

## Instructions for the Kentucky Wild Turkey Brood Survey



## INTRODUCTION

This document explains how to report observations of wild turkeys for a survey conducted by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Every year since 1984, KDFWR has used this survey to track changes in wild turkey populations. Volunteers and staff keep track of wild turkey seen during routine travels within the state during July and August, then report those sightings to KDFWR. The resulting tally of turkeys, particularly those of hens with and without young turkey “poults”, provides an indication of the annual turkey “hatch” – the relative success of hen turkeys at producing and rearing poults from April through August.

Fluctuations in nesting success and brood survival strongly influence turkey populations. Years of conducting this survey show that when reproduction in a given year improves, turkey populations (reflected in spring harvest totals) tend to increase in subsequent years. The brood survey provides a practical way to gauge wild turkey reproduction annually at a statewide level, so maintaining and increasing public participation will be vital to understanding wild turkey population dynamics. If you have questions about the survey, or for results of previous years’ surveys, please contact KDFWR’s turkey program coordinator Zak Danks at [zak.danks@ky.gov](mailto:zak.danks@ky.gov) or 1-502-892-4544.

## GENERAL NOTES

Brood Survey participants have 3 options for reporting wild turkey observations:

1. [mobile phone app](#) – on your phone’s web browser, click [HERE](#) or type “<https://tinyurl.com/KyTurkeyBroodApp>”
2. [website](#) – on your computer’s web browser, click [HERE](#) or type “<https://tinyurl.com/KyTurkeyBroodWeb>” in your web browser
3. [paper form](#) (click [HERE](#) to download for printing; you need a PDF viewer like [Adobe Acrobat](#)<sup>1</sup>)

Below we provide instructions for getting and using the app (page 2), website (page 8), and paper form (page 9), and for identifying turkeys (page 2).

Note that the turkey observations you submit, by either method, are kept anonymous. If you would like to receive an email containing a summary of survey results, please enter your email in the Email box in the app or website or provide your name and mailing address on the paper form. If using the app, once you enter your email the first time it should show up by default on your next submission. In addition to facilitating communication, your email allows us to track the number of survey participants each year.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR VIEWING TURKEYS

For this survey, we need you to record all wild turkeys you see in July and August, including hens with poults (young turkeys), lone hens (females), gobblers and jakes (males), and turkeys of unknown age or sex (you see them well enough to distinguish). The following page provides a simple guide to viewing wild turkeys.

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<sup>1</sup> Mention of brand names is simply for public assistance and clarity and does not imply endorsement in any way by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources or the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



# GUIDE TO IDENTIFYING WILD TURKEYS FOR SUMMER TURKEY SURVEY

## **Gobblers:**

- ✓ Body appears black; In sunlight, metallic iridescence is noticeable
- ✓ Head brightly colored but variable with red, white, and blue
- ✓ 6+ inch beard protruding from chest
- ✓ During summer, gobblers do not typically display with tail fan open
- ✓ Often travel alone or in bachelor groups with other gobblers in summer



*Typical gobbler in summer. Look for darker body and more brightly colored head than hens and poults. Adults gobblers almost always have a 6+ inch beard.*

## **Hens:**

- ✓ Body brown and tan; duller than gobblers
- ✓ Head gray or pale blue sometimes with light pink evident
- ✓ Hens typically beardless but some have thin beard
- ✓ Smaller than gobblers but usually larger than poults
- ✓ Several hens (with or without young) will often travel together in summer



*Hen with poults. Note the dull brown body and gray or pale blue head.*



*Bearded hen with poults. About 5-10% of hens will have beards, making other characteristics more important in sex determination.*

## **Poults (young of year):**

- ✓ Young can vary in size from baseball-sized to almost full-grown
- ✓ Will almost always be seen with 1 or more adult hens
- ✓ Size difference is best way to identify poults
- ✓ Sexes not discernable
- ✓ No visible beard
- ✓ Older poults can be similar in size to adult hens, especially in late summer



*Older poults can be similar in size to adult hens, making age determination difficult. When in doubt, record flocks of older poults and hens as "unknown."*

Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR GETTING THE APP**

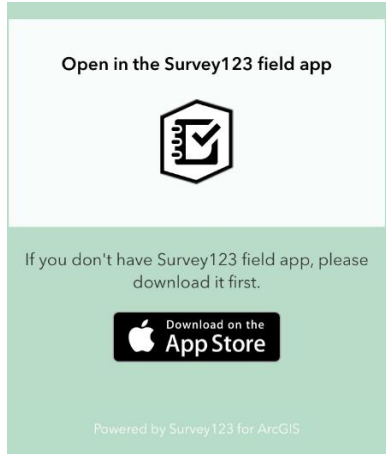
The app we use is called Survey123 by ESRI, which is available for free from the Apple Store for iPhones and from Google Play for Android phones<sup>2</sup>. We hope use of the app and website described here will result in more citizens observing and reporting turkeys, but we welcome paper forms mailed to us as well!

