

ORANGE FACTS

Our goal is to have the regulation requiring hunters to wear an orange hat in the spring changed. We would like to see the use of orange in the spring voluntary rather than mandatory .

FACT: Nation-wide spring turkey hunting incident rates were 8.1 in the early 1990's to a low of less than 3 incidents per 100,000 participants today.

FACT: Nationwide there is NO ORANGE REQUIREMENT during spring turkey hunting season except for Pennsylvania. In most of the other states their shooting incidents are lower than Pennsylvania.

FACT: Spring incident rates in New York (180,000 turkey hunters) averaged 3.5 per 100,000 participants between 1993 and 2003. Here in Pennsylvania the average for those years was 4.6. Orange is not required in New York.

FACT: Spring incident rates in other major turkey hunting states remain fairly low without the use of mandatory orange. Rates in Missouri (125K spring hunters) averaged 4.67 per 100,000 hunters between 1995 and 2006. In Wisconsin (168,000 spring hunters) the average incident rate was 2.75 between 1993 and 2003. Michigan's average rate of incidents (98,300 hunters) was 1.0 between 1993 and 2003. In West Virginia where there are 140,000 spring hunters, the average incident rate was 1.2 between 2003 and 2005.

FACT: Hunter acceptance and compliance is a major consideration. Generally, turkey hunters resist using hunter orange clothing.

FACT: Hunters must always assume full responsibility to clearly identify their target. Even if all hunters complied with hunter orange regulations, there would still be many people in turkey hunting areas that don't wear it.

FACT: A combination of public awareness, turkey hunting information, training, and education strategies have been implemented since the 1992 task force, leading to a nationwide drop in the injury-incident rate by nearly half.

FACT: Scientific field research shows that the use of fluorescent orange clothing reduces a hunter's chances of harvesting a turkey by a factor of two to three times.

FACT: Spring incident rates in Pennsylvania have changed very little since the introduction of mandatory use of fluorescent orange in 1992 while other states have seen a significant decrease in incident rates without the use of orange.

FACT: Orange is too closely related to red in the color spectrum and can be mistaken for the red of a gobblers head.

Recommendation: We believe that education and increased awareness are the keys to reducing spring gobbler hunting incident rates. The PA Chapter will support the PA Game Commission by providing information needed for Turkey Hunter Safety that can be used at the Hunter Education courses. If a turkey hunting license was initiated, NWTF would provide a safety pamphlet to all hunters buying the license. We are dedicated to outreach on this issue through the media, advertising and magazine articles stressing safety prior to every turkey hunting season. In addition, the Game Commission has purchased copies of an interactive cd/dvd developed by the NWTF Turkey Hunter Safety Task Force for use in Hunter Education classes.

Email your comments to the PGC Commissioner at: PGCCOMMENTS@state.pa.us

ATTENTION TURKEY HUNTERS

It's time to change the regulations regarding the use of orange in the spring turkey season!

The current orange requirements have been in effect for 15 years and there is NO indication that they have reduced safety incidents.

Pennsylvania is the only state with orange requirements for spring turkey hunting and while the number of incidents nationwide has reduced, Pennsylvania's rate has seen little change.

READ THE FACTS!

Then write or e-mail the Pennsylvania Game Commissioners and tell them that you want orange to be **VOLUNTARY** not mandatory.

PA Game Commissioners

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Or write your Commissioner at:

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TURKEY HUNTER SAFETY EDUCATION IS THE ANSWER