

Hunting News

The deer management coalition is putting together a list of management hunters for landowners, conservation groups, and public land managers who are seeking to reduce the deer population on their lands. While there are many recreational hunters interested in hunting new lands, this list will only include management hunters, i.e., people who are willing and able to take many does during a season and who have no records of serious violations with Fish and Wildlife. You will be asked to fill out a very brief questionnaire and agree to have your past harvest numbers and records checked out. If interested, contact mvanclief@fohv.org.

One factor that often limits a hunter's harvest is that once they fill their freezer with venison, what can they do with additional deer? Hunters Helping the Hungry (HHH) may be the answer. HHH was formed by 3 hunters during the 1997-98 hunting season to help provide needed for local food banks while addressing the overpopulation of deer in our area. This 501(c)(3) organization has helped hunters donate over 1,800,000 servings of protein to those in need by butchering the deer for a reduced cost or for free. This year in New Jersey, for deer brought to a participating butcher during the early season (Sept 8-28) and from the day following the Six-Day Firearm season until the end of winter bow (from Dec. 9 — Feb. 16), the hunter fee will be waived except for small deer (dressed weight under 50 lbs) where the hunter fee will remain at \$40. Other times hunters must pay \$20 for deer or more dressed weight or \$40 for deer under 50#. If paying anything is a hardship for you, you can also take your deer to PA, where the I-H-IH program is subsidized by the state and local industry and donations of deer to HSH (the Pennsylvania name for the program) are free. Ely's Deer Processing in Newtown, PA cooperates with HSH and has a 24-hour drop-off freezer.

For more information,

<http://elyfarmproducts.com/deer-processing/deer-processing-welcome/>

In NJ, Farmers Butcher at 91 Titus Mill Road in Pennington has been approved to butcher deer for HHH. Call 609-737-0574 from 7am to 6 pm days and Beth at 609-712-1855 after hours. Other participating butchers include Game Butchers, the Person Family, in Lebanon (908-735-4646), V Roche & Son in Whitehouse Station (908-534-2006), and Bishop's Market in Whitehouse Station (908-534-9666) in Whitehouse. For more information and other locations, see the HHH website: www.HuntersHelpingtheHungry.org. In New Jersey, HHH operates on donations, grants and fundraisers. No state funds are available to subsidize it. Donate through its website or one of its fundraising activities. Candice Wiggum, Ag. Advisory Comm.