Viewing this document within your smart phone's web browser should make the installation process easier (for example, through Safari on iPhones or Chrome on Android phones). Keep the browser page open so you can refer back to this document after the app is installed.

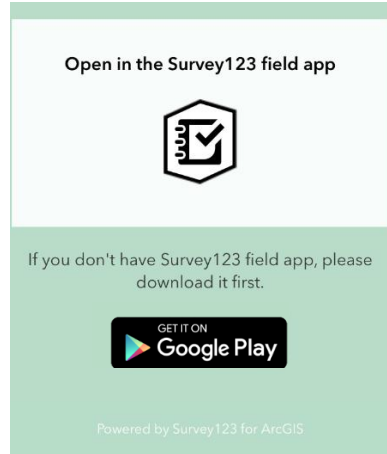
<sup>2</sup> Mention of brand names is simply for public assistance and clarity and does not imply endorsement in any way by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources or the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Install/download the Survey123 app by clicking [HERE](#) within your smart phone browser (for example, Safari on iPhones or Chrome on Android phones) or by typing “<https://tinyurl.com/KyTurkeyBroodApp>”. This should prompt you to install the app. If the link doesn’t work, manually search for and download the Survey123 app from the App Store or Google Play. You should see one of the following screens depending on your type of phone: (see next page)

**iPhones:**

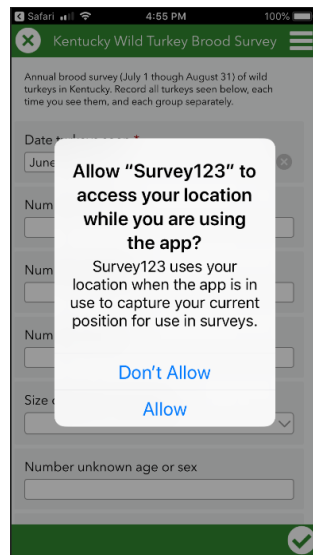
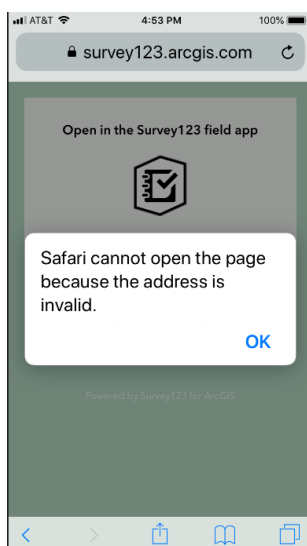


**Android phones:**



After downloading the Survey123 app, do not open it directly; doing so may ask you to login, which you won’t ever need to do. If you get to a screen that asks you to sign in with a user name and password, you have accidentally gotten to the wrong place. If that happens, go back to the screen above in your internet browser and click the link “Open in the Survey123 field app”. If you accidentally closed the above screen or lose it for some reason, type the following URL in your internet browser: <https://tinyurl.com/KyTurkeyBroodApp> .

With iPhones, this may prompt the following the screen, but just click OK. After that, you should then get the “Allow” screen, to which you should answer “ALLOW”.



