

SOUTH DAKOTA
SPORTSMEN AGAINST HUNGER

ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 2019 – JUNE 2020

BY
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July 1, 2020

Introduction

This annual report covers services performed for South Dakota Sportsmen Against Hunger (SAH) per contract with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) during fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020). Activities and results are described in the following sections pertaining to meat processors, processing certificates, publicity, food relief agencies, fund raising and game meat donations. A closing section on the outlook for fiscal year 2021 includes plans and suggestions for SAH.

Game Meat Processors

A letter was sent to all 39 processors who participated in SAH in Fall 2018 (fiscal year 2018-2019). They were thanked for their participation, given the results of statewide game donations in Fall 2018, informed of how SAH would operate in fiscal year 2019-2020, and asked if they would participate in fiscal year 2019-2020. Five game processors who participated in Fall 2018 said they could not participate in Fall 2019. Five new processors were approved for participation in SAH keeping the total at 39 for Fall 2019 (see attachment). The processors were provided, by mailing or personal visit, a supply of processing certificates and record-keeping forms along with SAH burger bags as needed.

Of the 39 SAH processors, 29 charged a processing fee of \$75 for antlerless deer (value of the SAH processing certificate in fiscal year 2019-2020). The fees otherwise ranged from \$80 to \$115 for antlerless deer and from \$65 to \$125 for buck deer. Twenty-nine of the processors charged \$65 for processing doe/fawn antelope (value of the Processing Certificate). Other fees for processing donated antelope ranged from \$70 to \$110 for doe/fawn antelope and from \$60 to \$125 for buck antelope. The SAH processors and their fees were listed on the SAH website and GFP website map. Hunters could also get this information by calling the SAH hotline telephone number (1-800-456-2758).

To help processors keep a record of donated bucks and out-of-state big game for which hunters paid the full processing fee, a "Game Donation Record" form (see attachment) was provided to processors for each game donor to complete.

Arrangements were made with the SAH processors for delivery of processed meat to a food relief agency. Processors were told they could otherwise contact me when they wanted processed meat to be picked up. As a result, five trips were made to pick up donated meat from processors and deliver it to food relief agencies.

Arrangements were made with SAH processors for salvage processing of big game such as road-kills picked up by GFP, deer confiscated by GFP, deer taken during city deer reduction programs, and elk culled by a National Wildlife Refuge. SAH either payed or cost-shared processing costs for these animals, and the meat was delivered to food relief agencies.

This was the ninth year for a Canada goose donation program which was developed and implemented in cooperation with GFP and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The program allowed Canada geese harvested during the first part of the Early Fall Canada Goose Season (September 7 - 20). Six SAH processors indicated an interest in participating. All of the processors agreed to accept \$4.00 per bird as full payment for processing the geese which involved breasting the birds, grinding the meat and packaging it in SAH burger bags. In accordance with conditions of the Special Purpose Permit issued by FWS, a stick-on label was provided to each of the processors for attaching to the bags which indicated months and year of processing, processor's name, and a serial number. The processors were required to keep record of number of geese processed, number of bags of processed meat, and which food relief agency received the processed donated meat.

Processing Certificates

The SAH Board of Directors increased the value of processing certificates from \$65 to \$75 for antlerless deer, and from \$55 to \$65 for doe/fawn antelope (see attachment). Each SAH processor was provided with a supply of processing certificates prior to the hunting seasons. Mailing envelopes were provided to the processors so they could send packets of completed certificates to me and the SAH Treasurer for claiming payment to cover the value of the certificates accepted.

The number of certificates used for donated antlerless deer decreased from 214 in 2018 to 197 in 2019. Five hunters each used a certificate for doe/fawn antelope in 2018 compared with nine in 2019.

