

GEORGIA HUNTING SEASONS & REGULATIONS

[\(http://www.eregulations.com/georgia/hunting/\)](http://www.eregulations.com/georgia/hunting/)

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Turkey, Bear, Small Game & Feral Hog Hunting



Georgia
Hunting

Bear

LIMIT

Two bears per season, however, only one bear may be taken from the Southern Zone or Central Zone.

STATEWIDE RESTRICTIONS

It is prohibited to kill a female bear with cub(s) or bears under 75 pounds.

ZONES

NORTHERN BEAR ZONE

Carroll, Fulton, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Walton, Barrow, Jackson, Madison, Hart and all counties north

Restrictions:

No hunting bears with dogs. No hunting bears over bait.

Reporting:

- Within 24 hours, harvested bears must be reported to the Wildlife Resources Division Gainesville Office (770-535-5700) or Armuchee Office (706-295-6041). After hours, call 1-800-241-4113.
- Within 3 business days, bears (minimum of hide and skull) must be taken to any Game Management Office (except Fitzgerald) for tagging.
- Harvested bears may also be checked at any WMA check station in the counties listed above that are open for a managed deer/bear/hog hunt between 8 a.m.–8 p.m.

CENTRAL BEAR ZONE

Bibb, Houston, and Twiggs Counties

Restrictions:

No hunting bears with dogs. No hunting bears over bait. No hunting bears on WMAs.

Reporting:

- Harvested bears must be checked and tagged at the Oaky Woods WMA check station between 12 noon and 9 p.m. on the day of the hunt.

SOUTHERN BEAR ZONE

Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Echols, Lanier, Lowndes and Ware Counties

Restrictions:

No hunting bears over bait. Hunting with dogs is allowed, except in Lanier and Lowndes Counties, where only still hunting is allowed.

Reporting:

Hogs may be taken with archery equipment during archery deer season, with deer weapons during firearms deer season, with turkey weapons during turkey season and with small game weapons during small game season. No night hunting. No hunting over bait. Hunting license requirements must be met. Hunter orange is required during firearms and primitive weapons deer seasons.

TRANSPORTING & RELEASE

It is unlawful to transport a live feral hog without a permit from the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA). Feral hogs captured alive by a person without a valid GDA permit must be killed prior to transport. Release of any live feral hogs into an area that is not fenced is prohibited. Any persons convicted of the transport or release of live feral hogs may be subject to losing hunting privileges for up to three years and a fine up to \$5,000.00, but not less than \$1,500.00. Transport and possession of live feral hogs are regulated by GDA; contact the Animal Industry Division at 404-656-3671 for more information.

PROCESSING

Any facility that processes hogs for a fee, including deer processors, must obtain a license to operate from the Meat Inspection Section of the Georgia Department of Agriculture. For more information, deer processors may contact the Georgia Meat Inspection Section at 404-656-3673. Licensing requirements do not apply to individuals who process feral swine for their own use.

WARNING

Feral hogs can carry infectious diseases that are transmissible to people. To avoid possible exposure: wear plastic gloves when field-dressing feral hogs; wash hands with soap and hot water immediately afterwards; avoid direct contact with blood and reproductive organs; cook thoroughly; and properly dispose of all waste.

Small Game

BOBCAT & FOX

Bobcats and foxes may be hunted with small game firearms or centerfire firearms of .17 caliber or larger. Manual calls only. Hunting with dogs allowed. Night hunting allowed.

COYOTES, ARMADILLOS, GROUNDHOGS, BEAVERS, STARLINGS, PIGEONS & ENGLISH SPARROWS

No closed season. No limit. There is no closed season for trapping beavers and coyotes. Electronic calls may be used for hunting coyotes.

Alligator

Season: August 18 (sunset) – October 2 (sunrise)

Legal Weapons: Hand-held ropes or snares, snatch hooks, harpoons, gigs, or arrows with restraining line attached. Lawfully restrained alligators may be killed with any caliber handgun or bangstick.

