

2026 SPRING TURKEY

Prairie



Draw	Application Opens	Application Closes	Results Available
First	01/14/2026	02/11/2026, 08:00 AM CDT	02/13/2026
Second	02/18/2026	03/04/2026, 08:00 AM CDT	03/06/2026
Third	03/10/2026	03/24/2026, 08:00 AM CDT	03/26/2026
Leftover	03/26/2026	05/31/2026, 02:00 PM CDT	

FEE SCHEDULE

License Types	Resident	Nonresident
32 - one male wild turkey	\$28	\$121
35 - two male wild turkeys	\$40	\$151

LICENSE AVAILABILITY

See page 2 for complete list of available licenses.

RETURN POLICY (NEW FOR 2026)

Deadline: April 01, 2026

Fee: \$10 - Residents | \$30 - Nonresidents

A fee will be assessed if a customer returns their license and they are not eligible for subsequent draws for that respective season.

SEASON DATES

April 11, 2026 to May 31, 2026*

*Review exceptions for 08A, 08B, 44A, 44B, and 58B.

State parks and recreation areas are closed to hunting after April 30, unless specified otherwise in unit descriptions.

GENERAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

Visit <https://gfp.sd.gov/hunt-fish-license/> to view application information, residency and age requirements, landowner preference, preference points, and license fee explanations.

[Unit Descriptions and Map](#)

[Interactive Hunting Unit Map](#)

CONTACT US

GFP LICENSING OFFICE
20641 SD Hwy 1806, Fort Pierre, SD 57532
605.223.7660 | TTY: 605.223.7684
Monday - Friday | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

NOTE: All applications must be submitted [online](#).

DRAW GUIDELINES

First: Applicant may submit only one application per person.

Second: Those who do not already have a license may submit only one application per person.

Third: After the second drawing, remaining licenses are pooled and available to both residents and nonresidents. Residents and nonresidents may apply for one additional license even if they already possess a license from the first or second drawings.

Leftover: An individual may have an unlimited number of licenses for this season in any unit or any combination of units. Licenses will be issued first-come, first-served by online application only.

Residents are eligible to apply for all units. Nonresidents are eligible to apply for all units west of the Missouri River, and licenses east of the Missouri River remaining after the second drawing.

LEGAL FIREARMS/MUZZLELOADERS

A person may not use a rimfire, centerfire, or muzzleloading rifle during any spring turkey season. No self-loading or auto-loading firearm that holds more than six cartridges may be used to hunt, pursue, shoot at, shoot, kill, or wound a wild turkey. No firearm that is capable of being operated as a full automatic may be used to hunt, pursue, shoot at, shoot, kill, or wound a wild turkey. No buckshot may be used, and no single ball or rifled slug weighing less than one-half ounce may be used in hunting wild turkey. Shotguns using ammunition which is factory-rated to produce at least 700 footpounds of energy at the muzzle and handguns using ammunition which is factory-rated to produce at least 500 footpounds of energy at the muzzle may be used for hunting wild turkey. Muzzleloading handguns that discharge a projectile of at least .50 caliber and muzzleloading shotguns may also be used for hunting wild turkey. Any person who holds a license to take a wild turkey during the firearm season may take the wild turkey by using a crossbow in lieu of a firearm. Crossbow means a device for propelling a bolt by means of traverse limbs mounted on a stock and a string. The crossbow may be drawn, held, and released by a mechanical device and shall have at least 125 pounds pull and have a working mechanical safety.