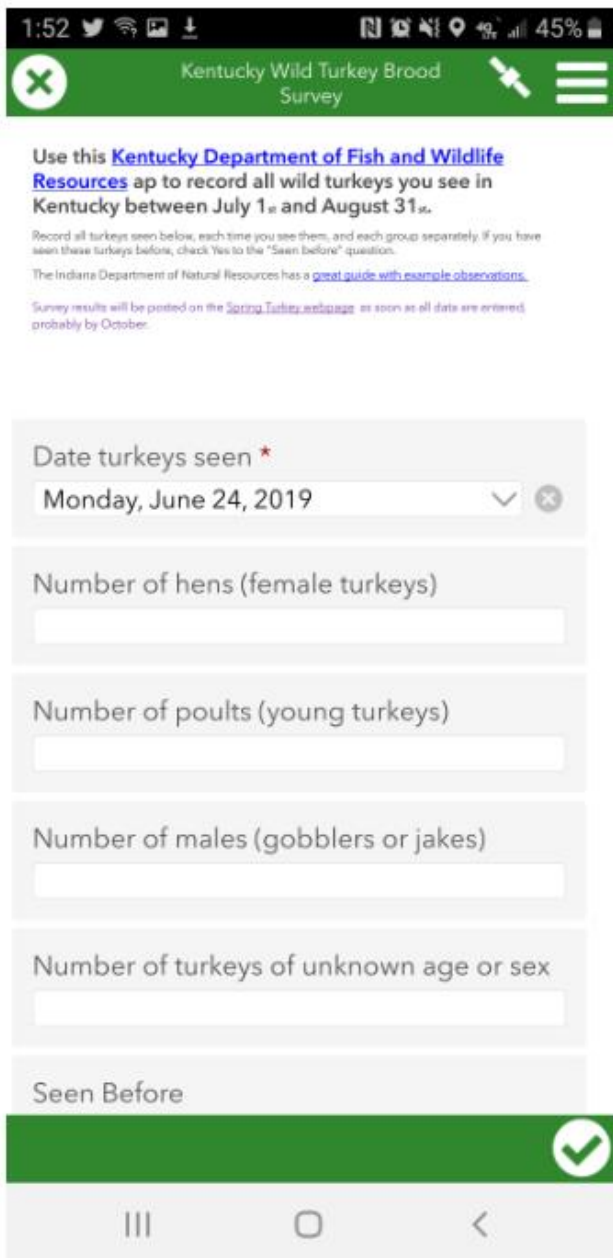
After doing this once, clicking the Survey123 app in the future should open the survey properly within the app. The following screenshots should be similar on iPhone and Android phones.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE APP

When you open the survey through the app, you should see the screen below.

First, select when you saw the turkey(s). The current day's date should display by default. If the date displayed is not when you actually saw the turkeys (perhaps because you saw them earlier in the day or on a previous day), select the date you saw the turkeys by clicking the down arrow to the right of date, then choosing the appropriate date.

Next, to enter the number of each kind of turkey you saw, click in the appropriate box(es) and type the number(s).



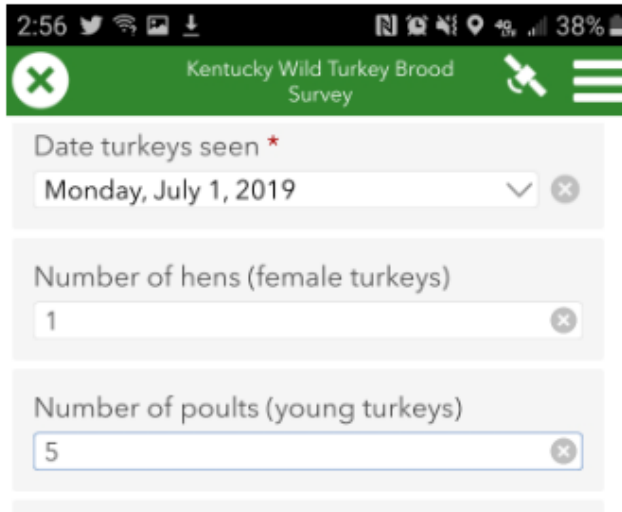
The screenshot shows the app's main screen. At the top is a green header with a close button (X), the title "Kentucky Wild Turkey Brood Survey", a location pin icon, and a menu icon (three horizontal lines). Below the header is a blue link: "Use this [Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources](#) app to record all wild turkeys you see in Kentucky between July 1<sup>st</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>." Below this are three lines of smaller text: "Record all turkeys seen below, each time you see them, and each group separately. If you have seen these turkeys before, check Yes to the 'Seen before' question.", "The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has a [great guide with example observations](#).", and "Survey results will be posted on the [Spring Turkey webpage](#) as soon as all data are entered, probably by October." The main form area has a "Date turkeys seen" label with a red asterisk, a date picker showing "Monday, June 24, 2019", and a close button. Below are five input fields: "Number of hens (female turkeys)", "Number of poults (young turkeys)", "Number of males (gobblers or jakes)", and "Number of turkeys of unknown age or sex". At the bottom is a "Seen Before" section with a green bar containing a white checkmark icon. The very bottom shows standard Android navigation icons: three vertical bars, a circle, and a left-pointing arrow.

