

Kentucky spring 2026 turkey harvest sets record

BY PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

FRANKFORT — Hunters harvested a record 36,439 turkeys during the 2026 spring hunting season in Kentucky, smashing the 10-year average of 30,847.

Wildlife officials attribute the high harvest to a variety of factors, including more turkeys on the landscape this year, more hunters in the woods and weather conducive for hunting.

“Everything we saw over the last two years – from the high percentages of hens laying eggs and strong poult survival rates to the emergence of cicadas in parts of Western Kentucky – suggested that hunters would enjoy a lot of opportunities to harvest birds this season,” said Zak Danks, turkey-grouse program coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. “When we had four straight weekends of good weather, that just set the stage.”

As with past years, a lot of turkeys were taken early in the season.

Youth harvested 2,613 turkeys during the April 4-5 youth-only season alone, 304 higher than the previous record and well above the 10-year average of 1,670. On April 18-19, the opening weekend of the 23-day general season, hunters harvested 13,670 turkeys, well above the 10-year average of 9,860.

“Our youngest hunters set the tone early, and it never let up,” Danks said.

But in many ways, the spring season resembled those before it: most turkeys were taken with a shotgun, most were taken by Kentucky residents, and counties to the south and west had the most turkeys harvested, while hunters in the counties to the north and middle of the state took more turkeys per square mile.

Hunters in Carroll County harvested 184 total birds including 181 males and three females, Hunters in Trimble County harvested 176 birds



Devon Stivers, KDFWR

The spring harvest of 36,439 birds topped the previous record of 36,097 set in 2010 and was 18 percent higher than the 10-year average.

including 174 males and two females.

OVERALL HARVEST: The spring harvest of 36,439 birds topped the previous record of 36,097 set in 2010 and was 18 percent higher than the 10-year average.

GENDER: Kentucky allows hunters to take bearded hens in the spring, but 99.5 percent of turkeys harvested were male. The 193 bearded hens that were harvested was 157 fewer than the record set in 2011 and well below the 10-year average of 258. Of the 193 birds, 22 were taken during the youth-only season.

TURKEY AGES: 85.8 percent of the male birds harvested were toms, with the rest younger jakes.

METHOD OF TAKE: The vast majority of turkeys were harvested with a shotgun (35,991), with bow (258), crossbow (129) and muzzleloader (61) far behind.

BY REGION: The Green River Region led with 10,132 birds harvested, followed by the Southeast (8,045), the Bluegrass (7,895), the Purchase (5,269) and Northeast (5,098).

TOP COUNTIES: For the third year in a row, Graves County finished with the highest total harvest at 778 birds, followed by Muhlenberg (746), Breckinridge (662), Pulaski (659), Christian (639), Hopkins (636), Ohio (593),

Hardin (566), Grayson (548) and Logan (538). Seven of those counties are in the Green River Region.

But when counties are ranked based on harvest per square mile, six of the top 10 are in the Bluegrass Region, with two in the Northeast Region. Pendleton leads the way at 1.82 birds taken per square mile, followed by Robertson (1.81), Anderson (1.59), Muhlenberg (1.56), Bracken (1.48), Owen (1.41), Graves (1.4), Carroll, Henry and Grant (all 1.34).

PUBLIC LANDS: 2,373 turkeys were harvested on public land, higher than last year's 1,928 and well above the 10-year average of 1,763.

HUNTER SUCCESS: 25.6 percent of successful hunters harvested two birds.

BANDED BIRDS: Hunters reported harvesting 150 banded turkeys.

Danks said biologists at Kentucky Fish and Wildlife will take a deeper dive into the spring season results as the department continues to strike the balance between providing hunting opportunities and ensuring a strong, sustainable turkey population.

“The broad conclusions

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UK, U of L alumni to play best-of-three TBT series

BY RUSS BROWN
KENTUCKY TODAY

If you are a Kentucky or Louisville basketball fan and you don't get enough of the rivalry, here's another chance to indulge your passion with an expanded event this summer.

The Basketball Tournament, often called simply TBT, announced that the U of L alumni team, The Ville, will play Kentucky's alumni team, La Familia, in a new best-of-three series in July.

