

MENTORED SPRING TURKEY

There were 1,702 Mentored Spring Turkey licenses sold in South Dakota for the 2023 season. All were single tag licenses valid for a male turkey. All mentors/hunters were surveyed, and 849 responses (51%) were received. Surveys were only sent via email and no corrections were made for nonresponse bias.

The 2023 spring season ran from April 8 through May 31. Respondents reported hunting an average of 2.52 days, which projected to a total of 4,297 recreation days for the season.

An estimated 491 male turkeys were harvested, resulting in a success rate for the season of 29%. The mean satisfaction score reported by hunters/mentors was 5.53 (1 representing "very dissatisfied" and 7 representing "very satisfied").

The five units with the highest reported harvest were Grant, Day/Codington, Minnehaha, Marshall/Roberts, and the Black Hills.

Summary of the 2014-2023 Spring Mentored Youth Turkey Seasons

YEAR	Licenses		HARVEST			Avg Days	Average
	Sold	Males	Hens	Total	%Success	Hunted	Satisfaction
2014	679	211	0	211	31%	2.30	5.54
2015	654	205	0	205	31%	2.41	5.70
2016	734	277	0	277	38%	2.68	5.78
2017	799	310	0	310	39%	2.70	5.85
2018	735	261	0	261	35%	2.32	5.82
2019	1,024	295	0	295	29%	2.03	5.63
2020	1,356	507	2	508	37%	3.04	5.76
2021	1,422	523	0	523	37%	2.54	5.71
2022	1,632	558	0	558	34%	2.47	5.55
2023	1,702	489	2	491	29%	2.52	5.53

2023 Mentored Spring Turkey Harvest Projection

Last Revised: 08-Sep-23												
Unit/Type	Licenses				Response Rate	Tag Success	Harvest Estimates				Avg Days Hunted	Avg Satsfctn
	Resident		Nonresident				Toms	Jakes	Hens	Total		
	Avail.	Sold	Avail.	Sold								
ST1-32	Unlim	1,632	Unlim	70	50.6%	29%	409	80	2	491	2.52	5.53

Satisfaction scale of 1=very dissatisfied to 7=very satisfied.

2023 Spring Ment Youth Turkey Harvest Distribution

Last Revised:
09/11/2023

County	Reported Harvest				Projected Harvest				%
	Toms	Jakes	Hens	Total	Toms	Jakes	Hens	Total	
01A (Minnehaha)	14	2	0	16	30	4	0	34	7.0%
02A (Pennington-East)	4	0	0	4	9	0	0	9	1.7%
06A (Brookings)	5	2	0	7	11	4	0	15	3.1%
07A (Yankton)	6	4	0	10	13	9	0	21	4.4%
08A (Davison/Hanson)	7	1	0	8	15	2	0	17	3.5%
10A (Aurora/Douglas)	4	1	0	5	9	2	0	11	2.2%
11A (Bennett)	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	0.4%
12A (Bon Homme)	4	1	1	6	9	2	2	13	2.6%
13A (Brule/Buffalo)	1	2	0	3	2	4	0	6	1.3%
15A (Butte/Lawrence)	6	0	0	6	13	0	0	13	2.6%
16A (Campbell/Walworth)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
17A (Charles Mix)	10	2	0	12	21	4	0	26	5.2%
19A (Clay)	2	0	0	2	4	0	0	4	0.9%
20A (Corson)	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	0.4%
21A (Custer/Penn-Mid)	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	0.4%
22A (Day/Codington)	16	4	0	20	34	9	0	43	8.7%
23A (Deuel)	7	1	0	8	15	2	0	17	3.5%
24A (Dewey/Ziebach)	4	1	0	5	9	2	0	11	2.2%
27A (Fall River)	3	0	0	3	6	0	0	6	1.3%
29A (Grant)	11	1	0	12	23	2	0	26	5.2%
30A (Gregory)	5	0	0	5	11	0	0	11	2.2%
31A (Haakon)	6	1	0	7	13	2	0	15	3.0%
32A (Hamlin/Clark)	2	1	0	3	4	2	0	6	1.3%
35A (Harding)	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	0.4%
36A (Hughes)	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	0.4%
37A (Hutchinson)	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	0.4%
39A (Jackson)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
40A (Jerauld/Beadle/Hand)	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	0.4%
41A (Jones)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
44A (Lincoln)	4	0	0	4	9	0	0	9	1.7%
45A (Lyman)	3	1	0	4	6	2	0	9	1.7%
48A (Marshall/Roberts)	10	4	0	14	21	9	0	30	6.1%
49A (Meade/Pennington)	10	0	0	10	21	0	0	21	4.3%
50A (Mellette)	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	0.4%
52A (Moody)	4	1	0	5	9	2	0	11	2.2%
53A (Perkins)	2	0	0	2	4	0	0	4	0.9%
56A (Sanborn)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
58A (Stanley)	7	0	0	7	15	0	0	15	3.0%
60A (Tripp)	2	2	0	4	4	4	0	9	1.7%
61A (Turner)	1	1	0	2	2	2	0	4	0.9%
62A (Union)	7	0	0	7	15	0	0	15	3.0%
65A (Oglala Lakota)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
67A (Todd)	2	0	0	2	4	0	0	4	0.9%
BH1 (Black Hills)	16	3	0	19	34	7	0	41	8.3%
Unknown	12	3	0	15					
TOTALS	204	40	1	245	409	80	2	491	

Use these figures for approximations only!

Spring Mentored Youth Turkey 2009-2023

