FACT SHEET #17

# WILD GAME FOODBANK DONATION PROGRAM

## Alberta Hunters Sharing the Harvest

1. In the Alberta tradition of caring for those less fortunate, the Alberta Hunters Who Care Wild Game Foodbank Program was established in 1996 to provide quality, high-protein food to people in need. The program is administered by the Alberta Hunters Sharing the Harvest Association, with funding assistance from the Alberta Conservation Association, and the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society — Legacy Fund & Safari Club International Alberta Chapter.

2. Hunters are encouraged to participate in the program by sharing their legally taken harvest of whitetail, mule deer, elk, pronghorn, or moose. The program provides meat to the Edmonton and Calgary Foodbanks, which distribute it to those in need.

3. Over 310,000 pounds of meat have been donated to the Alberta Foodbanks since the program began. The overall goal is to donate 10,000 pounds annually of wild game (elk, pronghorn, moose, or deer).

4. The Alberta Hunters Sharing the Harvest program is run completely by volunteers from Alberta hunting organizations. We work closely with the Alberta Government departments that oversee our program to ensure a safe, high quality food product is available to feed those most in need in Alberta.

5. According to the Edmonton Foodbank, meat is not donated as readily as other items, which creates a shortage of protein for Foodbank recipients. Through the voluntary donations of wild game from caring hunters, this shortfall can be eliminated. Deer, elk, pronghorn, and moose meat are considered to be a high-quality, nutritious source of protein. (See Fact Sheet #15)

6. Certain requirements must be met to participate in this program.
    - Deer, elk, pronghorn, or moose are the only game eligible to be donated.
    - Animals must be field dressed immediately after harvest.
    - If the animal is skinned it must be wrapped in a clean, porous covering during transportation to a meat processing facility.
    - The carcass MUST be transported to a participating meat processing plant within 24 hours of harvest, if the temperature is above 0ºC, and within 72 hours if the temperature is below 0ºC.

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7. To be eligible for this program, deer, elk, pronghorn, and moose must be harvested between October 15 and December 15 of the current year.

8. Hunters can donate halves or quarters of deer, elk, pronghorn,or moose only if the entire carcass is brought in to the participating meat processor.
   - The **Alberta Hunters Sharing the Harvest** program will pay the processors for only the portion of meat that is donated.

9. Harvested animals can be delivered to only the following participating meat processors. Below is the most updated list but it can change year to year. If you have any questions please contact one of the supervisors listed below under **key contacts**.
   1. Sandy View Farms in Spruce Grove Alberta. 780-962-0067
   2. Deerview Meats in Irvine Alberta. 403-527-2221
   3. Ray Bucknell at SAIT, Calgary Alberta. Email him at: Ray.bucknell@sait.ca
   4. Ricks Wildgame in Okotoks Alberta. 403-605-1546

10. Primary financial sponsors of the program are Alberta Chapters of Safari Club International, Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) and Alberta Professional Outfitters Association. (APOS).

# KEY CONTACTS

## Alberta Hunters Sharing the Harvest

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