Special goose processing certificates (see attachment) were again provided to the six permitted goose processors who processed Canada geese taken and donated during September 7 – 20 of the Early Fall Canada Goose Season. Each hunter who donated geese was to fill out one certificate for all Canada geese taken and donated each day. The certificate was worth \$4.00 per bird. A total of 66 hunters used certificates to pay for processing of 793 Canada geese donated in September 2019 compared with 74 hunters who donated 1,059 Canada geese in September 2018.

A letter of appreciation was sent to all deer, antelope and goose hunters who used a processing certificate or a game donation record. The hunters were informed of the total amount of game meat donations statewide and what this meant in terms of meals of meat provided to needy families. The deer, antelope and goose hunters were also told what the SAH game donation program would be for the coming fall.

Publicity

Information was provided to the public in a number of different ways regarding what SAH is, how it works and what was accomplished last year including hunter participation. Newspaper publishers/editors in Aberdeen, Brookings, Eureka, Huron, Milbank, Mitchell, Mobridge, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Watertown and Yankton were contacted, as well as the Sioux Falls Shopping News, Dakota Country Magazine, Midwest Hunting and Fishing, and the Outdoorsmen Magazine. A SAH article was written and sent to all of them for publishing. The SAH article was also given to Chris Hesla, Executive Director of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation, for sending as a news release to all of his news media contacts.

Other forms of publicity on SAH included updating information on the SAH website. SAH brochures were placed in GFP offices in the state and in over 50 hunting-related businesses, primarily in towns where there was a SAH processor.

With cooperation from GFP, information on SAH was put in the GFP Hunting Handbook and on an interactive GFP website game processor map. A brief description of SAH was also included in deer hunting license applications. Information on SAH, with emphasis on how pheasants could be donated, was included in the GFP Shooting Preserve Manual.

A contract was again signed between SAH and the Sioux Falls HELP!Line Center so the HELP!Line Center would take "hotline" calls for SAH. The contract provided for the HELP!Line Center to automatically redirect calls made to the hotline number (1-800-456-2758) to my cell phone number (605-280-4977). I would then answer the calls instead of HELP!Line Center operators. The number of calls received was not recorded but was not overwhelming.

Food Relief Agencies

In fiscal year 2019-2020, 29 food relief agencies (food pantries) associated with Feeding South Dakota in 27 counties received processed donated game meat directly from a processor for distribution to needy families. Due to no local food pantry, or otherwise to increase distribution of donated meat, five trips were made to various parts of the State to deliver meat from a processor to additional food relief agencies. Other donated meat was picked up by, or delivered to, Feeding South Dakota Food Banks in Sioux Falls, Pierre and Rapid City which in turn made the meat available to its food relief agencies throughout the State.

Fund Raising

Fund raising activities included submitting computer on-line proposals for a Walmart Community Grant to six Walmart Stores (resulted in a \$1,000 grant from Spearfish Walmart) and two Sam's Club stores in the state. Grant applications were also submitted to Sioux Falls Scheels and Sioux Falls Elmen Foundation (resulted in a \$2,000 grant).

Game and Fish Donations

All 39 SAH processors were contacted in late January requesting information on game meat donations received and processed, and which pantries received the donated meat. All processors responded.

SAH processors processed a total of 29,694 pounds of meat from the following donated big game:

- 197 antlerless deer
- 132 buck deer
 - 5 doe/fawn antelope
 - 2 buck antelope
- 27 out-of-state deer
- 4 out-of-state antelope
- 319 salvage deer (includes 245 from the Rapid City deer reduction program and 63 from the Sioux Falls deer reduction program, and 11 from miscellaneous sources)
- 23 salvage elk (2 miscellaneous, 21 from Wind Cave National Park elk reduction program)
- 6 salvage antelope (miscellaneous sources)
- 4 turkey (miscellaneous sources)
- deer and elk trim

The Director of the Governor's Cup Fishing Tournament obtained a fishing tournament permit from GFP which allowed walleye taken during the tournament on Lake Oahe in July, 2019, to be donated to SAH, the local High Plains Wildlife Association (HPWA) and the local chapter of the Izaak Walton League. A total of 669 walleye were donated with 341 (184 pounds) of these going to SAH and the remainder going to HPWA and Izaak Walton League local chapter for helping with the cleaning. The SAH fish were then distributed to food pantries in Pierre, Gettysburg and Highmore.

