

# Keystone Hunters To Share Venison With Hungry

ELIZABETHTOWN, (Lancaster Co.) — The "Hunters Sharing the Harvest" project will collect and distribute venison to hungry Pennsylvanians. Last year, more than 70,000 pounds of deer meat reached the plates of the state's needy families and individuals.

In the 1994 hunting season, the program sponsors, Pennsylvanians for the Responsible Use of Animals (PRUA) hope to see more than 100,000 pounds of venison available for distribution.

Now in its fourth year, the statewide program coordinates efforts of hunters, game processors and food banks to channel deer meat where it is needed throughout the Keystone state. The Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Department of Agriculture assisted with promotion of the project.

Conservation groups, hunting clubs, and interested individuals are encouraged to give their extra deer meat to the needy through this service project. Individual contributions can range from a few pounds of ground meat or steaks to the entire deer. Last year, nearly 170,000 people benefited from hunters' generosity, but with seven million pounds of venison harvested across the state, PRUA aims for more donations this year. Food banks say they never have enough meat products to fill the need.

Hunters with extra venison or the desire to share their good fortune can become involved in the "Hunters Sharing the Harvest" program in three ways:

- Hunters can have the deer processed at a local game processing company that is participating in the venison collection project. The cooperating firm will accept and store meat donations and will contact the local food bank for collection.

- The second way to participate is to contact the local food bank directly (their number is listed on the blue pages of the telephone directory under "Food") and make arrangements to deliver deer meat to their organization.

- A third option is to contact PRUA at (717) 367-5223 and talk to PRUA Executive Vice President Kenneth Brandt about making a venison donation.

The innovative "Hunters Sharing the Harvest" project was initiated in 1991 by PRUA, which spearheaded the program. Its first-year success attracted the attention of United States Tobacco Company, which has supported the program since that time.

"With this support, we have been able to inform more hunters about the program and encourage them to share their venison," said PRUA Executive Vice President Kenneth Brandt of Elizabethtown. This year, 20 billboards have been strategically placed on

major routes to hunting areas so hunters will be reminded about the sharing program.

PRUA is a coalition of 17 associations and individuals representing agriculture, biomedicine, entertainment, sports, and hunting groups. The umbrella organization encourages humane treatment of animals used for food, clothing, biomedical research, entertainment and sport while at the same time strongly supporting Pennsylvanians' right to the continued, responsible use of animals. The coalition also provides factual information to the public, media, elected officials and those responsible for the care of animals so they can have a better understanding of proper care standards.

Information about "Hunters Sharing the Harvest" or PRUA membership and activities is available from Executive Vice President Kenneth Brandt, P. O. Box 61, Elizabethtown, PA 17022, (717) 367-5223.



From left, Kenneth Brandt, executive vice president of Pennsylvanians for the Responsible Use of Animals; Peter Duncan, executive director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission; Gary Theobald, representative of United States Tobacco Company, a major program sponsor; and Timothy Whelan, executive director of the South Central Pennsylvania Food Bank discuss promotional efforts for the fourth year of the "Hunters Sharing the Harvest" project.

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