LICENSE AVAILABILITY

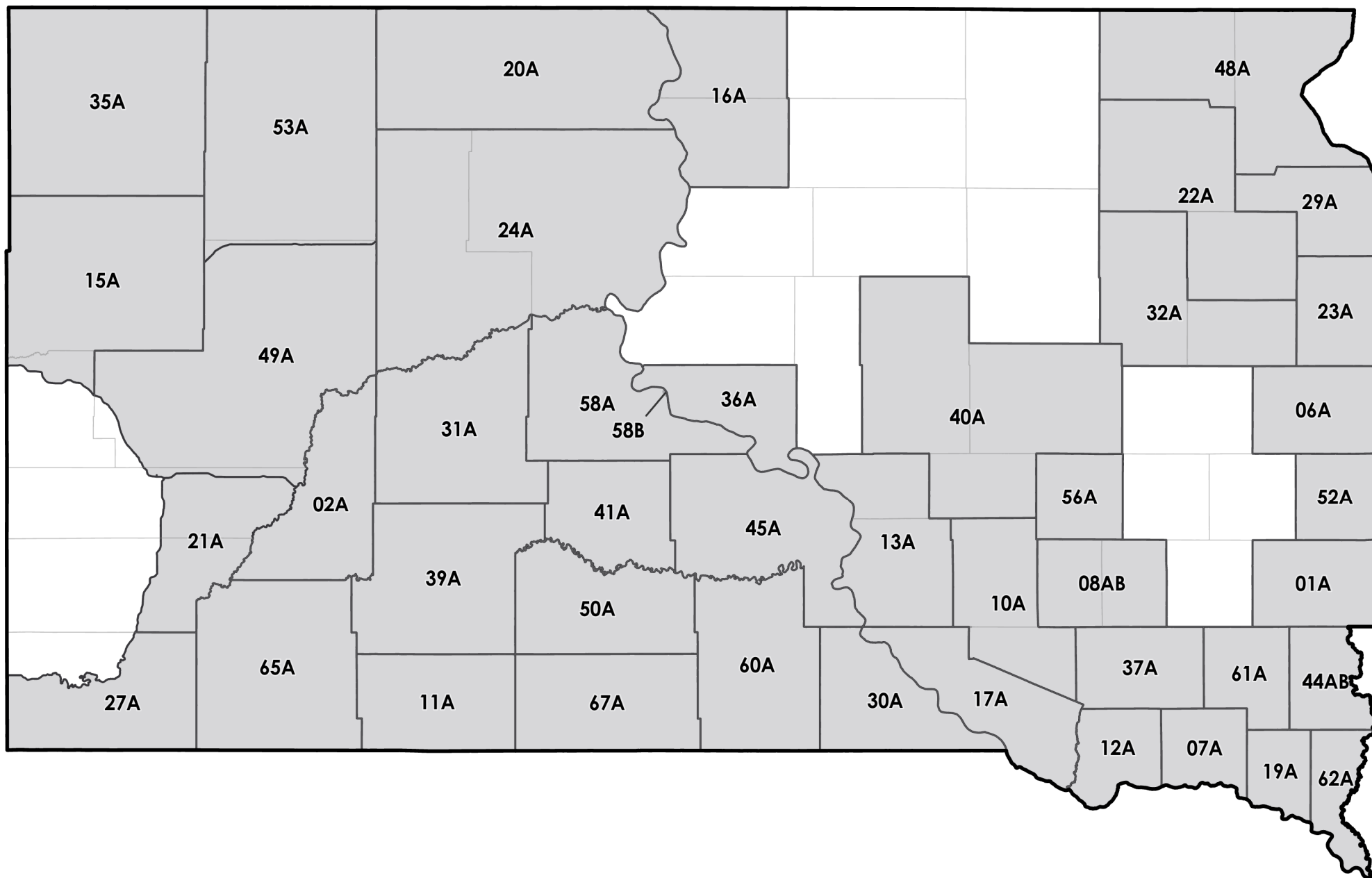
Unit	Type	Resident		Nonresident	
01A Minnehaha	32	100	—	0	—
02A Pennington	32	250	—	20	—
06A Brookings	32	60	—	0	—
07A Yankton	32	300	—	0	—
08A Davison/Hanson (Apr 11-30)	32	100	—	0	—
08B Davison/Hanson (May 1-31)	32	100	—	0	—
10A Aurora/Douglas	32	50	—	0	—
11A Bennett	32	10	—	1	—
12A Bon Homme	32	300	—	0	—
13A Brule/Buffalo	32	175	—	0	—
15A Butte/Lawrence	32	400	—	32	—
16A Campbell/Walworth	32	20	—	0	—
17A Charles Mix	32	350	—	0	—
19A Clay	32	120	—	0	—
20A Corson	32	100	—	8	—
21A Custer/Pennington	32	125	—	10	—
22A Day/Codington	32	175	—	0	—
23A Deuel	32	200	—	0	—
24A Dewey/Ziebach	32	150	—	12	—
27A Fall River	32	100	—	8	—
29A Grant	32	375	—	0	—
30A Gregory	32	650	—	52	—
31A Haakon	35	250	—	20	—
32A Hamlin/Clark	32	30	—	0	—
35A Harding	32	150	—	12	—
36A Hughes	32	30	—	0	—
37A Hutchinson	32	70	—	0	—
39A Jackson	32	200	—	16	—
40A Jerauld/Beadle/Hand	32	20	—	0	—
41A Jones	32	75	—	6	—
44A Lincoln, incl. Parks (Apr 11-30)	32	50	—	0	—
44B Lincoln, excl. Parks (May 1-31)	32	50	—	0	—
45A Lyman	32	150	—	12	—
48A Marshall/Roberts	32	450	—	0	—
49A Meade	35	400	—	32	—

