



HUNTERS SHARING THE HARVEST

PENNSYLVANIA'S VENISON DONATION PROGRAM

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

HSH IS SEEKING PARTICIPATING MEAT PROCESSORS

Since 1991, Pennsylvania's Hunters Sharing the Harvest program (HSH) has channeled hunters' donations of venison to local food banks, soup kitchens and needy families, via a network of local contacts, area food banks and cooperating meat processors across the state. These donations have literally provided hundreds of thousands of meals to needy Pennsylvanians. Last season alone, HSH delivered 97,000 pounds of venison to food banks and charitable organizations to help feed the hungry.

HSH connects the efforts of sportsmen and women, conservation groups, Federal and state agencies, businesses and charitable organizations into an effective deer management concept that benefits low-income people receiving food assistance.

Because of ongoing efforts to expand the program, we're seeking additional participating butchers in all counties of PA. This statewide venison donation program's growing popularity and expanded hunter participation has generated an immediate need for many more qualified PA Dept. of Agriculture registered processors, specifically those who have access to refrigerated storage facilities. The inspection process has been designed specifically for our participating processors in an effort to minimize the inconvenience, while ensuring the uniform food safety criteria and quality control in our venison donations. Note that this inspection requirement is waived if your business is already registered by other county health dept. or state agriculture dept. licenses. For example: a retail food facility, a meat or food establishment registration, a wholesale food registration, and an eating and drinking establishment registration.

Please understand that the integrity of the HSH venison charitable donation program is the highest priority. Our main goal with this state-required inspection will yield long-term positive benefits for you as an HSH Processor, as well as for the individual consumers receiving food assistance.

This unique concept provides for HSH to partner with the hunter/donor to cover the butcher's established costs as agreed to for processing deer and then donated to local food banks. Participating deer/meat processors are contacted annually and receive complete instructions, promotional material and an official HSH banner to display denoting involvement with the program. Reimbursement of processor's invoices are payable promptly with complete satisfaction upon receipt.

For more information and to join the program, you can visit the HSH website at www.sharedeer.org or contact John Plowman 717-545-1188. Toll free at 1-866-474-2141. HSH is a respected hunter-supported community service program, but more important it helps feed the hungry people of Pennsylvania.

Thank you for all you can do, and remember...

Don't pass the buck, give it to us!



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10 REASONS TO BECOME A PARTICIPATING HSH MEAT PROCESSOR

- 1. Network** - The HSH program currently operates with an average of 120 deer processors statewide; cooperates with 20 regional food banks servicing all 67 counties; and channels donated meat to over 4000 local food assistance providers. County Coordinators are listed on the website and available to answer questions and coordinate the distribution of the processed meat. Go to <http://www.sharedeer.org/area-coordinators/> for the list.
- 2. Program Participation** - HSH contracts with meat processors each year to agree on fees and procedures with every attempt to make it as EASY as possible to process HSH donated deer and keep paperwork and hassles to a minimum. Meat processors are asked to contact John Plowman, HSH Executive Director or your local county Coordinator if you have concerns or questions. Forms, meat bags, donor receipts, banners and more are available upon registration with HSH. Our goal is 100% accessibility and a positive partnership.
- 3. Donor Receipts** - HSH Deer Processors are no longer required to collect the \$15 deposit (co-pay) from the donating hunter. Effective this season, Participating Processors will be paid in full at the "agreed-to" rate times the pounds processed as reported on the HSH Processor Reimbursement Form. However, for donor acknowledgement, food safety and tracking purposes each hunter/donor is still required to fill out a Donor Receipt for EACH whole deer or partial deer donated.
- 4. Rates** - HSH pays the meat processor an agreed to rate per deer quoted "rate per deer" as per the signed agreement.
- 5. Other Rates** - Some meat processors prepare/process donated deer at a discount or at no charge as a personal donation to the program. We thank you for your contribution and your commitment to helping us feed the hungry.
- 6. Processor Reimbursement** - Our goal is to pay the total processing bill when and as submitted, preferably after the season and no later than March 31st of the current season. Invoice forms must be completed in full with donor receipt copies for each deer, list of number of whole donated deer, type of donation and pounds yielded-only method, in order to determine statewide season totals.
- 7. Product** - All HSH venison is ground into burger and packed in 2 lb. or 5 lb. bags supplied by HSH. These filled bags are to be kept frozen until the processor/area coordinator arranges for pick up by the food bank.
- 8. Liability Limitation** - HSH butchers, the donor and the food banks are included in the PA Donated Wildlife Food Limited Liability Act protective statutes. Additional requirement of registration and inspection by the PA Dept. of Agriculture ensures the donated venison delivered to the food banks is safe. Our intent remains to minimize the invoice to our valued processors while ensuring uniform food safety criteria and quality control in all of our venison donations.
- 9. PA Dept. of Agriculture Registration & Inspection** - HSH is partnering with the PA State Agriculture Dept. - at their request and based on existing regulations - to support modified butcher shop sanitation inspections for those processors involved with handling our donated deer for the food banks. The registration application and inspection has been developed specifically for HSH. This inspection is a scaled back version from what other butchers need if they have retail meat sales, handle beef, pork, etc. or are currently otherwise USDA inspected. Those deer processors NOT participating with food bank deer don't need to get the inspection. The HSH program fully supports all actions to provide quality assurance and the safety of our donated meat. Until PDA Inspections & registrations occur a self checklist is provided for all participating processors for the season.
- 10. Meat Sources** - HSH does not accept road-kill deer. Sources of donated deer entering the HSH system include: individual licensed hunters including those using DMAP tags; Game Commission mistake kills and other USDA-APHIS/US Fish & Wildlife Service/National Park Service/Municipal government control operation and licensed game preserves. We can also accept Buffalo/Bison, Moose, Elk and Caribou meat if special arrangements are made in advance. In these cases the donor must cover the processing fees. We cannot accept Bear meat donations

For more information about how to join the program, call toll-free 1-866-474-2141, visit our website www.sharedeer.org or contact John Plowman, Executive Director 717-545-1188. This is a respected hunter- supported community service program, but more important it helps feed the hungry of Pennsylvania.



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