

Quantifying Wild Game Harvest and Meat Donations in the United States

Research Highlights

Each year, millions of America's sportsmen and sportswomen take to the nation's forests, fields, and marshes to hunt. These hunters harvest nearly 600 million pounds of game meat. NRA research shows that game meat harvested by hunters is used not only to feed the hunters and their families but also their friends and neighbors. Furthermore, the research shows that a substantial amount of game meat is also donated to Americans in need of food through a number of venues, such as food banks, pantries, and churches, as well as Hunters for the Hungry and other similar hunger relief organizations.

**Almost
600
MILLION POUNDS
of game meat harvested
each year**



1 pound of meat = 4 meals



99% of all harvested game meat is consumed

363 million pounds of meat consumed by hunters and their families



Another 112 million pounds of meat stored by hunters for future consumption

Hunters share 119 million pounds, or 20%, of harvested game with others: friends outside of their household, food banks, and hunger relief organizations, including Hunters for the Hungry



While hunters have long been recognized for their contributions to wildlife conservation, they can now also be recognized for their contributions to feeding their fellow Americans.

34 million Americans face food insecurity

Nearly 500 million meals provided by hunters sharing and donating harvested game meat

Game Meat Use / Donation

Percentage of Harvested Game Meat

Eaten by the hunter and those living in the hunter's immediate household

60.3%

Given to or shared with family, friends, or others outside of hunter's immediate household

17.2%

Donated to a hunger relief organization or other group

2.6%

Consider This

Hunters reported that the biggest encouragement to donate game meat to hunger relief groups/organizations would be providing information about donating and generally increasing awareness of the option to donate. Currently, less than 3% of harvested game meat is donated, providing the opportunity to greatly increase the amount of donated meat simply by increasing awareness of why, how, and where to donate.

75% of Americans approve of hunting for the meat.

Through these donations of meat, hunters connect more and more people to hunting, even if they do not hunt themselves, leading to more cultural acceptance of hunting. Additional research shows that increased connection through game meat consumption also increases support for hunting among Americans.



WILD GAME MEAT The Healthier Option

Venison is healthier than beef. One serving has:

- 1/2 the calories of beef
- 1/6 the saturated fats as beef
- No steroids, antibiotics, or other additives
- More iron than most other meats
- An abundance of vitamins B3 and B12

Getting Hunters Involved

Did You Know?

- A large majority of meat donation centers report that the donated game meat was not enough to meet hunger relief needs in the area(s) they serve.
- The overwhelming majority of donors (87%) would consider donating more game meat in the future to hunger relief groups/organizations.
- Hunters who are a member of a conservation organization are three times more likely to donate to a Hunters for the Hungry organization.

If you are fortunate to have extra tags, please consider making an effort to harvest and then donate that animal.



in Hunger Relief Efforts

HOW TO DONATE

Visit NRA Hunters for the Hungry, learn more about donating, and find your local chapter at

hfth.nra.org

November is Wild Game Meat Donation Month!

Learn more at

NWGMMDM.nra.org