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# Young Turkey Hunters harvest 1,723 Birds During Youth Weekend

APRIL 17TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Young Turkey Hunters harvest 1,723 Birds During Youth Weekend

*Young turkey hunters harvest 1,723 birds during youth weekend  
Top harvest counties were Franklin, Miller, and Maries.*

According to preliminary data from Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), young turkey hunters harvested 1,723 turkeys during the 2018 spring youth season, April 7-8. Top harvest counties were Franklin with 51 turkeys harvested, Miller with 43, and Maries with 43.

Young hunters checked a little over 4,000 turkeys during last year's youth weekend.

MDC's Turkey Biologist, Jason Isabelle, says the drop in harvest can be attributed mostly to unseasonably cold temperatures this weekend and for much of spring thus far.

"Weather was the biggest contributing factor to this year's low youth turkey season harvest," Isabelle said. "Temperatures that were well-below average probably made it difficult for young hunters to spend as much time hunting this past weekend as they would have with more seasonal temperatures."

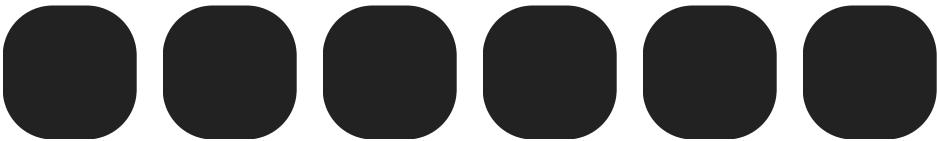
Isabelle also notes that in addition to cold temperatures this weekend, spring has been slow to get here this year causing turkeys to be a little behind schedule as far as the winter flock break-up.

“When turkeys are still flocked up as they are in much of the state right now, it can make for some very challenging hunting,” he said. “With warmer temperatures in the forecast, hunting conditions should be much more favorable for the upcoming regular spring turkey season.”

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# Colton Stroud, Age 8, Kills First Turkey

APRIL 16TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Colton Stroud, Age 8, Kills First Turkey

Colton Stroud age 8 of Puxico killed this 23 pound gobbler for his first turkey.

Colton bagged his bird on Saturday during the opening of Missouri’s Spring Youth Turkey season with his family friend, Thomas Espey (pictured below) as his guide.

Colton is the son of Dusty and Julie Stroud.

Colton has a pretty proud grandpa in Lennis Stroud that loves showing off the pics of this successful hunt at the gym this week.

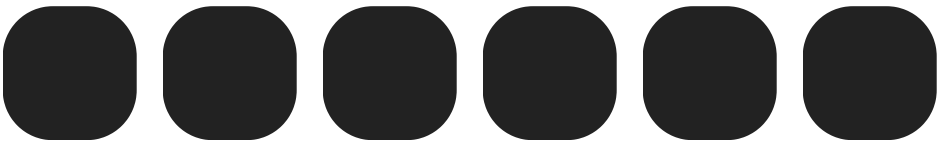
Congratulations Colton!!

Turkey 2

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# MDC Encourages Public NOT to Plant Invasive Bradford Pear Trees

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## MDC Encourages Public NOT to Plant Invasive Bradford Pear Trees

### **MDC encourages public not to plant invasive Bradford pear trees**

The invasive Bradford pear tree can cause problems for Missouri native plants and animals.

Missouri - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) encourages homeowners and landscapers to avoid planting Callery pear trees this spring.

Better known as Bradford pears, the Callery pear tree is an invasive species known to multiply quickly and crowd out Missouri native plants. While it's been a popular landscaping tree for decades, cultivated forms have spread aggressively throughout the state.

"Different varieties of Bradford pear trees were planted close to each other, which allowed them to cross pollinate and take over natural areas," said Forestry Field Program Supervisor Russell Hinnah. "But they're also a poor landscaping choice because they don't do well in storms, often losing limbs or splitting apart."

Stopping the spread means selecting alternate trees for yards and forested property.