You will be recording each time you see a turkey or group of turkeys (that is, each individual observation).

## TURKEY OBSERVATION EXAMPLES:

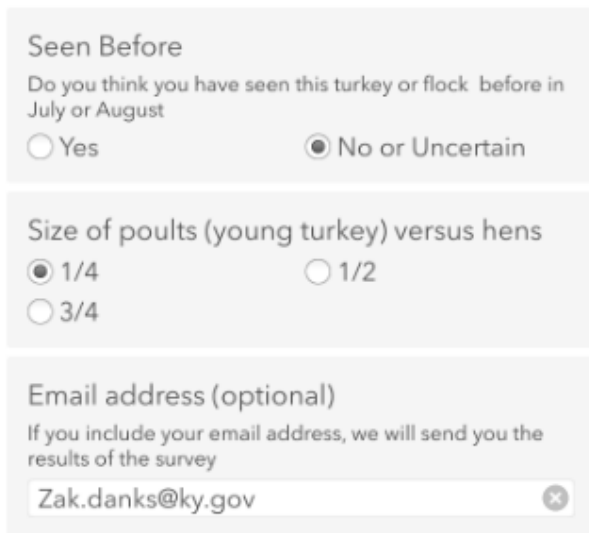
### Example 1:

Let's say you see 1 hen with 5 poults in the morning, then you see 2 hens without poults in the afternoon of the same day. Consider these as two separate observations. Record the morning observation by entering 1 for hens and 5 for poults, followed by the other appropriate information including whether you've seen those turkeys before, the size of the poults, your email address [optional, in case you wish to have a results summary emailed to you], and the location of the observation. Here are some screenshots:



The screenshot shows the top portion of a mobile application interface. At the top, there is a green header bar with a white 'X' icon on the left, the text "Kentucky Wild Turkey Brood Survey" in the center, and a magnifying glass icon and a hamburger menu icon on the right. Below the header, there are three input fields: "Date turkeys seen \*" with a dropdown menu showing "Monday, July 1, 2019"; "Number of hens (female turkeys)" with a text input field containing "1"; and "Number of poults (young turkeys)" with a text input field containing "5". Each input field has a small 'X' icon to its right.

(scrolling down...)



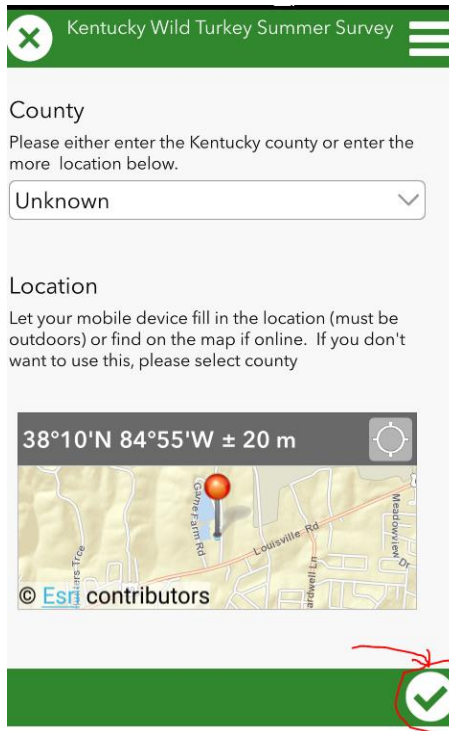
The screenshot shows the bottom portion of the mobile application interface. It features three sections: "Seen Before" with the question "Do you think you have seen this turkey or flock before in July or August" and two radio button options, "Yes" and "No or Uncertain", where "No or Uncertain" is selected; "Size of poults (young turkey) versus hens" with three radio button options, "1/4", "1/2", and "3/4", where "1/4" is selected; and "Email address (optional)" with the text "If you include your email address, we will send you the results of the survey" and a text input field containing "Zak.danks@ky.gov". Each input field has a small 'X' icon to its right.

A commonly asked question is whether to record turkeys that you have seen several times before, such as on a route you travel often. The answer is YES; please record any turkeys any time you see them. Checking "Yes" on the "Seen Before" question allows us to identify repeated observations for the analysis.

Feel free to enter any pertinent comments about the observations in the "Comments" box.

