



## ABOUT US

Feeding Texas is a statewide, 501c3 non-profit organization with twenty-one member food banks. Collectively, our food banks distribute 378M pounds of food annually through a network of 3,000 partner agencies and programs serving children, seniors, and people suffering from food insecurity or at risk of diet-related illness in every Texas county.

## HUNTERS FOR THE HUNGRY

Hunters for the Hungry (H4TH) is a statewide hunger relief program administered by Feeding Texas that provides healthy protein to needy Texans. The program alleviates hunger and malnutrition by distributing donated venison to needy Texans while promoting environmental stewardship and providing a meaningful way for hunters to help their communities.

Feeding Texas coordinates H4TH in partnership with Texas food banks, meat processors, food assistance providers, landowners, hunters, and state agencies. Through the program, hunters can donate their legally tagged, field-dressed deer at participating meat processors across the state. A processor may be eligible for partial reimbursement of processing costs, subject to the availability of funds. Meat processors prepare and package the venison, then contact local the food bank who distributes it to needy families and individuals.

Protein is the most requested food bank staple item. Venison is one of the best protein sources due to its healthy, low-fat content. Through H4TH, venison also becomes a source of economical protein, costing only \$1.12/pound to process and distribute. H4TH also helps landowners manage their deer populations, promoting environmental stewardship.

## SB 1978

SB 1978 (84th R) sponsored by Representative John Cyrier, directed the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to designate a non-profit organization to administer a statewide program providing hunters with a mechanism to donate legally harvested deer that can be processed and provided to local food banks. This non-profit organization would receive funding from a voluntary contribution when a person applies for a hunting license. This voluntary fee went into effect for the 2016 hunting season. TPWD awarded the grant to Feeding Texas. Feeding Texas uses these funds in the following ways:

## MARKETING/EDUCATION TO HUNTERS

Feeding Texas develops marketing materials explaining how to donate venison in a safe manner to local processors as well as the benefits of the program. Feeding Texas promotes the

program through earned media, social media, and purchased spots in outdoor sports publications.

## RECRUITMENT OF MEAT PROCESSORS/SUPPLIERS

Feeding Texas recruits meat processors through its network of food banks, each of whom maintains local relationships with donors. Your local food bank will provide a participation agreement for processors to get involved. To be eligible, meat processors must either be inspected on a federal, state, or local level, or fall under the jurisdiction of the Texas Department of State Health Services. Verification is required to ensure the safety of donations. Prior to each hunting season, Texas food banks provide participating processors with two-pound chub bags for the donated venison and promotional materials to manage the donated meat. Participating processors will be listed on our website for hunters to refer to.

## ASSISTANCE LOCATING FOOD ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS

Food banks, soup kitchens, food pantries, and other food assistance providers will be eligible to receive Hunters for the Hungry venison donations. The food banks will make the meat available to agencies to ensure donations support the local communities. Feeding Texas provides a list of the food banks and their regional territory so that food assistance providers can find the appropriate food bank with which to collaborate. Feeding Texas provides resources to participants related to hunting and fishing regulations, food safety, venison recipes and nutrition information, and hunger statistics.

## SUSTAINABLE REVENUE FOR FOOD BANKS

Our food banks source donations from retailers, manufacturers and distributors looking for an outlet for their surplus or unsellable product. We also conduct food drives to collect food from individuals. The items least likely to be donated are also those most often requested by the families we serve, including dairy and protein sources.

Our food banks leverage their relationships across the food industry to acquire these items at a very low cost, but private donations are not enough to meet the need. Diverting a portion of the hunting license fee creates a sustainable revenue source to support our general hunger relief programs. The 2016-2017 hunting season brought in over \$86,000 which was used to pay for processing and distributing the venison.

## QUESTIONS?

Find more information on our website:  
[www.feedingtexas.org/get-involved/hunt](http://www.feedingtexas.org/get-involved/hunt)