Kentucky's fall hunting seasons await

Hunters have many opportunities afield for the '26-27 season

From doves and deer to bobcat and bear, fall brings many options for hunters in Kentucky to fill their freezers or take on new challenges.

Although the first day of squirrel season started Aug. 15, many consider Sept. 1 – the opening day of dove season – as the symbolic kick-off of fall hunting. The opening of these two seasons unleashes a steady progression of opportunities for hunters.

No matter what draws hunters to the fields and forests, whether it's meat for the freezer, antlers for the wall, spiritual rejuvenation or a stronger bond with their children, "there's something for everyone," said Wildlife Division Director Ben Robinson of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "The good old days of hunting in Kentucky are happening right now."

Season dates and bag limits can be found on Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's website at fw.ky.gov. The website is filled with everything from new regulations, harvest data and a license and permit store, to tutorials on hunting, quota hunt applications, Hunter Education classes, and maps of public dove fields and Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). It also includes an individualized My Profile page.

The website provides downloadable and printable versions of the 2026-27 Kentucky Hunting and Trapping Guide and the 2026-27 Kentucky Hunting Guide for Migratory Birds and Waterfowl. The hunting and trapping guide is also available at license vendors.

Special note: Hunters and trappers should consult species-specific pages at fw.ky.gov or the online hunting guides before going afield. Proposed regulation changes are awaiting final review and could alter seasons this fall.

Some hunting opportunities, more or less in calendar order:

Squirrel: Fall squirrel hunting – which began Aug. 15 – is the perfect introduction to hunting for youths and newcomers. To find eastern gray squirrels, which make up nearly 90 percent of the harvest, look for large trees in mature forests, especially oaks and hickories.

Doves and more: Friends and family will hit dove fields Sept. 1, the traditional start to the first of dove season's three segments. The action can be fast, furious and fun in one of the rare hunting opportunities that's considered "a social thing." Check out Migratory Birds for lists of public dove fields and quota hunts.

Hunters will need a valid Kentucky hunting license and a Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl permit, plus they must also have their Harvest Information Program (HIP) confirmation number prior to heading afield. To get their confirmation number, hunters must visit the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website at fw.ky.gov, click the My Profile tab and answer a brief survey about their migratory bird hunting activities during the previous year. This number must appear on their printed license or can be written on the hunting license or Kentucky Migratory Bird/Waterfowl Hunting permit.

Mid-September will begin opportunities for early wood ducks, teal and Canada geese. Regular waterfowl seasons for ducks and geese open on Thanksgiving Day, providing opportunities to hunt through January or February. Sandhill crane season runs from early December through the end of January. Hunters wishing to take sandhill cranes must apply for a quota hunt permit Sept. 1-30, 2026, at My Profile, and are required to complete a post-season survey within 14 days of the close of the season.

Deer: Roughly 300,000 hunters will target white-tailed deer through 136 days of hunting, including an archery season that kicks off Sept. 5, a nine-day youth-only season Oct. 10-18, 2026, and the modern firearms season Nov. 14-29, 2026.

More than 145,000 deer were harvested last year. While Kentucky ranks No. 6 in entries on the Boone and Crockett Club trophy list, wildlife officials are encouraging a higher harvest of does.

Thirty counties were rezoned to allow more generous bag limits, and a special antlerless season in 23 counties being monitored for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was expanded from two days to four days to manage deer densities. Mandatory drop-off and sampling requirements in the CWD Surveillance Zone are spelled out online and in the hunting guide.

Black bears: Hunters can buy permits over the counter to pursue bears in 47 counties using firearms, bows, crossbows and with the aid of dogs during various seasons that begin Sept. 19 and end Dec. 16, 2026. More than 200 bears were taken each of the past two seasons, with about 10 percent of hunters being successful.

Elk: A lucky 500 hunters were selected for permits in May during Kentucky's annual elk permit drawing for the right to hunt the state's largest game animal in the southeastern mountains. Didn't get picked? Apply now for the 2027 Kentucky Elk Draw through My Profile.

Fall turkey: Spring brought a record turkey harvest, but successful hatches the past two years suggest the various fall seasons could be productive as well. Hunters can use bows beginning Sept. 5, followed by various crossbow and shotguns seasons.

Other small game: Hunters can target both rabbits and quail beginning Nov. 16, with a separate 13-day season beginning Nov. 1 in the Eastern Zone only. Both species are habitat-specific, so finding the right habitat is step No. 1. Many rabbit and quail hunters love the species because it gives them a chance to work their dogs.

