

Sportsmen Against Hunger Completes 15 Years

Thanks to the generosity of thousands of Illinois deer hunters, over the past 15 years the Illinois Sportsmen Against Hunger program has realized a donation of 571,998 pounds of venison, which equates to an astounding 1.9 million healthy meals for needy Illinois families.

Also playing a significant role in this program are the meat processors who accept white-tailed deer from successful sportsmen and prepare it for distribution to food banks, pantries, kitchens. Last year, nearly 50 meat processors from 39 counties facilitated the program by processing venison into two-pound packages for distribution through 54 venues.



the last 5 years (2004-2008), with donations the last two seasons accounting for an amazing 37 percent of the total.

Why the sudden spike in donations? One reason donations increased in 2007 was the addition of meat processors throughout the state, making it much more convenient for hunters to drop off their deer.

Perhaps the decrease this past season is due in part to the economic downturn and fact that some hunting families are relying more on the game they harvest to feed their own family. Unfortunately, the decrease could not have occurred at a worse time. Also last year, the number of food

banks and pantries asking to be recipients significantly increased.

Tax-deductible donations, revenues from the purchase of annual big buck and more pins and an annual appropriation from the Wildlife and Fish Fund (license/permit revenues) provide the financial support necessary to operate this extraordinary program. For information on the Illinois Sportsmen Against Hunter program, call (217) 785-5091, write the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Sportsmen Against Hunger, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, e-mail tracy.shafer@illinois.gov or visit dnr.state.il.us/legislation/isah.

Marc Miller, Director



In 1994, the first year of the program, administrators were extremely pleased with the donation of 4,800 pounds of venison.

Since then, donations have climbed nearly every year. Sixty-eight percent of donations have, however, occurred in

Number of pounds processed per year

19944,800	200121,600
199510,000	200230,615
199611,000	200335,554
199712,300	200440,837
199815,000	200563,005
199915,700	200672,142
200018,559	2007108,153
	2008104,703

2009 Illinois Sportsmen Against Hunger Meat Processors (year joining program)

- Adams:** Butcher Block, Quincy (2004); Golden Meat Locker, Inc., Golden (2007)
- Clay:** Blair's Slaughtering and Processing, Louisville (1995); Mike's Market, Louisville (1995)
- Clinton:** Behrmann Meat Processing, Albers (2001); Trenton Processing Center, Trenton (1995)
- Crawford:** Stork's Wildgame, Palastine (2001)
- Douglas:** Dutch Valley Meats, Arthur (1995; requires additional \$35 fee)
- Edgar:** The Edgar County Locker, Paris (1997)
- Franklin:** Miles Brothers Deer Processing, West Frankfort (2007)
- Fulton:** Astoria Meat Market, Astoria (1998)
- Greene:** Solo Deer Processing, Kane (2002)
- Hamilton:** Birkner Processing, McLeansboro (2003)
- Hancock:** Weber Meats, Carthage (2008)
- Henry:** Weber Meats, Geneseo (2001); Woodhull Meat Locker, Woodhull (2007)
- Jackson:** Butt n Bucks, Murphysboro (2007); Pearson's Meat Processing, Murphysboro (2004); Shirley Farms, DeSoto (1997); Whitetails Deer Processing, Carbondale (1997)
- Jefferson:** John's Venison Processing, Blueford (1995)
- Johnson:** R&R Processing, Vienna (2005)
- Kane:** John's Elgin Market, South Elgin (2007)
- LaSalle:** Freedom Sausage, Earlville (1995)
- Livingston:** Forrest Meats, Inc, Forrest (1995)
- Macoupin:** Illinois Deer Processing, Carlinville (1997)
- Madison:** Burn's Wild Game Processing, Godfrey (1997); Korte Meat Processing, Highland (2002)
- Marion:** Rick's Garden Spot Meats, Kell (1997)
- McHenry:** Jones Deer Locker, Woodstock (1999); Wayne's Market, Marengo (1995)
- McLean:** Gridley Meats, Inc., Gridley (1999)
- Morgan:** Jones Meat & Locker, Jacksonville (1995)
- Ogle:** Headon & Son's, Creston (2003)
- Peoria:** Raber Packing Co., Peoria (1995)
- Pike:** Valley View Custom Meats, Pleasant Hill (2007)
- Randolph:** Millers' Meat Market, Red Bud (2002); R & M Processing, Ellis Grove (2008)
- Rock Island:** Coal Valley Deer Processing, Coal Valley (1999); Reason's Locker Service, Buffalo Prairie (1995)
- Sangamon:** Magro's Deer Processing, Springfield (2001); Magro's Deer Processing, Auburn (2002); Y-T Packing Co., Springfield (1997)
- Schuyler:** Houser Meats, Rushville (1995)
- Shelby & Christian:** Moweaqua Packing, Moweaqua (2008)
- Stephenson:** Harbach Meats, Freeport (1995)
- Tazewell:** West Meats & BBQ, Washington (1995)
- Vermilion:** Leiding Wild Game, Danville (1997)
- Winnebago:** Eickman's Processing Company, Inc., Seward (1995); Trade Rite Foods, Rockford (1999)
- Whiteside:** Wyant Meats of Sterling, Sterling (1995)