend, April 1 and 2. Top harvest counties were Osage with 71 birds harvested, Miller with 65, and Texas with 64.

Young hunters checked 2,881 birds during the 2022 spring youth weekend.

“The cool, windy weather on Saturday made for challenging turkey hunting conditions,” said MDC Turkey Biologist Nicholas Oakley. “Fortunately, hunters stuck with it and Sunday’s weather was more conducive to harvesting a turkey.”

Get more harvest information by county at extra.mdc.mo.gov/widgets/harvest_table/.

The regular spring turkey season runs April 17 through May 7. For more information on turkey hunting in Missouri, visit mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/turkey.



CHESTEN ADKISON, 10 years old, of Owensville shot this turkey the morning of April 2, right after it flew out of the roost. He called it in with a mouth call. Chesten harvested the bird with a 20 gauge shot gun. He is pictured with his father, Nathaniell Adkison.

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KEEVER SCHANING, Owensville, has been dreaming of the day when he was finally of age to hunt with his father, Josh. That day came, April 1 at age 6 when he harvested his first turkey on his grandparents farm. The bird weighed in at 26 lbs. with a 10.5 inch beard and 1 inch spurs.

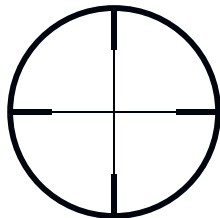


MADISON HINCH of Owensville killed this bird April 1 in the Spring Youth Turkey Season. The turkey has an 11 inch beard and 1 inch spurs.



CALEBLOTTMANN poses with his first 23 pound thunder chicken taken in Gasconade County. Caleb is the son of Jordan Lottmann.

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KOLT KOELLING, age 7, of Bay went turkey hunting with his father, Nate and grandfather Roger on April 1. He harvested his first turkey on his grandpa Chuck's farm in Bay during Spring Youth Turkey Season. The bird weighed 27.4 lbs, 9 3/4" beard, and 1 1/8" spurs. Kolt's turkey was the 3rd Largest Turkey in the Owensville Area Youth Turkey Hunt.



PEYTON SELLS age 11 harvested this 28 lb. turkey on April 1st with his grandfather. Peyton took first place in the Owensville youth turkey competition with a score of 78.12

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 – Nash Buckingham

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