

Hunters Sharing the Harvest

The Monday after Thanksgiving is not only the beginning of the deer season for many Pennsylvanian hunters, but also a time for giving. As it has been doing since 1991, Hunters Sharing the Harvest (HSH) encourages and appeals to hunters to donate venison in an effort to end hunger. The program is operated by Pennsylvanians for the Responsible Use of Animals (PRUA) in cooperation with the PA Game Commission and the PA Department of Agriculture.

Hunters have two options: they can donate a whole deer and pay the \$15 minimum up to the full cost of processing (at one of the more than 50 participating processors), or pay the full cost of processing and donate only a portion of the deer. The donated venison is then given to local food banks and soup kitchens. Last year, approximately 70,000 pounds of venison were donated which provided 200,000 meals for needy Pennsylvanians. The meat from one deer can provide 200 meals.

Hunters and non-hunters alike can also contribute to the cause by donating to "Give a Buck to the Pot" which is used to help underwrite the cost of processing preparation. A \$25 donation can help provide 100 meals. (For more information, visit HSH's website at www.sharedeer.org.)

"So far this season, we've seen a lot of participation. However, our meat processors are telling us that they haven't had as many donations at this point in the year as they had in the past," explained Ken Brandt, statewide coordinator for HSH. "We are still hopeful, though, that we will achieve our annual goal of 70,000 pounds in the extended season."