

Iowa's popular spring turkey hunting seasons only a few weeks away

Once easily visible in large winter flocks scarily in picked crop fields along timber edges for waste grain, Iowa's wild turkeys will seemingly disappear into the landscape as the days lengthen and temperatures warm.

Driven by instinct, males will begin calling, displaying and competing against other males for the attention of the hens as part of the annual breeding season.

In this arena, steps the turkey hunter – who tries to mimic the hens and frustrate the toms (mature) and jakes (one-year old male's) to the point of investigating why she is not responding to his calls.

"Turkey hunting is an intimate experience, calling the birds close, making it go against instinct, using your experience and skills learned from time spent in the woods to try to trick that bird to coming to you," said Jim Coffey, forest wildlife biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR). "And if everything goes right, only around 22-25 percent of our tags get filled.

Even the most experienced turkey hunters make mistakes."

Last year, more than 50,000 tags were sold and hunters reporting harvesting more than 15,000 birds; the second highest since mandatory harvest began in 2006.

"We had a good turkey hatch in 2025, and that was on top of a good hatch in 2024, so we should have a good number of jakes and young toms available this spring," Coffey said.

Considered a woodland species, turkeys can be found in grasslands, field edges and other places you don't expect to see them. Birds were harvested in all of Iowa's 99 counties in the 2025 spring season.

Iowa's spring turkey hunting offers four split seasons, where hunters may choose up to two seasons, with at least one being season four. Seasons spread out hunting pressure to provide positive experience. Surveys indicate that hunter satisfaction is highest when they do not run into another hunter while hunting and when they hear a lot of gobbling.

With a few weeks to go till the season starts, now is a good time to go through the equipment and gear to make sure it still works and fits, and to practice calling.

"Spring weather can be finicky – it could be in the 70s or snowing," he said. "And just a reminder, it will be tick season."

Hunting safety reminder

Hunters should write out their hunting plan that identifies the hunt location, who's on the hunt and outlines their role, describes how the hunt will unfold and when the hunters are expected to return home. Hunters are encouraged to leave a copy of the plan with someone or somewhere easy to find, in the event of an emergency.

Hunters are reminded to avoid wearing patriotic colors – red, white and blue – that are colors found on a male turkey head and waddle, and to not shoot at movement. Identify the target and what's beyond it, especially with the new loads that have increased range.

If another hunter walks in to your area, Coffey said hunters still and in a clear voice 'Hunter over here.' "The person should turn and walk directly away," he said.

Those who harvest a bird are required to report their harvest through the harvest reporting system. It is essential and mandatory to report the bird, which helps the DNR with management.

"There are plenty of birds – be mindful of other hunters out there – they're out there to have fun too," he said.

Youth Season

Youth season is designed to be a mentoring experience, teaching the youth about turkey hunting and building skills, like learning how to call.

SEASONS

- Youth-only – residents only, age 15 and younger - April 10-12
- Season 1 – April 13-16
- Season 2 – April 17-21
- Season 3 – April 22-28
- Season 4 – April 29 – May 17
- Resident Archery Only – April 13 – May 17

Guest Column: 8 Ways to Help Your Student Save for College

By Nancy Dunkel

Iowa Student Loan Liquidity

Corporate Board Member

Generally, families pay for a college education with multiple sources. Common funding sources are your own savings and earnings, your student's savings and earnings, scholarships and loans.

Make a resolution to reduce the amount of future student loans with these tips:

1. Estimate how much your student will need.

Your student's choice of school and type of education will greatly influence the total cost. You can start by helping your student determine the right educational path for their potential career interests. Then, explore websites of in-state and out-of-state public and private colleges, community colleges or other training programs for current costs.

Check out the Resources for College Planning article for high school students at www.IowaStudentLoan.org/Plan for more information about online tools that can help you compare options and plan for expenses. Free online calculators are also available to help you compare estimated college expenses for the year your student will enter college.