Furbearers: Furbearers offer diverse opportunities for hunters and trappers alike, including predators like coyotes, bobcats and foxes; water-based animals like river otters, beavers and muskrats; and the commonly seen raccoons and striped skunks. Pay attention to the details: most species have specific rules regarding equipment and season dates, and season dates typically differ by method of take (hunting and trapping). In addition, some species cannot be taken during deer firearms seasons.

Hunters born after 1974 must be hunter education certified, unless they are Kentucky residents hunting on their own property. For other exceptions and hunter safety course schedules, see the Hunter Education webpage.

Plant now for a productive fall garden

Kara Back

University of Kentucky Horticulture Agent

The end of summer does not have to mean the end of fresh vegetables from the garden. With a little planning, Kentucky gardeners can follow their spring and summer crops with a fall garden and enjoy fresh produce well into autumn and, in some cases, early winter.

Fall gardens can produce some of the season's best-quality vegetables. Warm days and cool nights help add sweetness to sweet corn and cole crops such as cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower, while also giving carrots added crispness.

Vegetables harvested after early September generally fall into two groups: the final succession plantings of warm-season crops, such as corn and bush beans, and cool-season crops that grow well during fall's cooler days and can withstand frost.

As with a spring garden, careful planning matters. Group crops according to your planting plan and place taller plants where they will not shade shorter ones. Because seed germination can be more challenging in late summer conditions, be sure the soil is moist before planting. Keep the soil moist, but not overly wet, until seeds have germinated.

Gardeners should also remember that cool nights can slow plant growth. Crops often take longer to mature in the fall than they do during the heat of summer, so allow extra time when checking seed packets or catalogs for average days to maturity. Using succession planting can also help extend the harvest over a longer period.

Good fall garden options include beets, butterhead lettuce, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, collards, endive, bush green beans, kale, kohlrabi, leaf lettuce, mustard greens, radishes, spinach, turnips and turnip greens. Some crops are best seeded directly, while others may be started from transplants. Planting dates vary by crop, so gardeners should consult local recommendations before planting. In many cases, crops need to be seeded while it is still very warm to have enough time to grow and be harvestable.

By protecting frost-sensitive vegetables during key cold nights, gardeners may be able to extend the harvest season by several weeks. Different thicknesses or weights of row cover can be used to protect crops, keeping them several degrees warmer than the outside air temperature. Once frost-sensitive vegetables are finished for the season, gardeners may be able to plant cool-season crops in their place. Leafy greens like lettuce and spinach may grow into November or December under clear plastic (polyethylene) sheets if outside temperatures do not drop below 20°F. Be sure to allow for ventilation on sunny days to reduce humidity and prevent these crops from overheating.

Sources: Home Vegetable Gardening in Kentucky, ID-128; Rachel Rudolph, Ph.D., Extension vegetable specialist

CONSERVATION DISTRICT COST SHARE PROGRAM

The Green County Conservation District is accepting applications for cost share funding under the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program. This program was created to assist agricultural operations in protecting the soil and water resources of Kentucky. This program allows funds to be administered through conservation districts with priority given to animal waste related problems. This program contains best management practices, for example, rotational grazing systems, alternative watering systems, heavy use feeding areas, and grass waterways. Please contact your conservation district for more practice details.

Funding for practices will be approved by the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission as funds are available. Approved applicants are reimbursed 75% cost share rate for installing practices up to the maximum amount allowed per applicant per year. Applications may be requested at any time during the year and are ranked annually. The last day to accept applications for the upcoming ranking period is October 15.

The District administers the Deceased Farm Animal Removal Program. Receipts from dead animal removal are reimbursed from funds acquired through a State Cost Share Environmental Grant.

For more information, stop by the Conservation District office located at 103 Industrial Park Road, Greensburg or call 270-932-4961.

PUBLIC NOTICE- 2025 AUDIT REPORT FOR GREEN COUNTY FISCAL COURT

A copy of the complete audit report for fiscal year 2025, including financial statements and supplemental information, is on file at the Green County Judge Executive's Office, 203 West Court Street, and is available for public inspection during normal business hours 8:00 – 4:30 CST. Any citizen may obtain a copy of the complete audit report, including financial statements and supplemental information, for personal use at the charge for duplication costs at the rate of twenty-five cents ($0.25) per page. Copies of the financial statement prepared in accordance with KRS 424.220 are available to the public at no cost in the Green County Treasurer's Office, 203 West Court Street.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Green County Board of Education is proposing a general fund tax levy of 53.0 cents on real property and 55.1 cents on personal property.

The General Fund tax levied in fiscal year 2026 was 54.2 cents on real property and 55.1 cents on personal property and produced revenue of $3,342,099.10.

