

# 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, 12:00 AM 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

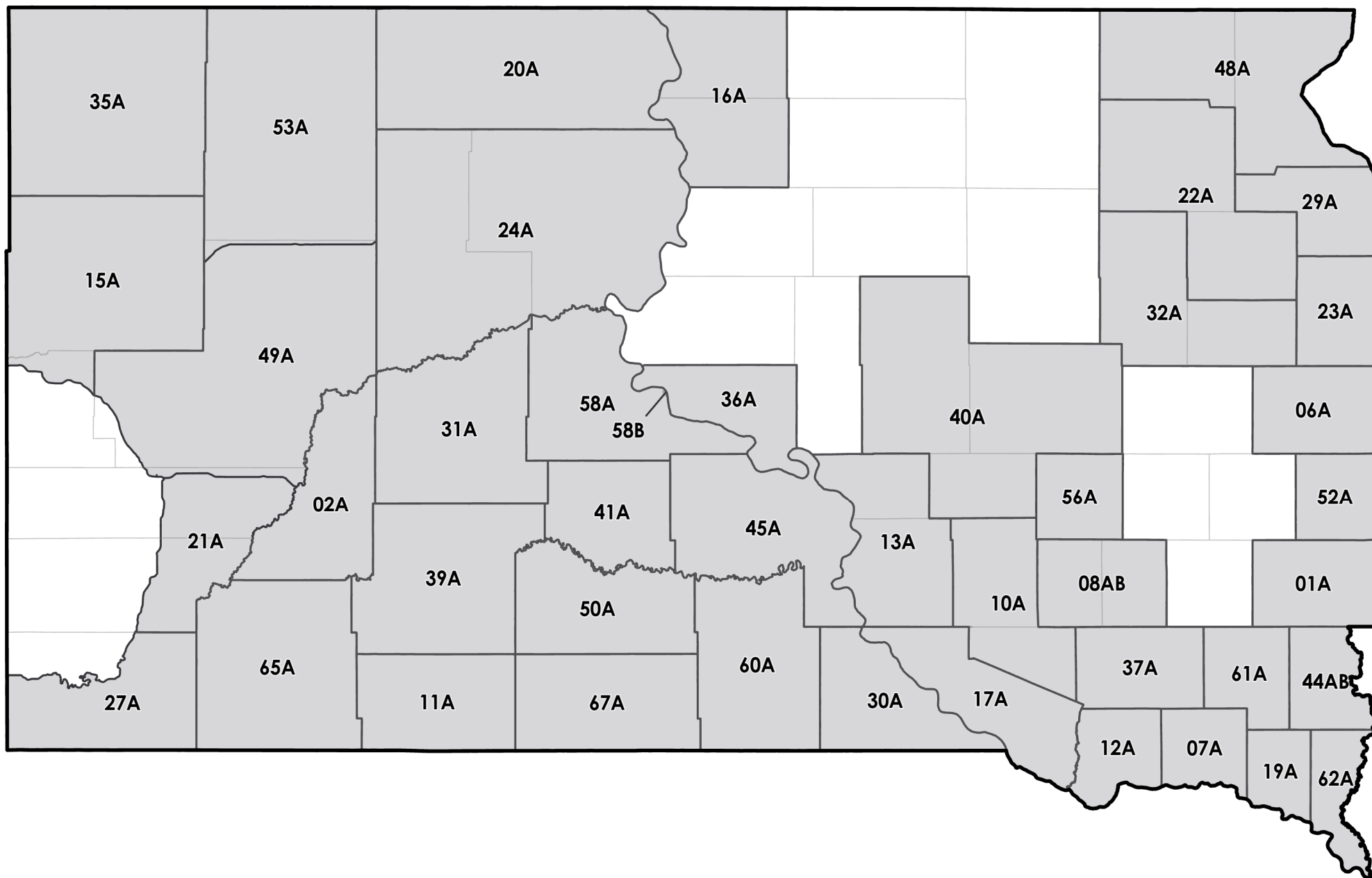
| Unit                                 | Type | Resident |   | Nonresident |   |
|--------------------------------------|------|----------|---|-------------|---|
| 01A Minnehaha                        | 32   | 100      | — | 0           | — |
| 02A Pennington                       | 32   | 250      | — | 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.