2. Encourage savings by your

own example.

Foster an environment of saving by looking for discounts, reducing expenses and comparison shopping for everyday purchases. Discuss with your student how you spend less now so you can save for retirement, education and large purchases.

3. Work with your student on reducing expenses.

If your student quickly spends a large part of their earnings, gifts and savings, help set savings goals, come up with less-expensive alternatives and bargain shop. Gently used items may be available for a fraction of the cost of new ones. Delaying the purchase of the newest models can also reduce costs.

4. Explore interest-bearing accounts.

Leverage savings by depositing into interest-bearing accounts. Spend some time researching different types of accounts and discussing their risks and advantages with your student. You might want to make an appointment for yourself and your student with a specialist at your financial institution or an independent financial adviser to fully explore your options.

5. Understand how to reduce college costs.

If you realize you and your student will not be able to save enough of the

total cost of a planned education by high school graduation, think about how to reduce that cost. Your student may choose to live at home to attend a nearby school, attend a less-expensive school, earn some or all of the required classes, earn while learning with a skilled apprenticeship program, or work more before or during attendance. The Resources for College Planning article for high school students at www.IowaStudentLoan.org/Plan is a good place to begin exploring available tools on how to reduce college expenses.

6. Monitor progress regularly.

Periodically check your and your student's progress toward the financial goals you've set together. It's also a good idea to investigate the expected costs now and then to better understand how estimated costs may change. You may consider matching what your student puts into savings or rewarding your student with additional money if they earn a large scholarship.

7. Look for opportunities to build your college savings.

Occasionally, you may be able to enter programs that award deposits into college savings accounts that will benefit your student. Check for scholarship and award opportunities from programs like ISave 529.

In addition, ISL Education Lending provides opportunities to win deposits periodically throughout the year. The ISL Education Lending Scholarship awards 45 \$1,000 deposits twice a year you have a chance to earn quarterly awards by subscribing to the Student Planning Pointers for Parents e-newsletter. Learn more about the scholarship at www.IowaStudentLoan.org/Savings and the newsletter at www.SP3.org.

8. Plan for scholarships.

Many scholarships are available each year, and a good way to know what your student may earn in scholarships is to research ahead of time. If your student knows where they will continue their education, check out the school website for information about scholarships your student may qualify for. On college websites, a financial aid section can often be found under "Admissions." Don't forget to check for scholarships for specific majors.

Any student in high school can create a free account at websites like Step 1 Scholarship Search, which will help your student find scholarships that match specific criteria.

More Information

Visit www.IowaStudentLoan.org to access free college planning resources available from ISL Education Lending.

Iowa PBS and the IGHS AU Announce Multiyear Extension for Girls State Championship Broadcasts

This agreement adds statewide television coverage of girls wrestling beginning in 2026

Iowa PBS and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHS AU) today announced a multiyear extension of their partnership to provide statewide broadcast coverage of the IGHS AU Girls State Championships. The new Iowa PBS - IGHS AU agreement begins in January 2026 and runs until 2031, with options to extend joint coverage through 2035.

Under the extended agreement, Iowa PBS will continue to broadcast girls state championship finals in volleyball, basketball and softball, and adds girls wrestling championships for the first time. This marks the sport's first-ever statewide television coverage in Iowa.

The broadcast and streaming partnership ensures that championship events

remain free and accessible to students, families, schools and communities across all of Iowa's 99 counties.

"For generations, Iowa PBS has played a vital role in bringing championship moments into homes across the state," said Iowa PBS Executive Director and General Manager Andrew Batt. "Extending our partnership with the IGHS AU ensures Iowa student-athletes can compete for a state championship in front of a statewide audience."

Girls wrestling is one of the fastest-growing high school sports in Iowa, and the addition of championship coverage reflects the continued growth and evolution of girls athletics statewide.

