



State Senator Scott T. Rupp ~ District 2

The Rupp Report

*Serving Lincoln County & St. Charles County***Column For Week of: November 15, 2010**[Website](#) | [Biography](#) | [Newsroom](#)

Share the Harvest Program Offers Venison to People in Need

Deer hunting season is here and Missouri hunters are eager to take their fair share of our state's bountiful white-tailed deer. Many hunt for the delicious venison meat provided by the deer. Share the Harvest, sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, and the Missouri Chapter Whitetails Unlimited, gives hunters the opportunity to give some of the nutritious meat to the needy.

So far this year, more than 4,200 hunters have donated to this program, amounting in more than 213,000 pounds of venison. Unfortunately, numerous low-income families in Missouri do not get the required nutrients in their diet. Donating venison is a big help to these families, providing them with protein, iron and other necessary vitamins.

Missouri has a long history of deer hunting, with all counties opened to buck hunting in 1959. Studies have shown that deer are active 68 percent of the time throughout October and November, giving hunters plenty of opportunities to provide for their families and enjoy the many hunting ventures our state has to offer. Missouri deer are also known to have healthy body weights, particularly in the northern part of the state, spanning from 125 pounds to 154 pounds. With plentiful amounts of deer, hunters have many opportunities to donate to Share the Harvest.

Donating is a simple process. Hunters may take their deer to designated processing plants across Missouri and tell the processor how much meat they would like to donate. If a hunter decides to donate a few pounds, he is responsible for paying the cost of the deer processing. If that hunter decides to donate an entire deer, however, the complete processing cost is paid by the Conservation Federation of Missouri and local sponsors during the urban zone portion of the firearms season. For the 2010-2011 hunting season, Share the Harvest will have the capacity to accept up to 10,000 deer.

Share the Harvest is a valuable and helpful program to have in your community. Clubs and organizations are welcomed to participate and to find local meat processors who would care to participate as well. Citizens in my district are encouraged to visit Brown's Processing in Elsberry; Brown's Smokehouse Meats in Winfield; Dan's Country Meats in New Melle; and Josephville Meat Processing in Wentzville.

For more information about Share the Harvest and to find a participating processor in your town, please visit www.mdc.mo.gov and click on the link "Get Involved."

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