"The best plan is to select a native species to Missouri, and there are several great options," said Hinnah. "Serviceberry trees produce similar showy white blooms in the spring and have small red fruits that attract wildlife."

Eastern redbuds and Missouri's state tree, the flowering dogwood, are also good alternatives. The redbud tree grows quickly with eye-catching lavender flowers in the spring. Dogwoods do best in shady areas but can be somewhat difficult to grow.

Learn more about stopping the spread of the Callery pear at the Callery Pear Field Event Friday, April 13, in Columbia.

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## MO Deer Hunters Share More Than 289,000 lbs of Venison

MARCH 26TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

MO Deer Hunters Share More Than 289,000 lbs of Venison

**MDC and CFM thank deer hunters for Sharing the Harvest**

**Missouri deer hunters shared 289,292 pounds of venison to help feed the hungry.**

Jefferson City, Missouri - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) thank the thousands of Missouri deer hunters who donated 289,292 pounds of venison to the state's Share the Harvest program this past deer season. The donated deer meat will help feed hungry Missourians all around the state.

This season's total of 289,292 pounds of venison included nearly 5,600 whole deer. Hunters donated 198,277 pounds of venison the year before. Since the program was started in 1992, Share the Harvest has provided nearly 4 million pounds of lean, healthy venison to help feed hungry Missourians.

Share the Harvest is coordinated by MDC and CFM. It works by deer hunters donating their extra venison to more than 100 participating meat processors throughout the state

who grind the deer meat into ready-to-use packages. The packaged venison is then given to local food banks and food pantries for distribution to Missourians in need of food assistance.

“Hunters started Share the Harvest because they saw a need in their communities,” said MDC Director Sara Pauley. “And hunters remain the driving force behind this popular program that helps feed our fellow Missourians who are in need. We sincerely thank the thousands of deer hunters who support Share the Harvest, along with the many participating meat processors and sponsors.”

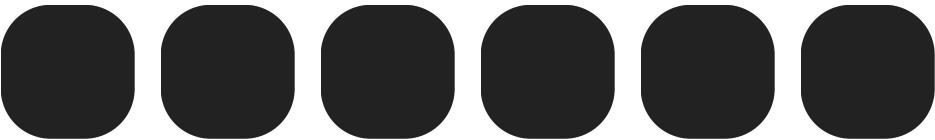
Processing fees are covered entirely or in part by numerous local supporting organizations and statewide sponsors, which include: MDC, CFM, Shelter Insurance, Bass Pro Shops, Missouri Chapter Safari Club International, Missouri Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation, Midway USA Inc., Missouri Food Banks Association, and United Bowhunters of Missouri.

“Share the Harvest is a partnership of citizens, agencies, organizations and corporations working together to provide healthy, protein-rich meat to those who may otherwise go without,” said CFM Executive Director Brandon Butler. “Hunters across Missouri should be proud of this outstanding program.”

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# Hunters Harvest 10,025 Deer During Alternative-Methods Portion

FEBRUARY 22ND 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Hunters Harvest 10,025 Deer During Alternative-Methods Portion

[Hunters harvest 10,025 deer during alternative-methods portion](#)

[Top harvest counties: Howell with 249 deer harvested, Franklin with 215, and Oregon with 214.](#)

Jefferson City, Missouri - Preliminary data from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) shows that deer hunters in Missouri harvested 10,025 deer during the alternative-methods portion of the fall firearms deer season, which ran Dec. 23 - Jan. 2. Of the total harvest, 2,827 were antlered bucks, 1,312 button bucks, and 5,886 does.

Top harvest counties were Howell with 249 deer harvested, Franklin with 215, and Oregon with 214.

The harvest total for last year's alternative-methods portion was 10,602 consisting of 2,787 antlered bucks, 1,496 button bucks, and 6,319 does.

Deer hunting continues for this season with statewide archery hunting through Jan. 15.

LAST UPDATED ON FEBRUARY 22ND 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

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