

Sports



Due to warm weather

Deer-cutting business more hectic this year

By CHARLOT M. DENMON Staff Correspondent

Mark Dragon, assisted by his parents, brothers and sisters, has been conducting a family deer-cutting operation for the past eight years and, during the two weeks of buck season, averages about 100 deer each week. During doe season, the number is usually higher.

Normally, the first two days of buck season are the heaviest in the Dragon's business but this year, the Harveys Lake family was busier than usual.

"The warm weather made it busier," said Dragon, "because the deer spoil faster if they're not properly dressed. Hunters were coming in the first two days as early as 8 and 9 a.m. Overall, for the week we had about as many as usual. It was just exceptionally busy Monday and Tuesday, then tapered off for the rest of the week.'

Dragon said most of the hunters want the racks from their deer. He noted that the racks this year were below average in size which was probably due to the animals' feeding during the past year.

new customers. The business is this year than in the past.

entire processing takes two or three days from the time the deer comes in until it is all cut, freezer-wrapped and ready to go.

Steaks, roasts, chops and hamburgers are the favorite cuts of most hunters. Very few select just one or two varieties of cuts.

A former meat cutter of beef, pork and other types of meat, Dragon said each meat cutter has a particular style of cutting. In the Dragon operation, each animal is tagged, hung up, skinned, excess hair singed, washed and cleaned inside and out. Then the deer is refrigerated until it is cut according to the customer's order. The tag, a special one provided by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, stays with the deer throughout the entire

Although there are no state or federal regulations for game, the Dragons' place of business is as clean as any meat market. In order to get all of the deer out the first week, Dragon said he and other members of the family worked from 6:00 in the morning until 10:00 or 11:00 at night to get the animals

He did not know the reason why, The Dragons usually have the but Dragon said he noticed there same clientele each year plus a few were a lot more ticks on the deer



Dallas Post/Charlot M. Denmon

Ready to work

Mark Dragon is shown here with two deer hanging up prior to being skinned and cleaned for cutting.

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Gets second deer

Lynn Sheehan, of Huntsville Road, Dallas, is shown here with the spike buck he bagged while hunting in Lovelton last week. Lynn, a sophomore at Dallas High School, has been hunting for three years. This year's prize is the second buck he's downed. Lynn is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lynn



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Clayton Traver, of RD 2, Box 127, Harveys Lake, is shown here with a four-point, part albino deer be bagged while hunting this year. Traver was at Dragon's Deer Cutting,

Harveys Lake, waiting to have his catch processed.