The proposed General Fund tax rate of 53.0 cents on real property and 55.1 cents on personal property is expected to produce $3,450,908.35. Of this amount, $446,173.18 is from new and personal property. The compensating tax for 2027 is 50.6 cents on real property and 55.1 cents on personal property and is expected to produce $3,313,432.19.

The proposed rate is expected to generate more revenue than received in the preceding year. The general areas to which revenue of $108,809.25 above 2026 revenue is to be allocated are as follows: Cost of collections, $2,175.19; building fund, $22,882; instruction, $71,189; transportation, $6,281.53; and maintenance of plant, $6,281.53.

This information is published pursuant to KRS 160.470. The proposed tax rate is not subject to recall under KRS 132.017.

The General Assembly has required publication of this advertisement and information contained herein.

Public Notice

Commonwealth of Kentucky
Court of Justice
Eleventh Judicial District Court
Green County
Probate Division
Karen Gilpin, Clerk

In compliance with SECTION 25.185 AND SECTION 242 ***KENTUCKY REVISED STATUTES*** NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following ***SETTLEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS*** have been filed in the office of the clerk and exceptions to same, if any, must be filed before ***September 21, 2026*** on which date at 1:00 p.m. prevailing time a hearing will be held in the Green County Judicial Center.

NAME OF WARD OR DECEDENT	NAME OF FIDUCIARY	CAPACITY OF FIDUCIARY	KIND OF SETTLEMENT
GERALDINE YORK	GARY EDWIN YORK	ADMINSTRATOR	PROPOSED FINAL

In compliance with SECTION 25.185 AND SECTION 242 ***KENTUCKY REVISED STATUTES*** NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following ***SETTLEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS*** have been filed in the office of the clerk and exceptions to same, if any, must be filed before ***September 28, 2026*** on which date at 1:00 p.m. prevailing time a hearing will be held in the Green County Judicial Center.

NAME OF WARD OR DECEDENT	NAME OF FIDUCIARY	CAPACITY OF FIDUCIARY	KIND OF SETTLEMENT
RAYMOND EUGENE McKINNEY	CATHY PATTERSON	ADMINSTRATOR	PROPOSED FINAL

In compliance with SECTION 424.30 AND SECTION 424.120 ***KENTUCKY REVISED STATUTES*** NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following ***FIDUCIARY APPOINTMENTS*** have been made by the court.

NAME ADDRESS OF DECEDENT OR WARD	NAME & ADDRESS OF FUDICIARY	NAME & ADDRESS OF ATTY REPRESENTING FUDICIARY	DATE OF APPT	CREDITORS MUST FILES CLAIMS BY
ROZELLA McCUBBIN 3077 Gabe Road Greensburg, KY 42743	JONAH C. PATTERSON 441 Montgomery Mill Road Greensburg, KY 42743 PEGGY L. SHIRLEY 1792 Aetna Grove Church Road Summersville, KY 42782	R. ADAM STEARMAN 101 N. Public Square Greensburg, KY 42743	08/18/2026	02/18/2027
KENNETH G. HOWARD 1025 Legion Park Road Greensburg, KY 42743	BRANDON QUINN 1025 Legion Park Road Greensburg, KY 42743	JOHN D. BERTRAM 321 E. Main Street Campbellsville, KY 42718	08/18/2026	02/18/2027
NELSON J. PICKETT 105 Quail Valley Drive Greensburg, KY 42743	NANCY K. PICKETT 105 Quail Valley Drive Greensburg, KY 42743	R. ADAM STEARMAN 101 N. Public Square Greensburg, KY 42743	08/13/2026	02/13/2027
REVA NELL TUCKER 129 Long Meadow Drive Greensburg, KY 42743	SHEILA R. GUMM 129 Long Meadow Drive Greensburg, KY 42743	RUSSELL W. GOFF 116 S. Main Street Greensburg, KY 42743	08/13/2026	02/13/2027
CHARLOTTE MILBY STUMPH 3966 Hodgenville Road Greensburg, KY 42743	JAMES TIMOTHY STUMPH 1140 Hall Cemetery Road Greensburg, KY 42743	RUSSELL W. GOFF 116 S. Main Street Greensburg, KY 42743	08/13/2026	02/13/2027
RAYMOND D. CRENSHAW 2996 Blowing Springs Road Greensburg, KY 42743	ANGEL MARIE WOODROME 102 Taylor Avenue Greensburg, KY 42743	RUSSELL W. GOFF 116 S. Main Street Greensburg, KY 42743	08/11/2026	02/11/2027
FLOYD WRIGHT, JR. 117 Greenvalley Place Lenoir, NC 28645	ROSE HARRINGTON 6521 Silver Hills Drive Manitowoc, WI 54220	N/A	08/11/2026	02/11/2027