Guide to Online Game Check – Wild Turkey

This tutorial will guide you through the process of using the MassFishHunt system to check your turkey online. Please take a few minutes and read through this guide before beginning.

To check a harvested turkey online, there are a few, but very important pieces of information needed. Required information (depending on season) may include: town of harvest, date of harvest, and the bird’s sex, beard and spur lengths, and tail fan shape, the color of the breast feathers, and wing tip shape. In addition, optional data questions will include: bird weight, type of hunting equipment used, and the Wildlife Management Zone where the bird was harvested.

Remember the harvest tag must remain attached to the turkey throughout this process. After the completion of the online game check, a confirmation number will be generated that must be written on the harvest tag. All successful hunters must check their harvested turkey within 48 hours either online through the MassFishHunt system or at a traditional check station. NOTE: You must check your harvested bird BEFORE you process the bird for food or taxidermy purposes. Please use care when entering information on the harvested turkey into the MassFishHunt system, particularly the date of harvest. Please contact the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (DFW) during business hours at 508-389-6300 if you have issues checking your turkey online.
1) To start, go to the official MassFishHunt webpage by clicking below, or copy and paste the following link into your webbrowser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, Safari) to reach the official MassFishHunt webpage.

http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/licensing/

Click on the Enter MassFishHunt!!!:
2) To enter the **MassFishHunt** system, enter your **Last Name** and **Customer ID** number from your hunting/sporting license or turkey permit in the appropriate field and click **NEXT**. Your Customer ID number can be found in the top left corner of your hunting/sporting license or turkey permit, and in the top left corner of the harvest tag.
3) Once logged into the *MassFishHunt* system you can begin your online turkey check; click on the **REPORT A HARVEST** button.
4) Click the **WILD TURKEY** option on the left side under **HARVEST MENU**. This fall, you will see options in this area to check your harvested deer, turkey, or bear during their respective seasons.
5) You are now ready to begin your online game check for a harvested wild turkey in the spring season. Click the **ADD** button.

During the fall hunting season, under item name it will be listed as Fall Turkey provided that the hunter did not harvest an annual limit of 2 turkeys in the spring season. If a hunter did harvest 2 turkeys during the spring season, there will not be the option to click the **ADD** button.
6) The WILD TURKEY HARVEST REPORT consists of a series of questions, many of which are multiple-choice. Optional questions are noted. For some of these questions, you will need to examine your harvested turkey. Some questions are only asked during the fall season, such as wing tip shape or breast feather color. Your responses to these questions provide DFW biologists important information used to evaluate and manage the statewide turkey population. Please take a few minutes and answer each question accurately. Simply click in the box to the right of each question and enter or click on the appropriate response.
6a) You can click on the blue question marks to the right of each question for additional information to help answer each question.

6b) You may need to carefully examine or measure parts of your bird to accurately answer some questions. To help provide accurate information see the images below. Keep in mind that taking bearded hens is LEGAL during the spring season, but these birds will not have noticeable leg spurs. During the fall season, a turkey of either sex may be harvested.
AGING SPRING TURKEYS

STEP 1: AGE
ADULT or JUVENILE - examine the last 1 or 2 wing feathers. Measure the spur. Measure the beard. Examine the tail fan.

WING - examine the last 1 or 2 wing feathers.
ADULTS have rounded feathers with white barring to tip.
JUVENILES have narrow pointed feathers with no white bars on the last 2 inches.

SPUR - spurs grow as the turkey gets older. Generally the longer the spur, the older the bird.
Place ruler against leg at base of spur and record length of spur to nearest ¼ of an inch.
ADULT spurs are generally longer than ¾”.
JUVENILE spurs are generally shorter than ¾”.

BEARD - beards grow as the turkey gets older.
Measure the beard from the point of attachment to end of beard.
ADULT beards are generally longer than 6”.

TAIL - fan the tail and look at the central tail feathers.
ADULT tail fan is symmetrical. Central tail feathers are the same length as the rest of the tail feathers.
JUVENILE tail fan is not symmetrical. Central tail feathers are longer than the rest of the tail feathers.

This poster was funded by the Maine Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation.
7) Once you have completed answering all questions, click the **SUBMIT** button (NOTE: not all fields are required). You will have a chance to edit your responses before they are finalized, but please double-check to ensure that all required fields are accurately entered.

Please ensure that the date of harvest and all other fields are entered accurately.
8) You will need to confirm the submission by clicking **YES** on the pop-up. Before doing so, **make sure all the information provided is accurate** as you will not be able to edit any information after clicking YES. If you need to edit any information, click **NO** and then change your entries. When finished proceed from step 7.
9) After completing your online game check, a unique CONFIRMATION NUMBER will be generated. It is required that you write this confirmation number on the harvest tag (that should still be on the harvested turkey), where it shall remain until the turkey is processed for food or taxidermy purposes. Butchers or taxidermists should not accept turkeys without an official metal leg band/seal (turkey checked at a physical check station), or a harvest tag with a confirmation number (online game check).

Click on the OK button after you have recorded the confirmation number.
10) SPRING SEASON ONLY!!! A hunter can harvest up to 2 wild turkeys during the spring season, though no more than one may be harvested per day. Thus, to report the harvest of a second wild turkey, follow steps 1-4 to log into MassFishHunt. Click ADD to start your second turkey online game check and repeat the data entry methods (steps 6-9) described above. NO HUNTER MAY HARVEST MORE THAN 1 TURKEY DURING THE FALL SEASON.

The MassFishHunt system will store the game you have checked online. To view the specific details of any one online harvest report, click the VIEW button.
11) After clicking **VIEW**, this is what your harvest report looks like. The *MassFishHunt* system will store your submitted game checks, you may print a copy of these submitted harvest reports at any time.