



## ALBERTA HUNTERS SHARING THE HARVEST

IN THE ALBERTA TRADITION OF CARING FOR THOSE LESS FORTUNATE, THE *ALBERTA HUNTER'S WHO CARE* WILD GAME FOOD BANK 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*, *ALBERTA PROFESSIONAL OUTFITTERS SOCIETY-LEGACY FUND* AND THE *SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL*, ALBERTA CHAPTER.

HUNTERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM BY SHARING THEIR HARVEST OF WHITETAIL, MULE DEER, ELK OR MOOSE. THE PROGRAM PROVIDES MEAT TO THE EDMONTON, CALGARY AND *MEDICINE HAT AND DISTRICT FOOD BANK*, WHICH DISTRIBUTE IT TO THOSE IN NEED.

OVER 280,000 LBS. OF MEAT HAVE BEEN DONATED TO ALBERTA FOOD BANKS SINCE THE PROGRAM BEGAN. THE OVERALL GOAL IS TO DONATE 20,000 LBS. ANNUALLY OF WILD GAME (ELK, MOOSE, AND DEER).

*THE HUNTERS WHO CARE* FOODBANK DONATION PROGRAM IS MODELED AFTER SIMILAR PROGRAMS IN TWO OTHER PROVINCES IN CANADA AND IN SEVERAL STATES IN THE USA. VOLUNTEERS, IN COOPERATION WITH THE ALBERTA GOVERNMENT, RUN THE ALBERTA PROGRAM. CURRENTLY THE PROGRAM IS CONDUCTED ONLY IN SELECTED AREAS, AND EXPANSION TO OTHER AREAS IS SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY.

MEAT IS NOT DONATED AS READILY AS OTHER ITEMS, WHICH CREATES A SHORTAGE OF PROTEIN FOR FOOD BANK RECIPIENTS. THROUGH THE VOLUNTARY DONATIONS OF WILD GAME FROM CARING HUNTERS, THIS SHORTFALL CAN BE ELIMINATED. DEER, ELK, AND MOOSE MEAT ARE A HIGH QUALITY AND NUTRITIOUS SOURCE OF PROTEIN.

**CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM.**

- **DEER, ELK, AND MOOSE ARE THE ONLY ELIGIBLE MEAT TO BE DONATED**
- **ANIMALS MUST BE FIELD DRESSED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE HARVEST AND SKINNED. HEAD AND HOVES REMOVED. PROOF OF SEX IS TO BE ATTACHED.**
- **ANY ABNORMAL TISSUES FOUND MUST ALSO BE NOTED AND BROUGHT INTO THE MEAT PROCESSOR FOR EXAMINATION.**
- **THE CARCASS MUST BE TRANSPORTED TO A PARTICIPATING MEAT PROCESSING PLANT WITHIN 24 HOURS OF HARVEST, IF THE TEMPERATURE IS ABOVE 0°C AND WITHIN 72 HOURS IF THE TEMPERATURE IS BELOW 0°C.**

**DEER, ELK, AND MOOSE ARE ONLY ELIGIBLE FOR THIS PROGRAM IF THEY WERE HARVESTED BETWEEN OCTOBER 15 AND JANUARY 31.**

**HUNTERS CAN DONATE HALVES OR QUARTERS OF DEER, ELK, OR MOOSE ONLY IF THE ENTIRE CARCASS IS BROUGHT INTO THE MEAT PROCESSOR. THE ALBERTA HUNTERS SHARING THE HARVEST PROGRAM WILL PAY THE PROCESSORS ONLY FOR THE PORTION OF MEAT THAT IS DONATED.**

**HARVESTED ANIMALS CAN ONLY BE PROCESSED IF BROUGHT TO ONE OF THE PARTICIPATING MEAT PROCESSING FACILITIES. IN THIS AREA THE APPROVED FACILITY IS PREMIUM SAUSAGE. IN SEVEN PERSONS ALBERTA. THE HOURS OF OPERATION FOR PREMIUM SAUSAGE ARE MONDAY-SATURDAY FROM 9AM-6PM AND THEY ARE CLOSED ON SUNDAYS.**

**TO GET A COMPLETE LIST OF PARTICIPATING MEAT PROCESSORS ACROSS ALBERTA PLEASE CALL THE 24-HOUR INFORMATION LINE AT (780)-443-6006.**

**PRIMARY FINANCIAL SPONSORS *HUNTERS SHARING THE HARVEST* PROGRAM ARE ALBERTA CHAPTERS OF *SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL*, *ALBERTA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (ACA)* AND *ALBERTA PROFESSIONAL OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION (APOS)*. OUR LOCAL PARTNERS HELPING WITH THIS PROGRAM ARE:**



Medicine Hat and District Food Bank

403-528-4313 ext 7

Premium Sausage

403-832-2224

Hunters sharing the harvest 24 hr info line

780-443-6006

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