

How can I donate wild game or livestock to Food Gatherers?



Thanks for your interest in donating to Food Gatherers. Food Gatherers accepts venison, wild game, and livestock donations with some very specific guidelines. Below are basic guidelines, however, we encourage donors to contact us before taking any actions to harvest or process any animal they intend to donate.

Donation type:

Wild Game

- The processing facility must label each item with information according to the federal Fair Packaging and Labeling Act (processor name, address, ingredients including any additives and their ingredients, date of processing, known allergens)
- The processor must be licensed by the state to process wild game and sell to the public. Meat from “Custom-Exempt” facilities is not eligible for donation.

Venison (deer)

- If you have your venison donation processed through a processor participating in the Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger (www.sportsmenagainsthunger.org) program, we can accept the donation
- The donation must still be labeled according to the FPLA guidelines above, even if that is not the standard labeling through MSAH processors

Fish

- We are unable to accept donations of wild fish

Livestock

- The meat needs to be processed by a USDA-licensed facility
- The facility must have an on-site USDA inspector during processing
- The facility must label each item with information according to the federal Fair Packaging and Labeling Act (processor name, address, ingredients including any additives and their ingredients, date of processing, known allergens) and each package must be stamped with the USDA plant code stamp

How should the donation be packaged?

- We request that meat donations are packaged for families and individuals:
 - Roasts of 5 lbs or smaller
 - Ground meat in 3 lb packages or smaller
 - Chops of 1 lb or smaller

Delivery of the items to Food Gatherers

- Meat donations must be delivered FROZEN to Food Gatherers
- You may bring the donations to our warehouse M-F 9:00 a.m.- 4:45 p.m.
- If you have a very large donation (250 lbs or more) we may be able to pick up directly from a local processor. Please contact us to discuss that option before you have the animal processed

Food Gatherers is unable to pay for processing fees. Some processors may provide discounts to you if you let them know you are donating the items, but the donor is responsible for any processing/packaging fees.