



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Wes Shoemyer
18th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 434
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**A Weekly Column for the
Week of October 25, 2010**

**Capitol Office:
(573) 751-7852**

Sharing the Harvest

JEFFERSON CITY – The fall deer hunting season, one of the most cherished traditions in rural Missouri, finally gets underway November 13. I always look forward to taking a short break from the daily responsibilities of running a family farm to head to the woods to try to bag a buck. Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Scientist Lonnie Hanson predicts hunters in northern Missouri will have a very good season this year because most crops will be out the fields by the start of deer season. Last fall's wet weather delayed the crop harvest, providing lots of cover for deer.

This week the governor announced a major expansion of the Share the Harvest program, which allows hunters to donate a portion or all of their deer carcasses to those in need. Last year, Missouri hunters donated 4,200 full deer to Share the Harvest. The program will now have the capacity to process up to 10,000 deer this season and provide that venison to families in need.

The Share the Harvest program, now in its 19th year, has participating processors in northeast Missouri who might have local money available that would allow deer to be donated free or at a greatly reduced cost. Hunters simply take their deer to an approved processor in the 18th District (listed below) and tell the folks how much venison they want to contribute. The packaged venison is then sent to places like the Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri. Executive Director Peggy Kirkpatrick says one of her greatest challenges is keeping sources of protein on the food pantry's shelves. Kirkpatrick says that over the past few years Missouri's food pantries have been swamped with families in need of help, and she says the generosity of Missouri hunters has been a real blessing to the families they serve.

If you plan to go deer hunting this year, I hope you will consider donating some or all of your deer to the Share the Harvest program. Local processors participating in the program this year include:

- Adair County, Terry Morgan, 28553 County Line Way, Greentop;
- Audrain County, Mexico Meat Market, 731 East Liberty, Mexico;
- Clark County, Kahoka Meat Processing, 115 South Jefferson, Kahoka;
- Knox County, Nunan Locker, Rt. 1, Box 148 Co. Road 115, Edina;
- Lewis County, Lumley Locker, 109 East Liberty, LaBelle;
- Marion County, Hannibal Custom Processing, 1142 Lindell Avenue, Hannibal and Walnut Hill Farms, 1831 CR 117, Philadelphia;
- Pike County, Hiltys Custom Butchering, 11116 Pike 466, Bowling Green; L&M Processing, 17542 Hwy NN, Bowling Green; and Woods Smoked Meats, 1501 Bus Hwy 54 W, Bowling Green;
- Ralls County, Center Locker Service, P.O. Box 115, Center; and Four Quarter Processing, Hwy 154 W, Perry;
- Scotland County, Rutledge Meat Locker, Rt. 1, Box 131, Rutledge;
- Shelby County, Garretson Meat Processing, 7045 Hwy AA, Shelby.

By the way, Gov. Nixon will be returning to Clark County again this year to officially open deer hunting season on November 13. I wish the governor and all deer hunters in our great state a safe and successful hunting trip.

If you have any questions or comments about these or any other issues give my Capitol office a call at (573) 751-7852, send me an e-mail at wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov, or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 W. Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.