



## HUNTERS SHARING THE HARVEST

PENNSYLVANIA'S VENISON DONATION PROGRAM

218 Vernon Road,  
Greenville, PA 16125  
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 soup kitchens and needy families, via a network of local contacts, area food banks and cooperating meat processors across the state. These donations have provided over 2.3 million servings to needy Pennsylvanians. HSH distributed a record-breaking 235,532 pounds of venison to food banks and charitable organizations to help feed the hungry during our 2022-23 season, and over 2 million pounds since the program started 30 years ago!

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 the food-insecure in Pennsylvania.

Because of ongoing efforts to expand the program, we're seeking additional participating butchers in all PA counties. 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 and inspected butchers, 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 donating to local food banks. Participating processors are contacted annually and receive complete instructions, promotional material and an official HSH banner to display advertising 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](http://www.sharedeer.org) or contact Randy Ferguson 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!*

[sharedeer.org](http://sharedeer.org)



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### 10 REASONS TO BECOME A PARTICIPATING HSH MEAT PROCESSOR

- 1. Network** - The HSH program currently operates with an average of 100 deer processors statewide with representations in all 67 counties and channels donated venison to where it is needed most through a network of food assistance providers. Our volunteer county coordinators are listed on the website and available to answer questions and coordinate the distribution of the processed meat. Go to [www.sharedeer.org/area-coordinators/](http://www.sharedeer.org/area-coordinators/) for the list.
- 2. Program Participation** - HSH contracts with our 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 Randy Ferguson, HSH Executive Director or your local county coordinator if you have concerns or questions. HSH 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** - **THERE IS NO FEE/DEPOSIT TO DONATE A DEER TO HSH.** However, for donor acknowledgment, 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. Participating Processors will be paid in full at the "agreed-to" rate as reported on the HSH Processor Reimbursement Form.
- 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 help 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 April 30th of the current season. Reimbursement 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 and name and address of food bank receiving the processed venison.
- 7. Product** - All HSH venison is ground into burger and packed in 1 lb., 2 lb. or 5 lb. bags supplied by HSH, courtesy of the Friends of the NRA Foundation. These filled bags are to be kept frozen until the processor/area coordinator arranges for pick up or distribution to 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. The 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 hassle 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 to ensure compliance and food safety procedures.
- 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](http://www.sharedeer.org) or contact Randy Ferguson, Executive Director at [randy@sharedeer.org](mailto:randy@sharedeer.org). This is a respected hunter- supported community service program, but more importantly, it helps feed the hungry of Pennsylvania.



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