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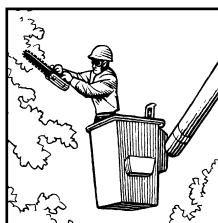
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Consider Helping Others in Need Right Now Through Your Hunting Efforts

"I like making them (person #1)! I like eating them (person #2)!" If you're under 45, you probably won't get this reference because it was the tag line from a series of 1979 TV commercials for Ortega taco shells. At the time, Ortega was at the forefront of introducing Mexican cuisine into American diets. I have to admit their advertising worked because tacos have been a regular menu item in our family ever since and it's just one recipe we typically use ground deer meat for. Well, the other day while I was enjoying a delicious homemade meatball sandwich, made with fresh ground venison from my 2020 buck, a slightly different version of that old TV commercial catch phrase came to my mind as I started thinking about deer. It went something like this: "I really like hunting them, but I also really enjoy eating them!" The truth is venison is a high-quality protein source with low fat content and you just can't get more organic, nutritious red meat than what comes directly from the forests, fields, and woodlots of Penn's Woods.

As we rapidly approach the conclusion of the 2020 regular firearms deer season on Sat., Dec. 12, 2020, I want to personally congratulate you if you were successful in filling your 2020 buck tag and/or antlerless tag(s) during either early archery season, early muzzle-loader season, or the regular firearms season. With over 850,000 licensed hunters in PA, statistics show that on an annual basis approximately 1 in 7 harvest an antlered deer and somewhat surprisingly, only 1 in 4 antlerless deer tags get filled. Now, if you weren't successful up to this point, or if you were and still have one or more unfilled tags, I want to highly encourage you; no, I want to even more strongly implore you to keep deer hunting on these last two days of the regular firearms season and on into late archery and flintlock seasons after Christmas. Why you might ask shouldn't I put my bow, crossbow, or rifle away for the year and stay indoors out of the cold Winter weather? Because Pennsylvania needs you with your hunting prowess to step up during these difficult times to help feed our neighbors who may be food insecure and potentially going hungry.

Back on Nov. 10, 2020, PA Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding put out a press release appealing to PA hunters to participate in Hunters Sharing the Harvest (HSH). This voluntary program has been in existence since 1991 and enables hunters to donate all or a portion of their harvested deer by

taking them to over 100 participating processors across the Commonwealth. Last year, hunters donated a record 160,000+ lbs. of nourishing venison through HSH that resulted in 822,000 meals for Pennsylvanians in need. (On average, one deer = 200 meals.) And that need continues to grow. Sobering reports from 2018 document 1.4 million PA residents, nearly 11% of our state's population, were food insecure and didn't always know where their next meal was coming from. Tragically, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that number has increased 41% to a staggering 2 million PA residents, approximately 16% of our fellow citizens or roughly 1 in 6 of our neighbors are in need. Alarming, amongst the 2 million food insecure PA residents are 631,000 children. That's right, children. Which is an increase of over 57% from 2018.

Most hunters view their time afield as a recreational pursuit and not something they absolutely have to do to put meat on the table. I hope you take this call to action to heart and use your hunting prowess in the remaining 2020-21 deer seasons to help put food on the table for our needy neighbors. Hunters Sharing the Harvest is a registered non-profit 501c3 organization run by a dedicated team of volunteers. Their informative website is ShareDeer.org and provides all the details you need to know including all 100+ participating deer processors spread across the Commonwealth. One of our long-term Weekly Bargain Bulletin advertisers, Doug Peffer's Deer Processing and Smoke House, on PA-65 just south of Ellwood City, is listed on the HSH website as a participating processor for both Lawrence and Beaver Counties, since their physical location is very close to the county line. (They can be reached at (724) 758-4976.) There is one additional HSH deer processor in Beaver County, 2 in Mercer County, 5 in Butler County; and probably one close to where you hunt or where your camp is located in any of PA's other 63 counties.

Whether you hunt or not, if you're a compassionate individual, business, or corporation, you're always welcome to make a monetary donation of any amount to Hunters Sharing the Harvest to help pay the butchers who process the donated venison. More details on how to "Give a Buck to the Pot" can be found on HSH's website or on Page 65 of the PA 2020-21 Hunting & Trapping Digest. Please consider blessing others by filling your remaining deer tags and donating them! **God Bless, Be Safe, and Great Outdoors! ©WBB 2020**

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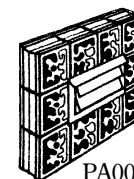
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