The first game is set for a noon tipoff July 18 in Memorial Coliseum in Lexington, with the rematch at 7 p.m. July 20 at Freedom Hall. Game 1 will be televised on FOX, with Game 2 on FS1.

If necessary, the third game will tip off at 6 p.m. July 22 and also carried on FS1. Homecourt advantage will be determined by which venue sells the most tickets for the game it's hosting between 10 a.m. Monday and 10 a.m. Tuesday.

The Ville and La Familia have met just once in TBT, in 2024 in Freedom Hall, won by UK's alumnus 70-61. That contest broke the tournaments attendance record with a crowd of 13,506 and it was a heated affair, capped by a brawl at the final buzzer.

“These two fan bases are incredible,” TBT CEO Jon Mugar said in a release. “Based on the 13,506 that came out for this matchup in 2024, we expect this to be one of the most raucous sporting events of the summer. Especially now that there's \$2 million at stake.”

In addition to the headline event, TBT also unveiled a new 16-team format and winner-take-all \$2 million prize, with eight alumni teams and eight non-alumni teams competing on two sides of the bracket. The first round will be a best-

of-three series before returning to the single-elimination format. Five wins will be needed to pocket the \$2 million.

In the first three years of the TBT, the field consisted of 60 teams in a single-elimination tournament.

The Ville vs. La Familia survivor will face the winner of the series between Syracuse's alumni team, Boheim's Army, and Seton Hall's squad, Hall In, at 2 p.m. July 26 on FOX. The alumni bracket

winner will host the tourney's championship game Aug. 2 on FOX against the non-alumni winner on the alumni team's homecourt.

North Hardin boys' basketball coach Michael Baffour, a member of Louisville's 2013 national championship team, will be The Ville's fourth head coach in as many years.

Russ Smith is taking over general manager duties and also will return for a fourth

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LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF GHENT, KENTUCKY ANNUAL BUDGET

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027, BY ESTIMATING REVENUE AND RESOURCES

AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF CITY GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, an annual budget proposal and message has been prepared and delivered to the City Commission; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission has reviewed such budget proposal and made necessary modification,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF GHENT, KENTUCKY.

SECTION ONE:
That the annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 is hereby adopted as follows:

Resources available carried forward	625,000.00
GENERAL FUND INCOME	
License and Permits	3,000.00
Franchise Tax: Kentucky Utilities	35,000.00
Insurance Premium Tax Income	100,000.00
Property Tax Income	40,000.00
Trash Income From Carrollton Utilities	20,000.00
Yearly Interest Income from Bank	500.00
TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME	198,500.00
TOTAL BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	823,500.00
GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENSES	
Bond Payment	320.00
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	
Advertising Expense	2,000.00
Carrollton Utilities (City Hall)	3,500.00
Carroll County Water District #1	500.00
Dues and Subscriptions	1,000.00
City Insurance Expenses (Kentucky League of Cities)	25,000.00
Continued Education / Travel Reimbursement	1,000.00
KMCA	50.00
Kentucky Utilities (City Hall / Street)	25,000.00
Office Supplies	3,500.00
PVA (City Assessment)	1,000.00
Rumpke, Inc. Trash (City Wide)	32,000.00
Spectrum	6,000.00
Payroll - City Clerk	24,000.00
Payroll - Maintenance Worker	20,000.00
Payroll - Mayor	4,000.00
Payroll - Commissioners	15,000.00
Attorney Expense	16,000.00
Payroll Taxes	4,750.00
Carroll County Clerk	500.00
Community Events	10,000.00
City Clean Up Day	1,000.00
Audit Allowance	30,000.00
Miscellaneous Other	30,000.00
Miscellaneous unanticipated Equipment	30,000.00
Miscellaneous unanticipated Park	50,000.00
Miscellaneous Unanticipated Street	80,000.00
TOTAL BALANCE OF EXPENSES	416,120.00
PROPOSED BUDGET BALANCE AS OF JUNE 30, 2026	407,380.00
LGEA FUND	
Estimated Year End Balance	4,100.00
LGEA FUND INCOME	
Yearly Interest from Bank	6.00
Money from Ky State Department	150.00
TOTAL LGEA FUND INCOME	4,256.00
LGEA FUND EXPENSE	
Signs and Posts	2,000.00
TOTAL LGEA FUND EXPENSES	2,000.00
PROPOSED BUDGET BALANCE AS OF JUNE 30, 2026	2,256.00
STREET FUND	
Estimated Year End Balance	44,000.00
STREET FUND INCOME	
Yearly Interest from Bank	35.00
Money from Ky State Department	5,000.00
Money from Fiscal Court	10,000.00
TOTAL STREET FUND INCOME	59,035.00
STREET FUND EXPENSE	
Snow Removal (Salt)	4,000.00
Regular Fuel	3,000.00
Maintenance Supplies	2,000.00
Paving and Patching	15,000.00
TOTAL STREET FUND EXPENSES	24,000.00
PROPOSED BALANCE BALANCE AS OF JUNE 30, 2026	35,035.00
GHENT MEMORIAL PARK FUND	
Estimated Year End Balance	15,000.00
Yearly Interest from Bank	0.00
Carroll County Fiscal Court	5,000.00
TOTAL INCOME FOR GHENT MEMORIAL PARK	20,000.00
GHENT MEMORIAL PARK EXPENSES	
Kentucky Utilities	650.00
Carroll County Water District #1	200.00
Easy Go	2,000.00
Repairs and Maintenance	3,000.00
Diesel Fuel for Mower	3,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES FOR GHENT MEMORIAL PARK	8,850.00
PROPOSED BUDGET BALANCE AS OF JUNE 30, 2026	11,150.00