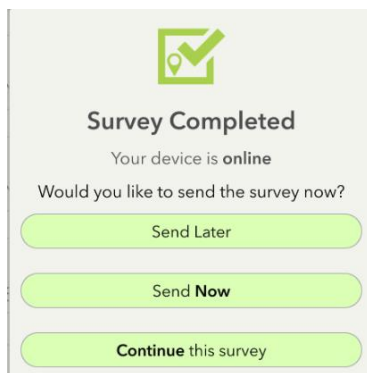
(scrolling farther down...)

Indicate county where you observed the turkeys, the size of any poultts you saw, and whether you have seen the turkey or turkeys before during the survey period. The app can determine your exact location, which would be most valuable. In the website you can navigate to where you saw the turkey(s).

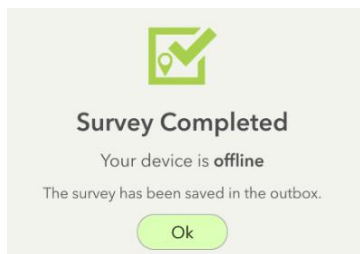


When done making selections, click the check mark to Submit the observation.

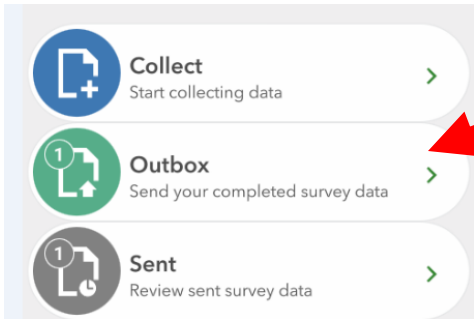
After clicking the check mark to submit an observation, you should get this screen:



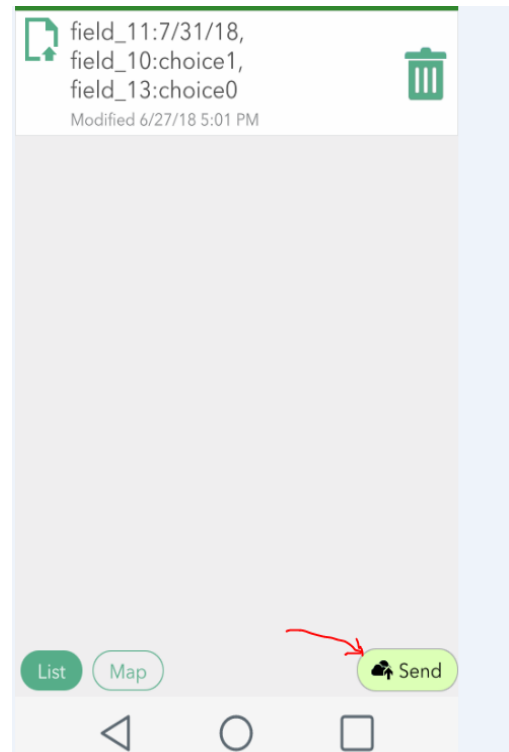
If you have cell service you should click “Send Now” so the data will be shared automatically with KDFWR. If you don’t have cell service, you can click “Send Later,” and you should see this:



Later when you have cellular or wifi internet access, go into the “Outbox” within the App:



...and click “Send”



That's it! The observation will be recorded.

### Example 2:

If you see two hen turkeys in a field at the same time, this is a single observation. Record as one observation. In a fresh new page, record the afternoon observation by entering 2 for hens and 0 for poults, as seen next, then repeat the remaining steps and submit that separate observation.

A screenshot of the data entry form. It consists of three vertically stacked input fields. The first field is a date picker labeled 'Date turkeys seen \*' with the value 'Monday, July 1, 2019'. The second field is a text input labeled 'Number of hens (female turkeys)' with the value '2'. The third field is a text input labeled 'Number of poults (young turkeys)' with the value '0'. Each input field has a small 'x' icon to its right for clearing the input.