The 793 Canada geese donated by 66 hunters from the Early Fall Canada Goose Season provided 1,264 pounds of meat.

Private shooting preserves donated 996 pheasants and the Governor's pheasant hunt provided 167 pheasants. The total of 1,059 donated pheasants yielded 1,062 pounds of meat.

Additionally, the September “clean out your freezer” food drive weekend in Rapid City resulted in hunter donation of 565 pounds of game meat, the food drive in Pierre yielded 177 pounds, and 242 pounds of unclaimed meat were donated by the processors.

The grand total amount of processed donated game provided to needy families in fall 2019 (fiscal year 2020) was 33,201 pounds. Pounds of game meat donated each year since SAH was initiated, including pheasant meat starting in 2006, goose meat starting in 2011, and fish in 2013, were:

1993	1,503	2003	9,185	2013	48,102
1994	3,222	2004	27,447	2014	37,643
1995	5,452	2005	38,847	2015	31,512
1996	4,304	2006	46,598	2016	47,886
1997	2,817	2007	76,532	2017	34,015
1998	3,269	2008	94,643	2018	31,420
1999	4,764	2009	97,752	2019	<u>33,201</u>
2000	11,561	2010	104,178	TOTAL	966,071
2001	10,368	2011	80,684		
2002	12,323	2012	66,843		

Outlook for Fiscal Year 2021

Plans

The SAH Board of Directors (BOD), at its May 2020 annual meeting, established a new policy wherein all donated deer and elk harvested west of the Missouri River or out-of-state would need to be tested for chronic wasting disease (CWD) prior to processing starting in Fall 2020. Donated deer harvested east of the Missouri River would not need to be tested. To accommodate the testing requirement hunters could take the head of their animal to be donated to a GFP CWD surveillance program drop-off location during the West River deer hunting season dates for testing. For donated West River deer and elk harvested outside the West River deer season dates the heads could be taken to a GFP district or regional office for testing. Carcasses of deer and elk to be donated could then be taken to a SAH processor for deboning and freezing until test results are known before completing the processing.

Processing certificate values for donated antlerless deer, doe/fawn antelope and Canada geese will not change. A game donation form will again be available for recording donated in-state deer and antelope bucks as well as elk and all out-of-state deer and antelope. Burger bags will be provided free of charge to the processors for use in packaging processed donated big game meat.

A list of SAH processors and their processing fees for deer, antelope and Canada geese will be available to hunters on the SAH website (www.feedtheneedsd.com) and also on an interactive map on the GFP website (<https://gfp.sd.gov/maps/>). Processor information will again be available by calling 1-800-456-2758 or 605-280-4977.

Officials for the Governor's Cup fishing tournament in July 2020 again obtained a GFP permit for a tournament on Lake Oahe which allows donation of walleye. The permit allows some of the donated fish to be kept by the local Izaak Walton Club chapter and the High Plains Wildlife Association sportsmen's club for their help in cleaning fish. The remainder of the fish will be taken by SAH for distribution to food pantries in central South Dakota.

Suggestions

- Recruit more SAH meat processors if possible.
- Continue to utilize different types of publicity on SAH.
- Encourage organizations in more communities to conduct other methods of game meat donation such as "clean out your freezer" food drive weekends.
- Work closely with FSD to ensure all food relief agencies requesting donated meat are approved by FSD. Also assist FSD in delivering processed meat from processors to FSD Food Banks or other approved food relief agencies.
- Explore any additional opportunities for donation of waterfowl, pheasants, fish and other miscellaneous game.
- Discuss with the Board of Directors whether or not donated deer taken east of the Missouri River should be tested for CWD.
- Search for additional potential sources of funds including organization, corporation and foundation grant programs, and businesses who might provide gift cards and/or develop a "round up" system in their customer check-out process.