SECTION TWO:
This budget ordinance shall be administered by the executive authority as prescribed and set forth in Kentucky Revised Statutes.

Administration shall include but not be limited to at least the following:
(A) Preparation and submission of financial statements which include budgetary comparisons on not less than a quarterly basis.
(B) Provide for budget amendments if called for by the council if anticipated through implementation.
(C) Prepare any financial statements required for publication purposes pursuant to KRS 424 and 91A.
(D) Cause each fund of this budget to be audited as prescribed by law.

SECTION THREE:
This ordinance shall be published in The News Democrat newspaper by title and summary within thirty (30) days after adoption.

SECTION FOUR:
This ordinance becomes effective immediately upon passage and publication as required by law.

DONE ON THIS DAY 12TH OF MAY, 2026

JIMMY LEWELLYN, MAYOR

ATTEST:
City Clerk, Bulinda Willis

1st reading 4/14/26
2nd reading 5/12/26
Published: 05/22/26

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
UNIFIED COURT OF JUSTICE
CARROLL CIRCUIT COURT

Civil Action No. 25-CI-00235

SELENE FINANCE LP PLAINTIFF
VS. NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE
Electronically Filed

SCOTT SMITH DEFENDANTS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, SECRETARY
OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered in the Carroll Circuit Court on the 4th day of May, 2026, I will sell at public auction on the front steps (south door facing Highland Avenue) of the Carroll County Courthouse, 440 Main Street, Carrollton, Kentucky, the property described herein located in Carroll County, Kentucky, on FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026, at the hour of 9:00 a.m., prevailing time, and more particularly described as follows:
Property Address: 505 Redleaf Drive, Carrollton, KY 41008
Map ID #: 18-07-03

Being the same property conveyed to Scott Smith and Pamela Smith, husband and wife, from CPHD, LLC, by Deed dated May 8, 2020, of record in Deed Book 215, Page 504. Pamela Smith, unmarried, quitclaimed all of her right, title and interest in the above property to Scott Smith, unmarried, by Quitclaim Deed dated May 30, 2024, of record in Deed Book 231, Page 198. All documents are found of record in the Office of the Carroll County Court Clerk.

THERE IS NO MOBILE HOME, DOUBLEWIDE AND/OR MANUFACTURED HOME INCLUDED IN THIS SALE.

The amount of money to be raised by this sale is the sum of \$206,167.46, with accrued interest in the amount of \$15,669.62, as of 02/28/2026, and with interest continuing to accrue from 02/28/2026, at the rate of 3.75% per annum until fully paid, together with reasonable attorneys fees of \$3,900.00 and court costs of \$645.45.

