

Sportsmen Against Hunger

by Mary Harter

Since we are now thinking of deer season, I wanted to find where anyone could donate their meat, if they do not want it. It is also a good time to clean out your freezer to make way for the new arrivals. Many people do not know what they can do with this meat or any other frozen food they do not want. We all intend to eat what we place in our freezers but often do not and it would be a shame to waste it.

I called the local American Red Cross, located at 215 E. Broadway in Mt. Pleasant on the corner of Broadway and Franklin to see if they still accepted donated venison. They are very much in need of anything that can be donated as they presently are trying to feed between 15 and 20 families per day. They can accept professional processed meat from Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. You can call them at 989-773-3615.

I called our local Isabella Community Soup Kitchen, located at 621 S. Adams Street in Mt. Pleasant and they can accept any food any day before noon. On weekends donations are made to the kitchen staff. They can accept home processed food. They can accept venison as long as it is cut up and been kept cold. They will give you a credit slip for taxes listing the pounds of donated meat. Their phone number is 989-772-7392.

I'm sure many other locations are very interested in donations. Please give them a call if you have any food you can spare.

I contacted the local Meat Processors listed on the SCI website and found:

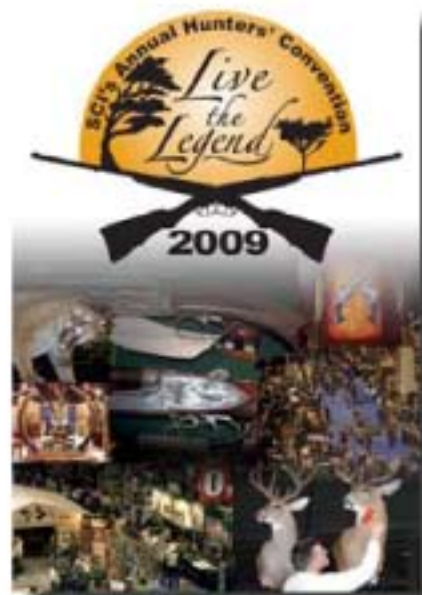
Sage's Meat, 8189 Sage Drive, Greenville, 616-754-6380, owners Dean and Kim Harter. During the firearms season, November 15 to 30, they will accept up to 20 deer to be processed for free to be donated to four different shelters, soup kitchens, and churches in their area. They process deer for \$70 and will charge \$40 for donated deer after the first 20. You can also donate part of your processed meat when you come and pick it up. They will accept professionally processed venison from last year and distribute it for you.

Kelly's Deer Processing, 19077 12 Mile Road, Big Rapids, 231-796-5414 or 231-250-8337, owner Colin P. Kelly. They charge \$75 to process a deer and \$25 to process a deer to be donated. They also accept any packages you wish to donate when you come and pick up your venison. They will accept professionally processed venison from last year and

distribute it for you. They have 25 different food pantries they donate to. This year they have already processed 159 deer donated by the Sanctuary yielding over 5,000 pounds of meat.

Countryside Custom Butchering, 4244 S. Winn Road, Mt. Pleasant, 989-773-1775, talk to Pam or Dave. They accept up to ten deer per year to process for charity at no charge. They also accept any unwanted parts from your venison to donate and receive many venison livers.

Ben's Butcher Shop, 11921 Miles Road, Six Lakes, 989-365-3422, owner Ben Blanz. They charge \$70 to butcher a deer and \$50 to process a deer for a donation. They donate to God's Helping Hands, a food pantry in Mecosta County.



SCI's Annual Hunters' Convention is an exclusive

Members-Only Show

January 21 - 24, 2009

Reno, Nevada

Entertainment: Tom Selleck

Creedence Clearwater Revisited

John Michael Montgomery

The Golden Boys - Frankie Avalon, Fabian

& Bobby Rydell

Justice Antonin Scalia

If you are interested, make reservations now.