



HUNTERS SHARING THE HARVEST

PENNSYLVANIA'S VENISON DONATION PROGRAM

6780 Hickory Lane
Harrisburg, PA 17112
1-866-HSH-2141

To: HSH County Coordinators

Re: Hunters Sharing the Harvest Program Update – 2015 Hunting Season

From: John Plowman, Executive Director

Thanks to your help and hunter generosity, our certified deer processors produced 97,000 pounds of venison during last season! Let's keep up the exceptional work and get the word out that donating a deer to HSH helps feed the hungry!

Effective again for this season

- 1 No \$15.00 co-pay is required for a hunter to donate a deer to the HSH program.
- 2 HSH deer processors are registered and inspected and paid in full at the agreed-to rate
- 3 Food banks will take every pound of venison we can distribute to them. They are desperate for red meat
- 4 2016 is the 25th Anniversary of Hunters Sharing the Harvest! Help us have the best season ever!

Final reports filed by the 100 or so butchers participating in our Hunters Sharing the Harvest Program (HSH) nearly achieved its annual goal, despite a significant drop in the statewide deer harvest* (*according to the PGC*). Hunters donated 2,400 deer last season, resulting in 97,000 pounds of ground venison for distribution to food banks and pantries. HSH's yearly goal is to channel 100,000 pounds of venison to the needy through community-based food programs. The HSH program team has again accepted the challenge to expand our outreach to all 67 counties in the Commonwealth. It is our belief that the elimination of the \$15 co-pay has provided the additional incentive for hunters to donate their extra deer into the system. Those extra donations will keep our current deer processors busy throughout the season. **We need your help to find more processors who want to participate in the HSH program.**

AS A COUNTY COORDINATOR FOR THE HSH PROGRAM YOU ARE THE FACE OF HSH in your local communities. We ask that you spread the word about how and where to donate a deer, to actively work at coordinating the distribution of bagged and processed venison to the food banks and soup kitchens in your area, and by seeking out and signing up as many additional deer/meat processors as possible for the 2015-16 seasons.

Current list of Deer Processors can be found on the website under the Meat Processors tab (<http://www.sharedeer.org/meat-processors/>) Processors as listed have already been contacted and are being signed up for the current season. If they are new or you haven't visited them since last season, please stop by and introduce yourself, leave a card and offer your assistance. We have enclosed a "billboard" style business card for you to hand out. Write your name and phone number on the card as a personalized reminder to keep in touch with you when processors or food banks have questions about the HSH program. Ask the butcher to display our handouts and program information especially the new flyer of HOW TO DONATE A DEER. It was a huge success last season and a copy is enclosed for you handout. Go to local organizations and ask for their memberships to get the word out about our program. If you need additional copies for handouts, go to a print shop to make handouts and send the invoice to HSH with a copy of the printed piece.

2015 Deer Processor Agreement form – These are revised from last year. We can't stress the importance of this form. It must be completed, signed and returned to us prior to any processor receiving reimbursement for HSH processed venison. Once his/her agreement is approved, HSH sends out the necessary supplies for the program. **Please read carefully as there have been changes made to the forms.** Detailed instructions are included in the letter. SUPPLIES include HSH Meat Bags - Supplies are available in 2 lbs. and 5 lbs. sizes. If requested we will provide them for our participating processors at no charge due to the generous sponsorship by **The PA Friends of the NRA.**

Butcher Shop Banners & HSH Orange Tee shirts are now available - We have a supply of HSH orange banners in stock that should be given to new participating processors. We recently ordered a new supply of blaze orange tee shirts for you. Please contact us and let us know your size and what is needed to help you secure new processors in your area.



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NOTE!!!! Each coordinator who brings a new processor to the program will receive an official HSH collared shirt with embroidered logo in full color and a Deer Weight Tape.

Registration and Inspections for Deer Processors - Since 2012, otherwise unregistered deer processors need to be inspected by the PA Dept. of Agriculture only if involved with accepting deer to be donated to public food banks. This requirement is waived if the deer processor is currently licensed by the PA Dept. of Agriculture for other retail or wholesale food or meat facility registrations. The registration is only \$35.00 and payable to the PA Dept. of Agriculture, NOT Hunters Sharing the Harvest.