"We are thrilled to continue our part-

nership with Iowa PBS," said IGHS AU Executive Director Erin Gerlich. "Iowa PBS has been a tremendous partner in elevating the Iowa Girl through its high-quality coverage, and we are excited to see that commitment extend to the Iowa Girls State Wrestling Championships."

Iowa PBS's agreement with the IGHS AU is separate from its existing contract with the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IH-SAA), which governs coverage of boys state championship events.

In addition to broadcast coverage, the IGHS AU championship events will be available on Iowa PBS digital platforms, expanding viewing options for audiences across the state and beyond.

Specific details about each championship event's broadcast schedules will be announced shortly before each event occurs.

In addition to our statewide broadcasts, Iowa PBS, WORLD and Create are available to livestream on iowapbs.org/live, pbs.org/livestream, and the PBS app. Iowa PBS KIDS is available to livestream on iowapbs.org/live or the PBS KIDS app. Iowa PBS programs are also available on most popular platforms. See all the ways you can watch by visiting iowapbs.org/watch.

Learn more at iowapbs.org.

For more information about Iowa PBS, please contact Hayley Schaefer at 515.776.0406 or hayley.schaefer@iowapbs.org.

Iowa PBS Education Announces Artifact Iowa Initiative

Iowa PBS Education is proud to announce the launch of Artifact Iowa, an innovative storytelling initiative that brings Iowa's history into focus through the objects that shaped it. Designed for middle and high school students, as well as lifelong learners, Artifact Iowa uses real artifacts to uncover the powerful human stories behind them, showcasing moments of innovation, resilience, creativity and change that define the state's past.

"Iowa's history is embedded in the objects people relied on in their daily lives," said Iowa PBS Director of Educational Services Ken Harrison. "Artifact Iowa encourages learners of all ages to think like historians, to look closely, to ask thoughtful questions and to consider how even the most ordinary items can reveal extraordinary stories about our shared

past." Each resource created for Artifact Iowa centers on a single historical and explores the broader historical themes it represents. Rather than presenting surface-level facts, the series connects objects to larger ideas such as daily life, technological progress, cultural shifts and pivotal moments in Iowa history.

Artifact Iowa has two primary goals. The first is to deepen historical storytelling through objects. The project seeks out compelling artifacts from across the state and uncovers the meaningful stories they represent, connecting them to broader historical themes. The second is to model critical thinking and inquiry. Each episode demonstrates how historians use objects as evidence, encouraging students and lifelong learners to analyze artifacts

and draw conclusions about the past. Through this digital experience, students are encouraged to ask questions about Iowa's past, investigate how the state has changed over time, and discover lesser-known stories of their local communities.

In partnership with the State Historical Society of Iowa, the first 10 artifacts in the collection will focus on America's 250th anniversary. Artifact Iowa will continue to expand with additional collections released over time.

Artifact Iowa is now available at iowapbs.org/artificiowa and on PBS LearningMedia. Educators, schools and parents can freely access the full suite of resources.

In addition to our statewide broadcasts, Iowa PBS, WORLD and Create are available to livestream on iowapbs.org/live, pbs.org/livestream,

and the PBS app. Iowa PBS KIDS is available to livestream on iowapbs.org/live or the PBS KIDS app. Iowa PBS programs are also available on most popular platforms. See all the ways you can watch by visiting iowapbs.org/watch.

Learn more at iowapbs.org.

For more information about Iowa PBS, please contact Hayley Schaefer at (515) 776-0406 or hayley.schaefer@iowapbs.org.



