



South Dakota Sportsmen Against Hunger Donates Meals To Those In Need

The South Dakota Sportsmen Against Hunger (SAH) Board of Directors reports that hunters donated 78,735 pounds of game meat in 2011. This translates to nearly 315,000 meals of meat for needy individuals and families across the state.

Although the total pounds of donated meat dropped 25 percent in 2011, donations in 2010 were record large.

“A reduction of donations in 2011 was not a surprise to us because deer and antelope populations were reduced during severe winters the past few years,” noted Jeff Olson, President of SAH. “It is a double-edged sword for us. One goal of the program is to reduce the number of deer in areas where landowners are having problems, and that part is working well. What we do not like to see is the number of pounds to the needy drop, as demand and need for this meat is high.”

One of the highlights from 2011 was the implementation of a new goose donation program. SAH

worked with the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow hunters to donate Canada geese harvested in the August Management Take. The result was that over 2,000 geese were donated through 11 participating game processors in eastern South Dakota.

In 2012 the goose donation program will be expanded to also include geese taken during September 1-21 of the Early Fall Canada Goose Season. Goose Processing Certificates are available from the SAH goose processors which hunters may use to pay the total processing cost of Canada geese donated during the August and September seasons.

Also in 2012, the deer and antelope donation program will continue as it has in the past. Processing certificates will again be available from participating SAH processors for hunters to use in paying for most or all of the processing cost of donated antlerless deer and doe/fawn antelope.

“Those who benefited from the donated meat last year would like to send a big ‘Thank You’ to all the game and cash donors for yet another great year for the program,” Olson said. “Many people contributed to the continuing success of SAH, including approximately 1,700 sportsmen who donated game animals, 50 game processors who worked with us to process the animals, and over 60 food pantries that accepted and distributed the donated meat to needy families.”

To learn more about South Dakota Sportsmen Against Hunger, including participating SAH game processors, visit its website at www.feedtheneedsd.com or call 605-280-4977.

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