Because of our partnership with PA Dept. of Agriculture and the integrity of our program, this new scaled-down inspection requirement was developed specifically for HSH, for the convenience of our processors. By working with the PDA, our intent is to minimize the inconvenience to our valued processors, make registrations as easy as possible while ensuring uniform food safety criteria and quality control in our future venison donations. Please spread the word that the integrity of the HSH venison charitable donation program is our highest priority. Our goal with this state-required change will yield long term positive benefits for the participating processor, as well as for the individual consumers receiving food assistance. We ask that you and the processors contact the PDA regional office listed on the PDA Processors Application letter www.EatSafePA.com – click on PROGRAMS, scroll to bottom; click WHOLESALE FOOD PROCESSING, MANUFACTURING AND DISTRIBUTION; go to FORMS and click on the link for DEER PROCESSORS – HSH APPLICATION or to the HSH website link http://www.sharedeer.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/HSH_2015_ProcessorKit.pdf

The HSH website has everything you need to know about the HSH program. Easy to navigate with new features including interactive maps that show the location and contact information for processors, coordinators and food banks participating with our program. It is our hope that it will serve as your central **RESOURCE** when requesting materials, downloading forms for deer processors registration, as well as for HSH handouts and donation information. News and event listings will also be updated regularly on the website's home page. Please send us news items and events from your area by email to us. We need to tell others about the success of the season.

The HSH website is your RESOURCE for all things Hunters Sharing the Harvest. www.sharedeer.org

- Meat Processor Registration Packet –explains the program, reimbursement and inspection by PDA
- 2015 Participating Processor Agreement
- HSH Self Inspection Checklist
- PA Dept. of Agriculture Bureau of Food Safety Application & list of Regions by county
- Handouts: How to Donate a Deer to HSH; Seeking Participating Deer Processors & 10 Reasons to become an HSH Deer Processor; 2014 end of season report
- Sponsorship and Donation opportunities for those interested in your area.

Deer Weight Tape

Deer donors will receive a thank you letter and the collectible window decal from Bass Pro Shops, plus the new version of the S.P.O.R.T. weather-proof deer weight estimating tape. This is an excellent tool to have afield for any hunter when trying to report their deer. It is available while supplies last thanks to the partnership with Cabela's Outfitters, the Marcellus Shale Coalition and the PA Game Commission.

25th Anniversary

Next year HSH celebrates its 25th season and is hoping to break the annual goal of 100,000 pounds of donated venison. However, we are just shy 17,000 pounds of reaching an all-time record of 1,000,000 pounds donated and distributed since 2004! **Together we can reach that goal before the end of the year!!!!** Thanks for all your personal time, talent and efforts in promoting HSH in your area. Check back often to the lists on the website as they are updated frequently.

John Plowman, Executive Director

Phone: 717-545-1188 or cell 717-512-8534



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PENNSYLVANIA'S VENISON DONATION PROGRAM

Did you know there are now 1.8 million families in Pennsylvania in need of food assistance? Many of these families access the resources of local food banks to help put food on the table for themselves and their children. When you donate an average-size deer, plus a small tax deductible deposit, you help us feed up to 200 people. Your generous donation of money will go directly to the costs of processing and storing the meat. Every \$25 donated helps us to process meat for 100 meals. In the 2014 season, HSH coordinated the delivery of 97,000 pounds of high protein meat to hungry people.

Since 1991 the Hunter's Sharing the Harvest venison donation program, (HSH) has coordinated the processing and distribution of donated wild game from hunters to hungry people throughout Pennsylvania. This sportsmen-inspired outreach program effectively channels wholesome venison via a network of approved deer processors and food banks down to local charitable organizations in our urban and rural communities. HSH has evolved as a respected partner with deer management practices throughout the Commonwealth, and together with the PA food banks, food pantries and charitable hunger-relief organizations that play a critical role in filling the gaps for families and individuals at risk of hunger; we are able to put food on their tables.

The HSH program is a registered 501c3 non-profit charity, with funding and support primarily derived from a mix of public and private sources. It has developed into the preferred nationally-recognized model many other states have now replicated. From its inception, HSH was founded as the signature mechanism for Pennsylvania hunters to demonstrate their personal and compassionate decision for helping

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GET INVOLVED

...and help HSH feed the hungry in Pennsylvania!

Monetary Donations

GIVE A BUCK FOR THE POT! You can directly support HSH by participating with our Buck for the Pot campaign. Monetary donations go directly to the costs of processing and storing the meat. For every \$25 donated, 100 meals can be served to the hungry. Memorial contributions are also an appropriate gift as a way to express personal sentiments while helping to fight hunger.

Deer Donations

Donate a whole deer or portion of a deer to one of our participating processors in your county/area. There is no longer a fee or co-pay for dropping off a deer and donating the meat.