The real estate shall be sold on the terms of ten (10%) percent cash at the time of the sale, except that said deposit shall be waived if the Plaintiff is the successful bidder at the sale, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days bearing interest at the rate the judgment bears per annum from date of sale. When the purchase price is paid in full, the deed will be delivered to the purchaser. It is further provided that the property sold includes insurable improvements and the successful bidder at said sale shall, at bidder's own expense, carry fire and extended insurance coverage on said improvements from the date of sale until the purchase price is fully paid, to the extent of the Court appraised value of said improvements or the unpaid balance of the purchase price whichever is less, as a minimum, with a loss payable clause to the Commissioner of the Carroll 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 Selene Finance LP, to effect said insurance and furnish the policy or evidence thereof to the Commissioner if it so desires, and the premium thereon or the proper portion thereof shall be charged to the purchaser as purchaser's costs.

The Master Commissioner does not warrant title, and the Purchaser herein buys the property as-is, in all respects, and the aforesaid property shall be sold free and clear of all liens and encumbrances listed in the Complaint, except the following:

- All unpaid state, county and city real estate taxes for the year 2026;
- Easements, restrictions, and stipulations of record;
- Assessments for public improvements levied against the property; and,
- Any facts which a title exam, inspection and/or accurate survey of the property may disclose.

For further information, see the Final Judgment and Order of Sale and pleadings of record in the Office of the Circuit Court of Carroll County.

/s/ Jake A. Thompson
JAKE A. THOMPSON
MASTER COMMISSIONER
CARROLL CIRCUIT COURT

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
UNIFIED COURT OF JUSTICE
CARROLL CIRCUIT COURT

Civil Action No. 26-CI-00017

KENTUCKY HOUSING CORPORATION PLAINTIFF
VS. NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE
Electronically Filed

SARAH DAWN McDONALD DEFENDANTS
UNKNOWN SPOUSE, IF ANY, OF
SARAH DAWN McDONALD

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered in the Carroll Circuit Court on the 4th day of May, 2026, I will sell at public auction on the front steps (south door facing Highland Avenue) of the Carroll County Courthouse, 440 Main Street, Carrollton, Kentucky, the property described herein located in Carroll County, Kentucky, on FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026, at the hour of 9:00 a.m., prevailing time, and more particularly described as follows:
Property Address: 409 Fifth Street, Carrollton, KY 41008
Map ID #: C1-34-03

Being the same property conveyed to Sarah Dawn McDonald, unmarried, from Leslia Mendez and Yovani Gramajo, wife and husband, by Deed dated April 8, 2022, of record in Deed Book 223, Page 416, in the Office of the Carroll County Court Clerk.

THERE IS NO MOBILE HOME, DOUBLEWIDE AND/OR MANUFACTURED HOME INCLUDED IN THIS SALE.

The amount of money to be raised by this sale is the sum of \$148,013.91, with accrued interest included thereon to April 1, 2025, and with interest continuing to accrue from April 1, 2025, at the rate of 4.25% per annum until fully paid, together with reasonable attorneys fees, court costs and other advances made.

The real estate shall be sold on the terms of ten (10%) percent cash at the time of the sale, except that said deposit shall be waived if the Plaintiff is the successful bidder at the sale, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days bearing interest at the rate the judgment bears per annum from date of sale. When the purchase price is paid in full, the deed will be delivered to the purchaser. It is further provided that the property sold includes insurable improvements and the successful bidder at said sale shall, at bidder's own expense, carry fire and extended insurance coverage on said improvements from the date of sale until the purchase price is fully paid, to the extent of the Court appraised value of said improvements or the unpaid balance of the purchase price whichever is less, as a minimum, with a loss payable clause to the Commissioner of the Carroll 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 Kentucky Housing Corporation, to effect said insurance and furnish the policy or evidence thereof to the Commissioner if it so desires, and the premium thereon or the proper portion thereof shall be charged to the purchaser as purchaser's costs.

The Master Commissioner does not warrant title, and the Purchaser herein buys the property as-is, in all respects, and the aforesaid property shall be sold free and clear of all liens and encumbrances listed in the Complaint, except the following:

- All unpaid state, county and city real estate taxes for the year 2026;
- Easements, restrictions, and stipulations of record;
- Assessments for public improvements levied against the property; and,
- Any facts which a title exam, inspection and/or accurate survey of the property may disclose.

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/s/ Jake A. Thompson
JAKE A. THOMPSON
MASTER COMMISSIONER
CARROLL CIRCUIT COURT