



Maine Hunters for The Hungry



Frequently Asked Questions

What is Maine Hunters for the Hungry?

[Maine Hunters for the Hungry](#) (H4H) is a program administered by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The purpose of the program is to secure wild game meat to provide to hunger relief organizations throughout the state of Maine.

How does the program work?

The program is designed so that a hunter can drop off a field dressed animal at a qualified H4H processor and be released of responsibility at that point. DACF will pay the processor and provide the meat to a local hunger relief organization.

Can I donate meat I processed myself?

H4H processes meat using pre-approved processors only. (Find the list on the [H4H website](#).) Individual pantries may accept donations directly from hunters on a case-by-case basis.

Can I donate leftover meat from last year?

H4H accepts fresh meat for processing. Individual pantries may accept donations directly from hunters on a case-by-case basis. Contact your local pantry for details.

Can I donate just a portion of the animal?

We do accept partial donations; it does not have to be a whole animal. H4H will only pay for the processing for the portion of the animal we are receiving for donation to hunger relief organizations.

Can I keep my antlers or cape for a bear rug?

Yes, you can keep these portions of the animal, but H4H will not cover any costs associated with preparing an animal for taxidermy. We will not cover a “cape fee” or a fee associated with antler removal. Only allowable costs must be for meat processed for the program.

What if I find a roadkill animal?

The first step is to make sure a law enforcement officer is contacted, and the animal is tagged for transportation. Next, call an approved processor ahead of delivering the animal to be sure they will accept it. Sometimes roadkill is too far gone for our processors to make it into useable meat. However, there are instances when it’s a good fit and edible meat is salvaged.

What is a hunger relief organization?

A hunger relief organization is a non-profit partner in the community with a mission to serve those in need of food. Common examples are food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters.

What game animals are accepted for processing by H4H?

Deer, moose, and bear are accepted and processed for H4H. Smaller wild game and fish donations are not accepted through the program.

How is H4H funded?

H4H is a state-funded program administered by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

How does someone in need obtain meat donated through H4H?

Contact your local food pantry to find out if the pantry participates in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). These pantries receive game meat donations when available and distribute them evenly to those in need of food. For more information about TEFAP pantries and to find one closest to you visit <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ard/tefap/index.shtml>.

For more information, to donate, or to get connected with a Hunters for the Hungry participating meat processor email H4H@maine.gov or call 207-287-3491.