Unit	Type	Resident		Nonresident	
50A Mellette	32	300	—	24	—
52A Moody	32	60	—	0	—
53A Perkins	35	100	—	8	—
56A Sanborn	32	10	—	0	—
58A Stanley	32	40	—	4	—
58B Stanley, ADA only (Apr 11 - 30)	32	2	—	1	—
60A Tripp	32	400	—	32	—
61A Turner	32	30	—	0	—
62A Union	32	120	—	0	—
65A Oglala Lakota	32	40	—	4	—
67A Todd	32	50	—	4	—

LICENSE CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR

▲ Increase — No Change ▼ Decrease

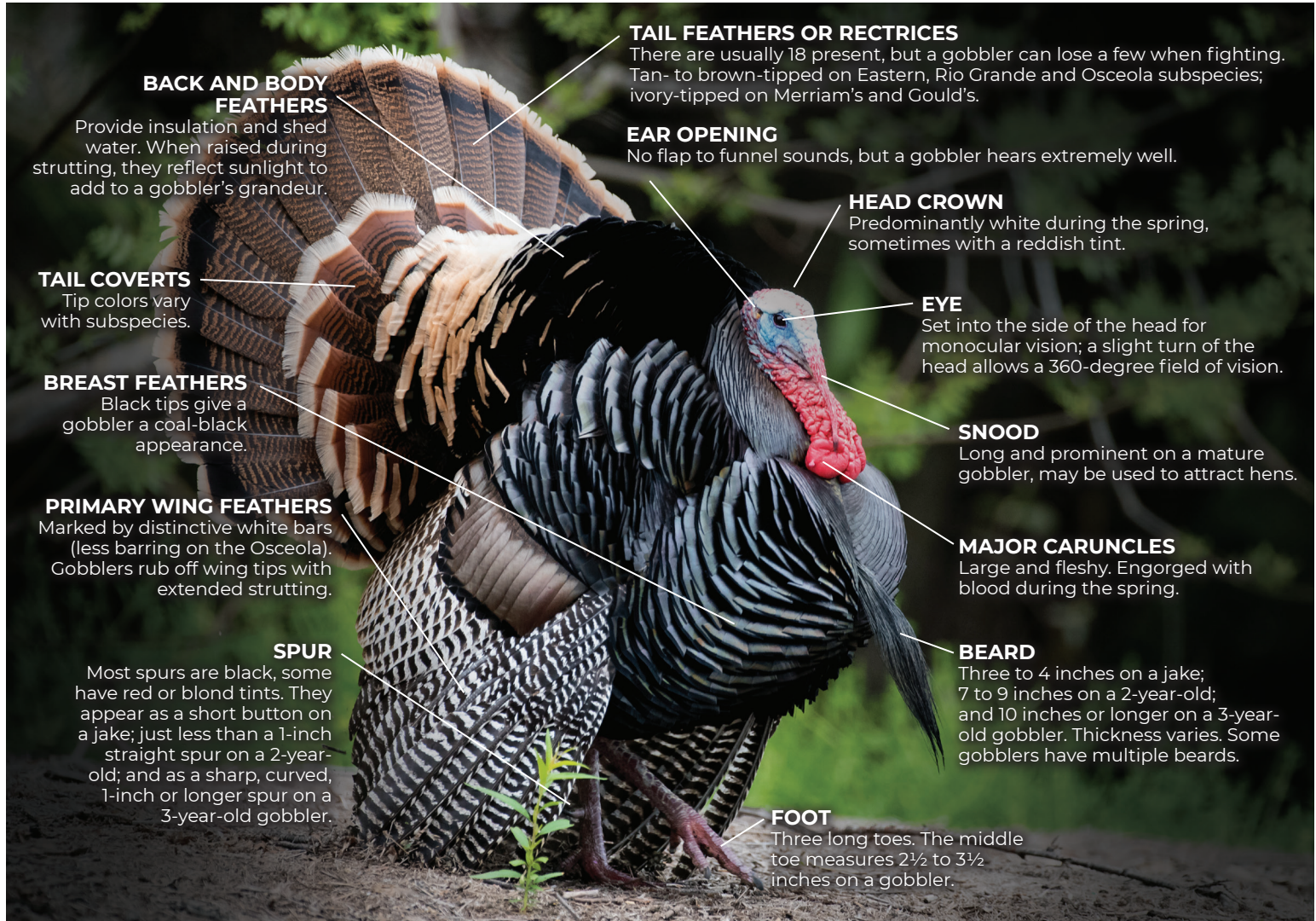
Prairie units bordering the Cheyenne and White Rivers also include an adjacent area one mile wide on the opposite side of the rivers. EXCEPT the portion of Fall River County within unit PST-27A.