“SPORTSMEN AGAINST HUNGER” PROCESSORS – 2019-20

			Deer		Antelope	
			Processing Fees		Processing Fees	
			Antlerless	Buck	Doe/fawn	Buck
Alexandria	(1) Alexandria Locker	239-4767	---	---	---	---
Bath	Economy Meat Market	225-9680	115	115	95	95
Belle Fourche	Integrity Meats	723-6328	75	115	65	100
Bruce	(2) Bruce Market	627-5641	90	80	90	80
Burke	Tom's Wild Game Processing	830-1588	65	65	55	65
Burke	(3) Gregory County Locker	775-2070	---	---	---	---
Chamberlain	Chamberlain Locker	734-5811	75	70	65	60
Chamberlain	DeHaai Processing	730-0606	75	75	65	65
Clark	Dakota Butcher	520-5999	75	75	65	65
Colome	Dan's Last Shot	840-2179	75	75	65	65
Custer	Top Pin Archery	673-5880	75	75	65	65
Elkton	(3) Elkton Locker	542-2291	---	---	---	---
Glenham	Gosch Meat Market	762-3348	75	75	65	65
Hecla	(2) Frohling Quality Meats	994-2632	65	90	55	90
Hecla	(4) Great Frontier Meats	994-2632	95	95	95	95
**Highmore	Headhunters Meats	852-2111	75	75	65	65
Hurley	Got Deer Country Meats	929-6724	65	65	55	55
Huron	Huron Custom Meats	352-4345	75	90	65	70
Lemmon	LemmonMade Butcher Shop	374-6870	75	100	65	100
Milbank	Ol' Mill Meats	432-5433	75	65	65	55
Milbank	Waldner Specialty Meats	432-6100	75	70	65	70
Miller	Central Processing	853-0094	75	75	65	65
Mitchell	Mitchell Locker	996-0521	75	25	65	25
Mitchell	(3) Shorty's Locker	996-8779	---	---	---	---
Mobridge	Westside Meats	845-2271	75	75	65	65
Newell	Tri-County Locker	456-2230	75	110	65	100
Nisland	(5) The Meat Shop	257-4256	75	110	65	85
Onida	Brock's Butcher Block	258-2211	75	75	65	65
Philip	Philip Custom Meats	859-2532	75	75	65	65
Piedmont	Piedmont Cutting Edge Meats	787-9547	75	75	65	65
Pierre	Steamboat Game & Fish	224-6572	100	125	90	125
Platte	(6) Platte Locker Plant	337-3801	---	---	---	---
Rapid City	Spilde Quality Meats	219-6929	75	110	65	110
Rapid City	Western Buffalo Company	342-0322	75	110	65	100
Renner	Renner Corner Locker	332-0214	80	90	70	75
Salem	Feterl's Meats	425-2581	110	110	110	110
Sisseton	Horton's Processing	698-7161	75	75	65	65
Spearfish	(7) The Butcher Shop	642-2230	75	110	65	100
Tea	Lee's Meats & Sausage	368-2161	75	90	65	75
**Wall	Wall Meat Processing	279-2348	110	115	110	110
**Watertown	Dakota Butcher	878-3336	75	75	65	65
Waubay	Jorgenson Meat Processing	947-4460	75	75	65	65
Winner	Mid-Dakota Meats	842-3664	75	75	65	65
Yankton	Steiner's Locker Service	665-3407	75	90	65	75

* Overstrike indicates discontinued participation in 2019

** Bold indicates new processor in 2019

(1) Bone out meat only. Hunter pays \$30 for 50 lbs. or less, or \$50 for more than 50 lbs.

(2) Fee \$25 less if skinned and boned out.

