

Feeding the Hungry

Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry

Hunger in America has, and continues to be, a real problem for a significant part of our population. According to Feeding America, in 2013, 14 percent (17.5 million) of U.S. households were food insecure, meaning that they did not have access to enough food to meet their basic needs.

Concord resident Dr. Mark Jasmine, a retired orthopedic surgeon, founded the local chapter of Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH) in response to the number of people going hungry in Cabarrus County. A national nonprofit since 1997 with chapters in more than half of U.S. states, FHFH accepts venison from local hunters and meat donated by farmers. The meat is currently being processed by Thompson & Son in Albemarle, then given to Cooperative Christian Ministry, who distributes it to those in need. According to Jasmine, 150 deer will provide meat for about 30,000 meals.

Jasmine is always looking for more volunteers and hunters, as well as a Cabarrus County-based meat processor. He realizes the nutritional qualities of high-protein, low-fat, organic venison as well as the philanthropy of local hunters that might find their freezers full and want to help. Jasmine counts on it.

Bow-hunting season for deer runs from September 12 through October 30; blackpowder from October 31 through November 13; and gun season from November 14 through January 1, but Jasmine says that Concord and Kannapolis have an urban archery season that runs through mid-February each year.

Visit www.fhfh.org for more information about how you can help as a hunter and as an FHFH volunteer.

Source: fhfh.org

North Carolina Hunters for the Hungry

North Carolina Hunters for the Hungry Inc. (NCHFTH) combines the efforts of nonprofits and conservationists with corporate North Carolina. Accepting donations of whitetail deer, the organization disperses the ground meat to local food relief organizations like women's shelters, soup kitchens and church pantries.

How to donate deer:

- All deer donated must be harvested and reported in accordance with the appropriate rules and regulations of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.
- Deer must be delivered to an NCHFTH-designated processing facility, with inspection approval from the NC Department of Agriculture.
- Deer must be received by processors in an acceptable condition.
- A donor card must be completed to authorize the processor to possess the deer and identify the successful hunter.
- Deer delivered to most processors must be cleaned and dressed, including removal of hide and hooves before they can be accepted by the processor. Some processors can accept whole deer and will provide skinning and dressing services. Please contact the processor prior to delivery to determine the requirements for the specific facility.
- Hunters may donate whole, half or part of a deer to the program.

Source: nchuntersforthehungry.org