

# MASSWILDLIFE'S HUNTERS SHARE THE HARVEST

## VENISON DONATION PROGRAM



The Hunters Share the Harvest Program allows hunters to donate harvested deer and have the venison shared with Massachusetts families in need.

### Program impact

Since 2022, over 100,000 healthy meals have been donated and distributed through partnering food programs, including:

- Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
- Greater Fall River Community Food Pantry
- Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry
- Northampton Survival Center
- Nourish Nantucket
- Worcester County Food Bank

### Get involved

- **Donate deer** by bringing your whole field dressed deer to an approved processor.
- **Donate money** to help cover processing and packaging costs.
- **Spread the word** to hunters, processors, and hunger relief agencies.

More details on the back.



[mass.gov/sharetheharvest](https://mass.gov/sharetheharvest)

Use the QR code or link for donation instructions and to see a list of participating processors and food partners.

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### How to donate deer

Hunters can donate a part or all of their deer. For inclusion in the program, deer must be:

- Recovered and field dressed within 4 hours after shot unless the ambient air temperature stays below 37°F.
- Dropped off whole and field dressed to a participating processor within 24 hours after shot.
- Legally reported and tagged with a confirmation number.

With the support of donors, hunters who donate their full deer pay no processing or packaging fees. Hunters who donate part of their deer will pay a discounted rate, depending on the amount donated.

### How to support the program

Donations help cover processing and packaging costs for donated meat. A \$50 donation will provide about 75 servings of meat for families in need.

Monetary donations can be made online or by mail. Find instructions at [www.mass.gov/sharetheharvest](http://www.mass.gov/sharetheharvest).

### Deer and forest health

- Deer abundance is increasing statewide.
- In areas where there are too many deer, they overbrowse vegetation and cause habitat damage.
- MassWildlife uses regulated hunting to manage the deer population and support healthy habitats.



Use the QR code or link for more information about MassWildlife's Hunters Share the Harvest Program.

[mass.gov/sharetheharvest](http://mass.gov/sharetheharvest)