(3) Boned out meat only. Hunters pays processing fee.

(4) \$5 less if skinned.

(5) \$15 less if skinned.

(6) Boned out meat only. No processing fee.

(7) If not skinned: antlerless deer \$85, buck deer \$110, doe/fawn antelope \$75, buck antelope \$100.



2019 Doe Donor

Processing Certificate (One per Animal)

One Doe/antlerless Deer (SAH pays \$75)
One Doe/fawn Antelope (SAH pays \$65)

Hunter's Name on tag: (Please print)
Mentored Hunter's Name: (if applicable)

Address:

City: State: Zip Code:

Telephone Number:

For donated doe/antlerless deer or doe/fawn antelope killed in South Dakota:

Date of kill County of kill

A. South Dakota deer hunting season:

West River Black Hills Apprentice Muzzleloader Refuge
East River Archery Depredation Custer State Park

B. Species of deer: White-tailed Deer Mule Deer

C. Tag type: Any Deer Any Whitetail
Antlerless Deer Antlerless Whitetail

A. South Dakota antelope hunting season: Archery Firearm

B. Tag type: Any Antelope Doe/fawn Antelope

I am donating all of the meat from the doe/antlerless deer or doe/fawn antelope indicated above to Sportsmen Against Hunger through the processor named below. This animal was taken in South Dakota in accordance with all South Dakota laws and privileges.

(Hunter Signature) (Date)

This certificate was accepted as payment toward the cost of processing one doe/antlerless deer or doe/fawn antelope taken in South Dakota. All of the meat generated through the processing of this animal will be delivered to a qualifying charitable food distributor / food pantry.

Processor company name:

Signature of company representative: Date:



2019
Game Donation Record
(One per Animal)

One Buck Deer (Hunter pays total processing cost)
 One Buck Antelope (Hunter pays total processing cost)



Hunter's Name on tag: (Please print) _____
 Mentored Hunter's Name: (if applicable) _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Telephone Number: _____



For donated buck deer or buck antelope (if taken in South Dakota):

Date of kill _____ County of kill _____

A. South Dakota deer hunting season (if applicable):

West River WR Special Buck Black Hills Muzzleloader CSP
 East River ER Special Buck Refuge Archery Tribal

B. Species of deer: White-tailed Deer Mule Deer

C. Tag type: Any Deer Any Whitetail

A. South Dakota antelope hunting season (if applicable): Archery Firearm

I am donating meat from this buck deer or antelope to Sportsmen Against Hunger through the processor named below. This animal was taken in accordance with all laws and privileges.

 (Hunter Signature) (Date)

All of the meat generated from processing of this donated animal will be delivered to a qualifying charitable food distributor / food pantry.

Processor company name: _____

Signature of company representative: _____ Date: _____



2019
Processing Certificate
For
Donated Canada Geese

Note: This Processing Certificate may only be used for donated Canada geese taken in South Dakota during September 7- 20 of the Early Fall Canada Goose Season. Certificate value is \$4.00 per bird. **USE ONE CERTIFICATE FOR EACH DAY'S TAKE** (daily limit of 8 geese, possession limit of 24 geese).

Hunter's Name: (Please print) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

=====

Hunter: Number of Canada geese donated: _____

 Date on which donated Canada geese were taken: _____

 County in which donated Canada geese were taken: _____

I am donating all of the meat on donated Canada geese indicated above to Sportsmen Against Hunger through the processor named below. The donated Canada geese were taken in South Dakota in accordance with all South Dakota laws and privileges.

(Hunter Signature)

(Date)

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Processor:

This certificate was accepted as payment of \$4.00 per Canada goose for the total cost of processing _____ donated Canada geese. Total payment was \$ _____.

All meat generated through processing of these bird(s) will be delivered to a charitable food relief agency approved by Sportsmen Against Hunger.

Processor company name: _____

Signature of company representative)

(Date)