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE WEBSITE

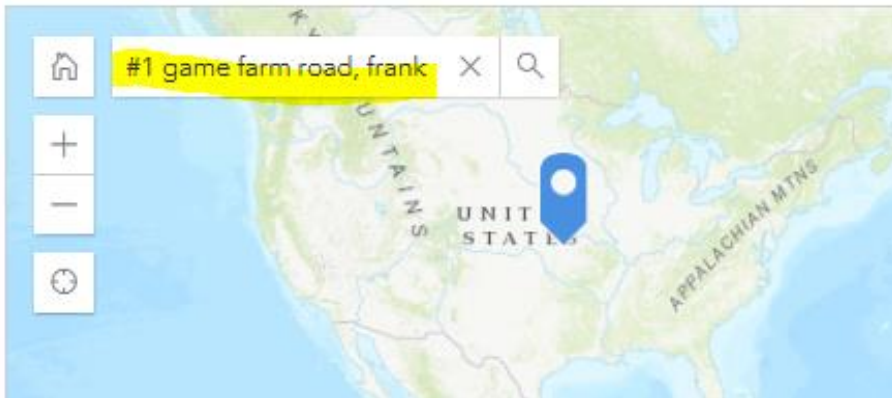
Instead of or in addition to using the mobile phone app, consider using the Survey123 website to report summer turkey observations.


Click [HERE](#) or type “<https://tinyurl.com/KyTurkeyBroodWeb>” in your web browser to get to the survey website. Report turkeys as instructed on page 2 above.

To report the location of the turkeys you see, use the interactive map window to pan (click and drag the mouse) and zoom in to where you saw the turkeys. You can also search for a specific location by typing an address in the box, as seen here:

### Location\*

Let your mobile device fill in the location (must be outdoors) or find on the r



If you are using the browser on a device with GPS, the  button will position you where you are. It may ask you if you want to share your location. When you are done be sure to click “Submit”.

Submit

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING A PAPER FORM

If you’d rather use paper instead of the phone app or web site to record your turkey observations for this survey, you can download and print a paper form by clicking [HERE](#) or typing the following URL in your web browser: [https://fw.ky.gov/Hunt/Documents/2018\\_KY\\_Wild\\_Turkey\\_Survey\\_form.pdf](https://fw.ky.gov/Hunt/Documents/2018_KY_Wild_Turkey_Survey_form.pdf) for the form.

The next page gives an example of how to record those example observations described above. Note that each observation is listed on its own row (line), as shown by my hand-writing below. Also note the example situations highlighted in gray on the form.



# Kentucky Wild Turkey Brood Survey

Record all wild turkeys you see from July 1 through August 31

For the website version of this form or a smart phone app, go to [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) & search "spring turkey".

Observation #	Date	County	# Hens	# Poults	# Males	# Unknown Sex or Age	Size of Poults vs. Hen (circle one)			Seen Before (circle one)		Comments
							1/4	1/2	3/4	Y	N	
(Ex. 1)	7/1/2017	Logan	1	5	0	0	1/4	1/2	3/4	Y	N	Seen past 3 days
(Ex. 2)	7/1/2017	Logan	2	11	0	0	1/4	1/2	3/4	Y	N	
(Ex. 3)	8/1/2017	Butler	0	0	3	0	1/4	1/2	3/4	Y	N	Saw yesterday
(Ex. 4)	8/22/2017	Muhlenberg	0	0	0	3	1/4	1/2	3/4	Y	N	
1	7/1/2019	Franklin	1	5	0	0	1/4	1/2	3/4	Y	N	9:15 a.m.
2	7/1/2019	Franklin	2	0	0	0	1/4	1/2	3/4	Y	N	3:23 p.m.
3							1/4	1/2	3/4	Y	N	
4							1/4	1/2	3/4	Y	N	
5							1/4	1/2	3/4	Y	N	
6							1/4	1/2	3/4	Y	N	
7							1/4	1/2	3/4	Y	N	
8							1/4	1/2	3/4	Y	N	
9							1/4	1/2	3/4	Y	N	
10							1/4	1/2	3/4	Y	N	

Return paper forms as soon as possible after the survey concludes on August 31<sup>st</sup>. You can scan forms and send by email to [KyTurkey@ky.gov](mailto:KyTurkey@ky.gov), or you can mail them to Turkey Survey, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Check for results at <https://fw.ky.gov/Hunt/Pages/Spring-Turkey-Hunting.aspx>, probably by late September or October. You'll probably need to scroll to the bottom of the page.

As stated above, if you have questions about the survey or for results of previous years' surveys, please contact KDFWR's turkey program coordinator Zak Danks at [zak.danks@ky.gov](mailto:zak.danks@ky.gov) or 1-502-892-4544.

Your turkey observations are valuable, so THANKS AND PLEASE SHARE with friends!

