

VFC2023-0001 - Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife Turkey Project
AU2024-1023-012 - Samantha Nicoloro
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Burlington, VT

Samantha Nicoloro [00:00:00] My name's Sam Nicoloro. I was here two seconds ago. That same guy who took me turkey hunting, Rich, my family friend. He also raised turkeys for Thanksgiving every year. And my dad called me and said, "you have to go down to the gun club. They're processing turkeys." And I thought, "oh, somebody shot a turkey and needs help breaking it down." And I enjoyed doing that. So I was like, "oh I'll go help people out." And then I show up and it's a dog kennel full of alive turkeys, and I was, like, "Oh no! This is a whole different activity." And the guy who raised them and the guy who took me turkey hunting said, "Sam, I need you to slaughter these for me." And I said, "excuse me, I'm 15 years old and these are your birds. And you've probably killed like 100 turkeys in your life. Like I don't see what the problem is." And he says, "well, Sam these are my birds. I raised these from chicks, so I need to do it." And so I spent a grueling afternoon slaughtering and processing turkeys. And I had a whole thought process about it of like, "is this so different from hunting turkeys?" I had a whole ethical crisis. And it was a really great experience to get to see sort of both ways of it, of the grocery store turkeys that we don't really think about, and the wild turkeys that we cherish and that we wanna protect. So it was just nice seeing both sides.