

# Kentucky's fall hunting seasons await

BY STAFF REPORTS

FRANKFORT — 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, follow.

**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 very 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.

Remember that 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.

For general information, hunters can contact the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Information Center by emailing info.center@ky.gov or calling (800) 858-2549, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern) Monday through Friday, except holidays.



Photo by Abby Hooven

**Riley DiPaola makes a shot during the All 'A' tournament.**



Photo by Abby Hooven

**Judah Mefford makes a shot during the tournament.**

## Boys place second in All 'A' tournament

BY STAFF REPORTS

The Owen County boys golf team placed second last Tuesday at the All "A" Region tournament at Fairway Golf Course.

Briton Stafford and Ezekiel Mefford each advanced to a playoff,

with Mefford finishing fourth and Stafford placing fifth. Each carded a 79 during 18-hole play.

Judah Mefford carded an 88; Eli Osborne carded a 90 and Riley DiPaola carded a 98.

The state tournament is scheduled for Aug. 30 in Richmond.

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## SOCCER

FROM PAGE A7

(Thursday, Aug. 27) and Dayton (Saturday, Aug. 29).

### REBELS COME UP SHORT IN MATCH VERSUS DEMONS WILLIAMSTOWN

Owen County came up short as Williamstown held on to win 3-2 in an early-season boys' high school soccer match on Friday, Aug. 21.

The Rebels visited the Demons for the early-season boys' high school soccer match.

Ian Messmore led Williamstown to the win. Messmore recorded a hat trick, scoring all three of Williamstown's goals.

Aiding Williamstown offensively, Caleb "Colt" Cook distributed one assist.

Goalkeeper Will Fisher paced Williamstown defensively, holding Owen County to a pair of goals. Fisher tallied 12 saves.

Camdyn Martinez and Michael Mendoza netted one goal apiece for the Rebels. Chipping in offensively for Owen County, Miquel Diaz dealt out one assist.

Defensively for Owen County, goalkeeper Jerek Garrett logged 10 saves.

Gallatin County 5, Owen County 1: Owen County couldn't overcome a slow start as Gallatin County pulled away to win 5-1 in a 31st District boys' soccer match on Monday, Aug. 24.

Gallatin County attacked offensively throughout the 31st District boys' soccer match.

Miquel Diaz scored Owen County's lone goal.

Defensively for Owen County, goalkeeper Jerek Garrett recorded 22 saves.



## LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
UNIFIED COURT OF JUSTICE  
OWEN CIRCUIT COURT  
CIVIL ACTION # 23-CI-00078

MID SOUTH CAPITAL PARTNERS, LP

PLAINTIFF

VS.

ROGER SENIOURS, ETAL.

DEFENDANTS

### NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale rendered in the Owen Circuit Court on the 11th day of August, 2026, I will sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder on the front steps of the Owen County Courthouse, 100 North Thomas Street, Owenton, Kentucky at the hour of 10:00, a.m. on Saturday, September 12, 2026, the following described property:

Lying in Owen County, Kentucky and bounded as follows:  
On the east by the New Liberty and Owenton Turnpike, on the south and west by the land of S. B. Brown and B. Cryr and on the north by an alley and the land of Nancy Simpson and containing 1 acre.  
Being the same property conveyed to Roosevelt Nuby by deed dated July 19, 1965 and recorded in Commissioner's Deed Book G, page 452 in the Owen County Clerk's Office. Defendants herein are the heirs at law of Roosevelt Nuby.

Property Address: 125 Highway 227 North, New Liberty, KY Map: 033.30-015  
The amount of money to be raised and for which this sale is being made is the sum of \$8,738.14 adjudged due to plaintiff on its first lien on the property, together with interest thereon at the rate of 12% per annum, from August 11, 2026, until paid.  
The real estate shall be sold on the terms of 10% cash at the time of the sale, with the balance payable within 30 days, except that the deposit shall be waived if plaintiff is the successful bidder. Any purchaser, other than the plaintiff shall be required to execute bond, with surety thereon acceptable to the Master Commissioner, to secure the unpaid balance of the purchase price, and said bond shall bear interest at the rate of 12% per annum from the date of the sale until paid, and shall have the same force and effect as a judgment and shall remain and be a lien on the property until paid. The purchaser shall have the privilege of paying all or part of the balance of the purchase price prior to the 30 day period.  
It is further provided that the property sold contains insurable improvements and the successful bidder at said sale shall, at bidder's expense, procure a policy of fire and extended insurance coverage on said improvements in the amount of the appraised value, or the unpaid balance of the purchase price, whichever is less, as a minimum, with a loss payable clause to the Commissioner of the Owen Circuit Court or the plaintiff herein. Failure of the purchaser to effect such insurance shall not affect the validity of the sale or the purchaser's liability thereunder, but shall entitle, but not require the plaintiff to effect said insurance and furnish the policy, or evidence thereof to the  
Commissioner if it so desires, and the premium thereon or a proper portion thereof shall be charged to the purchaser as purchaser's cost.  
When the purchase price is paid in full, title will be conveyed to the purchaser by commissioner's deed.  
The aforesaid real property shall be sold free and clear of any and all liens and claims except the following:  
a. All State and County real estate taxes payable on the property for 2026 and thereafter;  
b. Easements, restrictions and stipulations of record;  
c. Assessments for public improvements levied against the property;  
d. Any facts which an inspection and accurate survey of the property may disclose.  
For further information, see the Judgment, Order and pleadings of record in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Owen County.

/s/ Mark R. Cobb  
MARK R. COBB  
MASTER COMMISSIONER  
OWEN CIRCUIT COURT

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