Quota Process: Alligator hunting is permit only. To enter the selection process, log into your account at goutdoorsgeorgia.com.

Application Period: June 1 – July 31

Trapping

Complete trapping regulations are available at gohuntgeorgia.com.

Falconry

Valid falconry permit and hunting license required.

- Squirrel (12 per day) Aug. 15 – Mar. 15
- Grouse (3 per day) Oct. 1 – Mar. 15
- Rabbit (12 per day) Oct. 1 – Mar. 15
- Quail (12 per day) Oct. 1 – Mar. 15

<< Shooting Ranges

(<http://www.eregulations.com/georgia/hunting/shooting-ranges/>)

[Big Game Hunting Seasons, Dates & Limits >>](http://www.eregulations.com/georgia/hunting/shooting-ranges/)

[game-hunting-seasons-dates-limits/](http://www.eregulations.com/georgia/hunting/shooting-ranges/)

Bears (minimum of hide and skull) must be checked and tagged at one of these locations:

- Fargo Georgia Forestry Commission Office – Thursdays and Fridays 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Saturdays Noon – 9 p.m., all hunt days
- Waycross DNR Office – Thursdays and Fridays 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Saturdays Noon – 9 p.m. Sept. 21-23, Sept. 28 – 30, Oct. 12-14
- Dixon Memorial WMA – Oct. 5-7, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- After hours, call 1-800-241-4113, or 229-426-5267 on the following business day to report harvested bears and arrange tagging

Turkey

LIMIT

3 gobblers per season, including Special Opportunity Season.

CHECK YOUR TURKEY

All turkey hunters are required to have a Harvest Record for the current season. Additionally, all harvest must be reported within 72 hours through Georgia Game Check.

How to Report Your Turkey:

Cell Phone Handy?

If you have a cell phone, enter the harvest date and county on the Harvest Record through the GA Outdoors App, online at www.gooutdoorsgeorgia.com (<http://www.gooutdoorsgeorgia.com>), or by calling 1-800-366-2661 before moving the turkey from the site of the kill.

NEW You can now report your harvest through the GA Outdoors App when your phone has no service. Enter your harvest date and county on the Harvest Record through the App. When you get to a location with service, access the App and sync to receive your confirmation number.

No Phone? No Problem!

Log It—Enter the harvest date and county on your paper Harvest Record before moving the turkey from the site of the kill.

Report It—Within 72 hours of the kill, report your harvest by going online to gooutdoorsgeorgia.com or calling 1-800-366-2661.

Record It—Copy the confirmation number received onto your paper Harvest Record.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY SEASON

For youth 16 years of age and younger and mobility impaired persons (i.e. confined to wheelchair, hemiplegia, monoplegia, paraplegia, or single-leg amputation above the knee). Such hunters must be accompanied by an adult (18 years or older) who can call but may not take or attempt to take a turkey. This season does not apply to public lands unless otherwise specified.

TURKEY SURVEY

All turkey hunters may participate in the Annual Turkey Hunter Survey at gohuntgeorgia.com (<http://gohuntgeorgia.com>) or by calling 478-825-6354.

Feral Hog

PRIVATE LANDS

Limit: No limit, no closed season.

Feral hogs may be hunted at night with a light (no voltage restriction), which is carried on the person, affixed to a helmet or hat, or part of a belt system worn by a hunter. Hunting over bait is allowed. No hunting from a vehicle.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS:

Residents: All residents 16 years of age or older must possess a Hunting License to hunt feral hogs except when hunting on land owned by them or their immediate family (blood or dependent relationship) residing in the same household.

Nonresidents: Must possess a nonresident hunting license.

Exemptions to many of these restrictions for agricultural producers are available by permit. Contact your local Game Management Office for details.

LEGAL WEAPONS

Any legal weapon. Additional weapon restrictions apply on WMAs and Federal Lands.

NATIONAL FOREST LANDS (OUTSIDE OF WMAs)

Limit: No limit.