HSH may occasionally accept elk, moose and caribou meat if handled by a licensed meat processor; please call HSH toll-free 1-866-474-2141 to verify eligibility and for more details.

Volunteer

County Coordinators may be needed in your county. Visit our online list to see if one is needed in your area.

Sponsor

HSH offers three levels of Corporate/Foundation Sponsorships and four levels of Individual, Club and Business Sponsorships in the HSH program.

*Monetary donations are tax deductible.

low-income individuals and families with extra venison. Many wildlife management units in Pennsylvania offer multiple deer tags, longer seasons and special hunting opportunities that result in extra deer being donated to our program.

Based on this unique concept of sharing, the program's success is due to the cooperation of our processors, our volunteer county coordinators, our board of directors, state legislators, state and local agencies, in concert with our colleagues from a dedicated outdoor news media. All these components work together with a common mission to maximize the best-utilization of a valuable wildlife resource to help others needing food assistance.

HSB remains the most effective social-service program for hunters and wildlife managers to directly make a difference for those in need. More than 1.8 million Pennsylvanians are classified as living beneath the lowest-income poverty level, and as the recent economic downturn escalates, the need and requests for food assistance continues to grow.

In an average hunting season, the HSB program's goal is to channel about 100,000 pounds of processed venison through the state's 20 regional food banks who then redistribute to more than 5,000 local provider charities such as food pantries, missions, homeless shelters, and churches as well as individual families.

Thank you for your help, your understanding and your support as we work toward achieving our mission of delivering wholesome, high protein meat to those in need.