Know Your Wild Turkey

Considered among the **grandest of game birds**, the American wild turkey has many characteristics that distinguish it from other fowl. The unmistakable snood, caruncles, head coloring and beard truly set it apart.

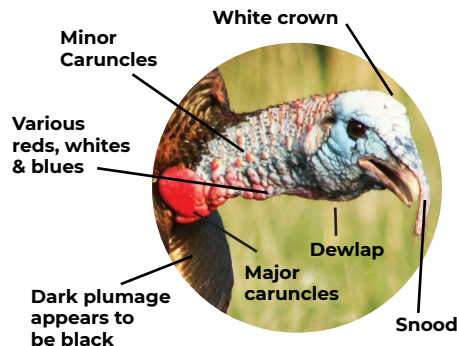


Know the Difference Between Hens and Gobblers

It's easy to distinguish a gobbler from a hen by differences in their **size, color, heads and other characteristics**.

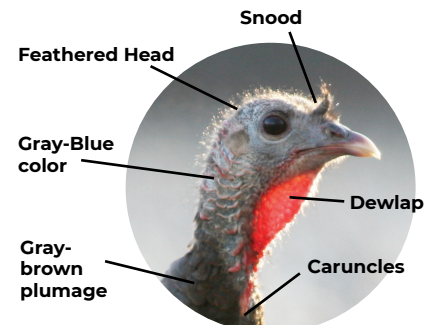
Gobbler

The gobbler is most easily recognized by the long beard growing from his chest and the pronounced spurs, sometimes as long as 2 inches, found on the back of his legs. A gobbler appears larger, darker, shinier and more colorful than a hen. His head can alternately appear red, white and blue. He often "puffs up" and struts during spring to attract hens for breeding.



Hen

The hen's overall look is for concealment and protection. She is smaller and more drab than the colorful gobbler, so she can sit on her nest well camouflaged. Likewise, her head has more feathers to add to her camouflaged appearance.



The American wild turkey now thrives in 49 states, Canada and Mexico thanks to the efforts of state wildlife agencies, the NWTF and its supporters!