Firearms

- C **Q50** Youth Hunt/Either Sex: Nov. 11-12
- **Q100** Either Sex: Nov. 17-18, Dec. 1-2

Turkey

Q25 Mar. 24-25, Apr. 6-7

Small Game

Squirrel/Rabbit/Quail Only: Dec. 3
-Jan. 31

Waterfowl

Q20 Dec. 9-10, Dec. 22-23, Jan. 5-6, Jan. 19-20. Shooting hours until 12 noon s.

Special Regs

Interested hunters must visit: www.fws.gov/bondswamp. Refuge permits are required for all hunts. Hunters are required to sign out harvested game at refuge check stations. Quota deer and waterfowl application deadline is September 27, 2017. Quota turkey application deadline is February 21, 2018. Contact the Piedmont Refuge office to obtain applications, permits and refuge specific hunting regulations (478-986-5441) or email piedmont@fws.gov. Feral hogs may be taken during big game and small game hunts with applicable weapons restrictions.

■ **Chattahoochee National Forest (outside of WMAs)**

770.297.3000

Deer

Archery

- Either Sex: Sept. 9-Oct. 13
- During Firearms Deer season, archers must follow Firearms either sex dates on the National Forest.

Primitive

- Either Sex: Oct. 14-20

Firearms

- Buck Only: Oct. 21-Dec. 26
- Lands East of I-75/Either Sex: Oct. 28, Nov. 25
- Lands West of I-75/Either Sex: Same as county either sex days through Dec. 26

Bear

- Hunting bears with dogs is prohibited in the Northern and Central Bear Zones including Chattahoochee National Forest.

Archery

- Sept. 9-Oct. 13

Primitive

- Oct. 14-20

Firearms

- Oct. 21-Dec. 26

Turkey

Mar. 24-May 15

This refers to Federal Land

Small Game

Aug. 15-Feb. 28

Special Small Game Note

The use of centerfire firearms at night is prohibited.

Feral Hog

Baiting is prohibited. No night hunting. Hogs may be taken with archery equipment during archery deer season, with deer weapons during firearms deer season, with turkey weapons during turkey season and with small game weapons during small game dates. Feral hogs may be hunted with dogs with appropriate weapons restrictions while training dogs during dates when training season coincides with small game or turkey season.

Special Regs

No dog training June 1-Aug. 14, except as provided below. Pursuit of bears or feral hogs with dogs for training purposes may occur only Aug. 1-Sept. 7, Jan. 2-Mar. 19, May 1-May 24 during legal daylight hours; other requirements apply. **Prohibited:** Transportation of any loaded weapon in a motor vehicle. Possession of alcohol when hunting. Placing, leaving, or depositing any food, bait, or garbage in a manner likely to attract or concentrate any wildlife, whether for purposes of hunting or viewing animals. Failure to properly store food or garbage so as to prevent access by wildlife. **NOTE:** The Appalachian Trail (AT) is heavily used all year for camping and hiking. Please be aware of campers/hikers and use caution when hunting near the AT or any other trails/campgrounds. Coyotes may be hunted during open seasons with weapons restrictions for game species in season; no night hunting; electronic calls may be used.

■ Cumberland Island NS

C Q

912.882.4336 x258

Deer

Archery

- **Q125** Either Sex: Oct. 16-18 c

Primitive

- **Q100** Either Sex: Nov. 13-15 c | Dec. 4-6 c. Legal handguns may be used.

Firearms

- **C Q50** Youth Hunt/Either Sex: Oct. 28-29 c. Child must be 12-16 years of age. All children under 16 must be directly supervised at all times.

FERAL HOG

- Jan. 8-10 | Jan. 29-31

Special Regs

Call 912-882-4336 ext254 for information or visit <http://www.nps.gov/cuis/> for detailed information. Registration begins July 1st, go to www.pay.gov and type "Cumberland" in the search box located on the left hand side of the screen under the section entitled "Find Public Forms".