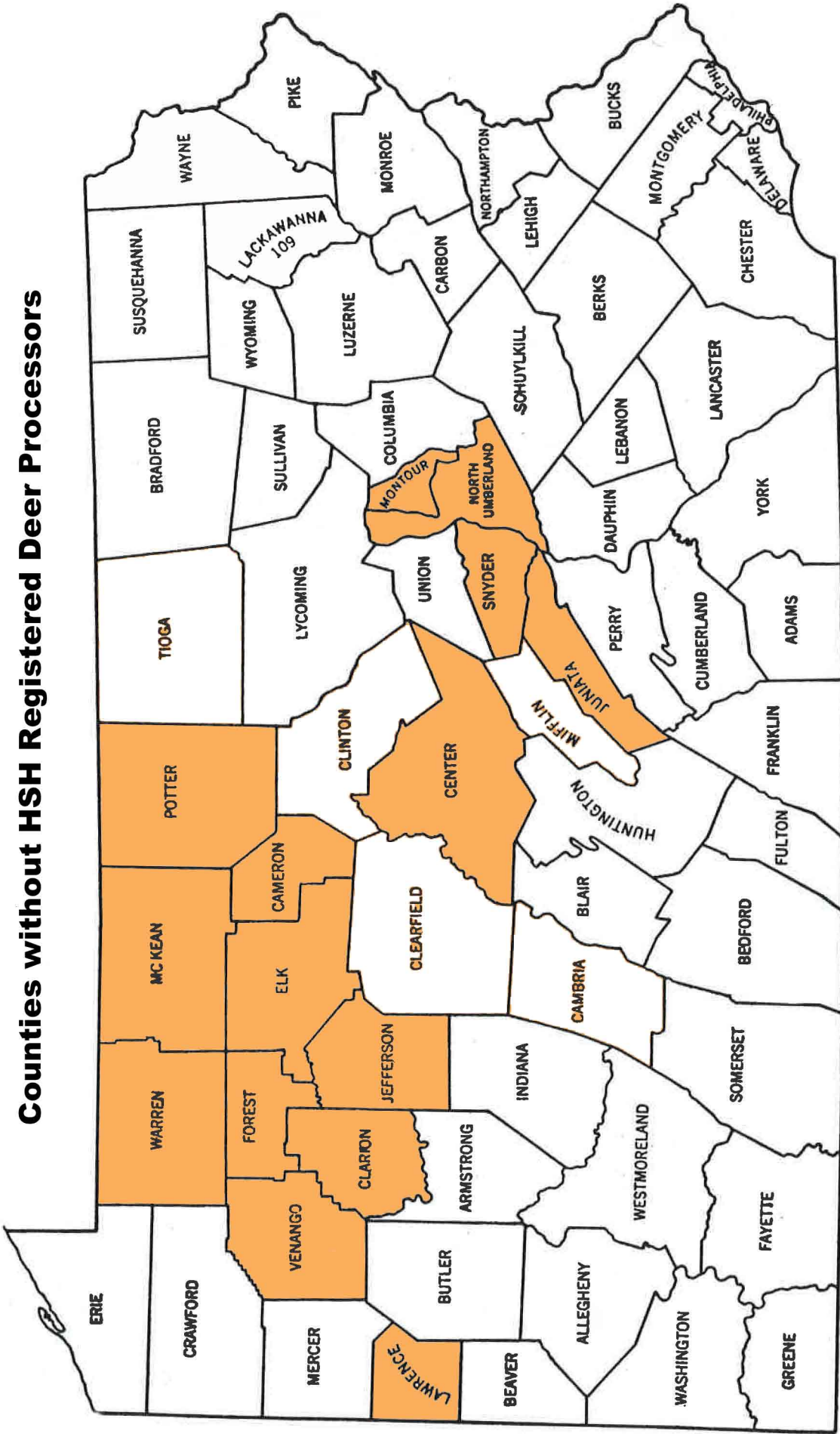


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Counties without HSH Registered Deer Processors



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2015 SEASON PARTICIPATING PROCESSOR AGREEMENT

Please check and complete all that apply and return ASAP. **Highlighted areas are IMPORTANT!:**

_____ **I/we are inspected or licensed. If yes, please attach a copy of certificates.**

As of 2012 HSH participating deer processors handling venison for public food assistance charities must be inspected and certified with a specific deer processor registration. **Note: This requirement is waived if your business is already registered by another county health department or the state Agricultural Licensing Departments.** (Examples include Retail Food Facility registration; Meat or Food Establishment registration; Wholesale registration; Eating & Drinking Establishment License, etc.) We want to thank our dedicated processors in advance for their patience and cooperation while we work to bring uniform food safety criteria and quality control to all of our venison donations.

For information on the necessary inspection and registration program specific to HSH, please contact the PA Dept. of Agriculture Bureau of Food Safety @ 717-787-4315/www.EatSafePA.com or the HSH office at the toll free number listed above.

_____ **I/we do have adequate cold storage facilities.** See the Self Inspection Checklist for further details.

_____ **I/we agree to have each hunter who donates a whole deer fill out a Deer Donor receipt to be completed for EACH donated deer and provide them with a copy of the receipt.**

THIS FORM MUST BE LEGIBLE AS WE NEED TO TRACK THE LOCATION OF THE DEER FOR FOOD SAFETY.
If processing is for a DMAP Deer, PA Game Commission, Mistake-Killed deer or other categories, please check the box on the receipt so HSH can process accordingly.

Our rate will be \$ _____ to process a whole deer into 2 lb. or 5 lb. packages of ground meat.

Business Name _____

Checks Payable to (must match the SSN or the Tax ID number) _____

Business Tax ID# (EIN or SSN) _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Signed _____ Printed _____

Return signed agreement to:

John Plowman, Executive Director
6780 Hickory Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17112
Telephone: 717-545-1188
Email: jwp@sharedeer.org

Deadline for submitting the agreement to HSH is October 15, 2015

NO REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS CAN BE PAID UNTIL A SIGNED AGREEMENT IS RECEIVED AND APPROVED.

Request for materials:

_____ I need HSH Brochures/Literature _____ Donor Receipts _____ Reimbursement Forms

_____ I need HSH Meat Bags: List quantity needed: 2 lb. _____ / 5 lb. _____

HOW TO DONATE A DEER

Effective this 2014 season, HSH is proud to announce the elimination of the \$15 co-pay requested from hunters in the past when donating a deer to the program. Hunters can now drop off a whole deer at one of our participating processors found closest to where you live or hunt. Hunters may also donate any portion of a deer. Simply let the deer processor know to set aside a specified amount reserved for the HSH program.

Simply follow these steps to donate a deer:

Enjoy A Safe and Successful Hunt



**Carefully Field-Dress, Legally-Tag
and Report Your Deer Harvest**



**Take the Whole Deer to Any HSH
Processor Near Where You Hunt or Live**



**Complete the HSH Donor Receipt
Form Verifying Your Donation**



**Know You Just Helped Feed
the Hungry in Pennsylvania**



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HSH is a 501C3 charitable organization and your contribution is tax deductible. The official registration and financial information of Hunters Sharing the Harvest may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



BAG A BUCK TO FIGHT HUNGER!

*When you **donate an average-size deer**
you help us **feed up to 200 people.***

Each season Hunters Sharing the Harvest donates an average 100,000 pounds of venison to more than 4,000 food banks, soup kitchens, and mission outreach centers statewide. Families and individuals access the food banks to help put food on the table for themselves and their children.

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