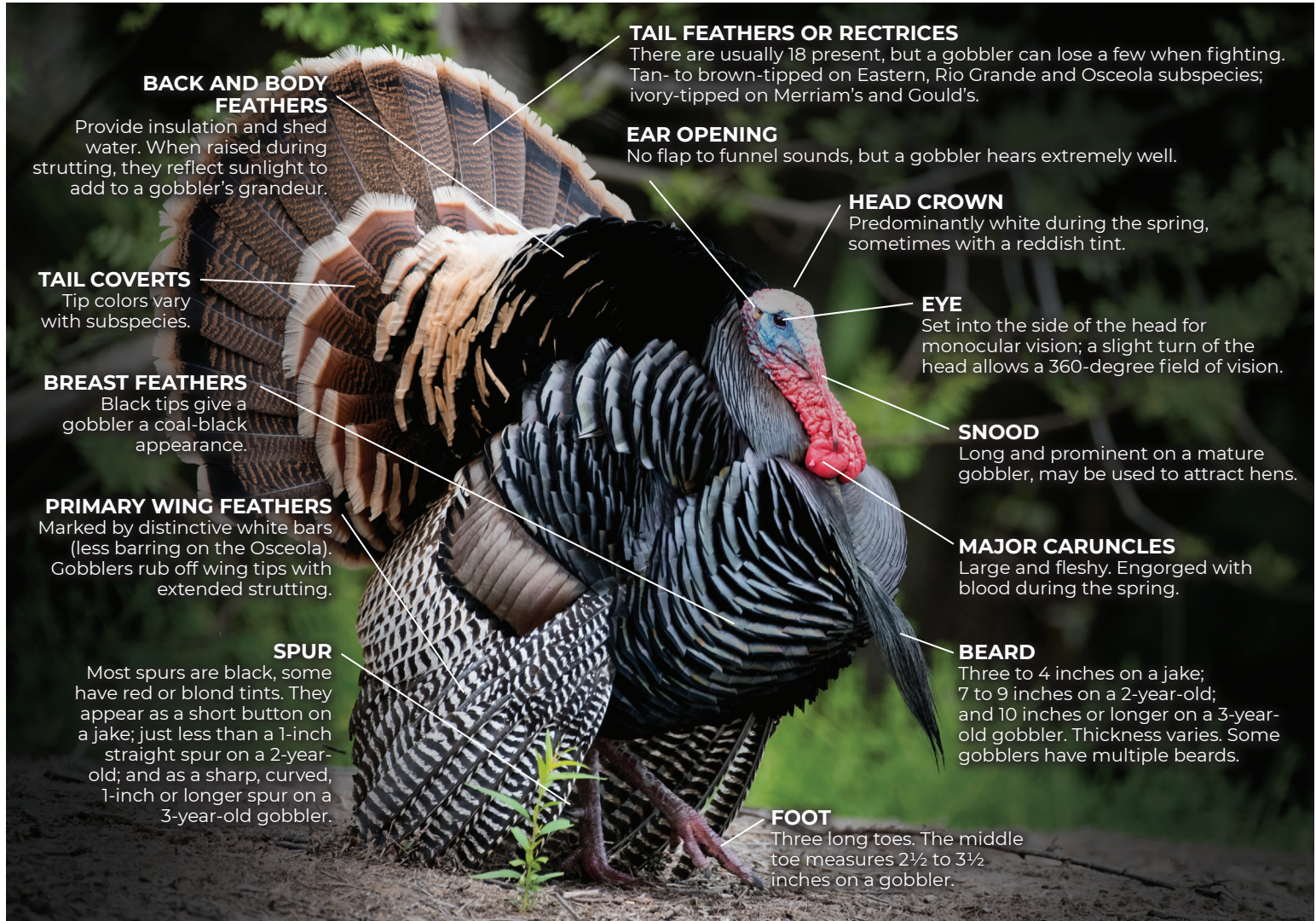






# Know Your Wild Turkey

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.

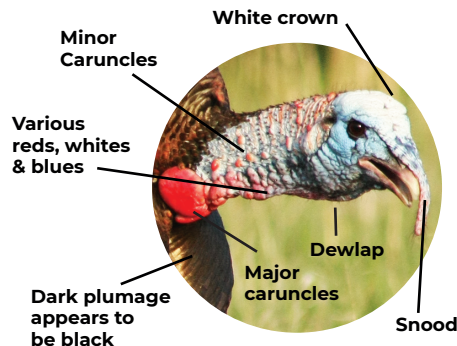


## Know the Difference Between Hens and Gobblers

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

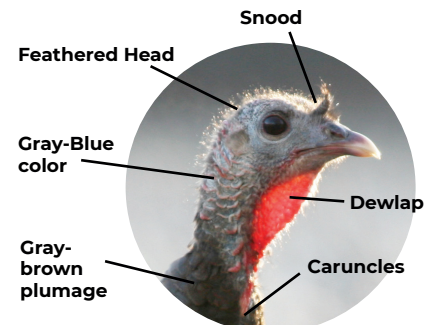
### Gobbler

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!