SUPPLIES
The Sac Sun
406 William Street in Sac City
or contact (712) 662 7161

Notice of Public Hearing

COUNTY NAME: SAC COUNTY		NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027		COUNTY NUMBER: 81
The County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year County tax asking as follows: Meeting Date: 3/31/2026 Meeting Time: 09:30 AM Meeting Location: Sac County Board of Supervisors Room, 100 NW State Street, Sac City IA 50583 At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the Board will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed county budget.				
County Website (if available) www.saccountyiowa.gov		County Telephone Number (712) 662-7310		
Iowa Department of Management		Current Year Certified Property Tax FY 2025/2026	Budget Year Effective Tax FY 2026/2027	Budget Year Proposed Tax FY 2026/2027
Taxable Valuations-General Services		1,045,625,461	1,133,045,462	1,133,045,462
Requested Tax Dollars-Countywide Rates Except Debt Service		5,582,897	5,582,897	6,763,874
Taxable Valuations-Debt Service		1,059,389,776	1,154,467,402	1,154,467,402
Requested Tax Dollars-Debt Service		445,961	445,961	462,743
Requested Tax Dollars-Countywide Rates		6,028,858	6,028,858	7,226,619
Tax Rate-Countywide		5.76025	5.31363	6.37047
Taxable Valuations-Dollar Services		765,828,831	818,500,138	818,500,138
Requested Tax Dollars-Additional Rural Levies		2,595,340	2,595,340	2,693,046
Tax Rate-Rural Additional		3.38893	3.17085	3.29022
Rural Total		9.14918	8.48448	9.66069
Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed		Current Year Certified Property Tax FY 2025/2026	Budget Year Proposed Tax FY 2026/2027	Percent Change
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$100,000/\$110,000				
Urban Taxpayer		273	312	14.29
Rural Taxpayer		434	473	8.99
Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed		Current Year Certified Property Tax FY 2025/2026	Budget Year Proposed Tax FY 2026/2027	Percent Change
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$300,000/\$330,000				
Urban Taxpayer		1,188	1,458	22.73
Rural Taxpayer		1,886	2,210	17.18

Note: Actual/Assessed Valuation is multiplied by a Rollback Percentage to get to the Taxable Valuation to calculate Property Taxes. Residential and Commercial properties have the same Rollback Percentage at \$150,000 Actual/Assessed Valuation. The Proposed Property taxes assume a 10% increase in property values for the year as a comparison to the current year.
Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current:
Increased expenses for continuation of county services to the public, with the largest increases in the areas of health, liability and property insurance, increase in replacement of ambulance.

We are bringing back the Granny Hobbies!

Looking to learn a new fun and practical skill?

Want to give a handmade gift from the heart?

Want to meet friends, new & old, while

exploring new hobbies?!

WE HAVE OPTIONS!

Come join us for classes and open sew days!

~ MARCH ~

21st • Open Sew Day, 9am to 3pm, Space for 6

28th • Beginning Crochet, 1pm to 3pm *CLASS FULL*

~ APRIL ~

4th • Beginning Quilting (Table Runner), 9am to 3pm, Space for 6

11th • Crochet, Confident Beginner Friendly, (Throw size 'Emmy Blanket')

Space for 10

18th • Beginning Hand Embroidery, 1pm to 4pm, Space for 10

25th • Open Sew Day, 9am to 3pm, Space for 6

~ MAY ~

2nd • Needle Felting, 1pm to 4pm, Space for 10

9th • "Mommy & Me" Crochet, Flower Bookmarks, Beginner Friendly,

Make & Take Class, 9am to 12pm

Class sizes are limited, if one (or more!) sounds like your thing, give us a call for details and to reserve your spot!

Wondering what an "open sew day" is? Bring a project you are working on, finish up those UFOs, or start a new quilt! We have space for 6 machines.

Have quilt friends you want to sew with, but don't have a lot of room? Think of our space as a mini retreat! If weekends don't work for you, weekdays can be scheduled as well. The cost is \$10/day per person.

Check Facebook for additional details!

Long arm quilting service available to finish your projects!

Please call for details

As the shop continues to grow, we are adding more fabric, patterns, and notions!

Loose Ends Quilting

& GIFTS

511 W. Main, Sac City

Open Tue. - Fri. 11am-5pm

Sat. 9am-3pm

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