

Deer hunters may provide venison to anyone willing to accept it, thanks to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's Deer Exchange program.

Nebraska has an abundant deer population, as well as many hunting opportunities. The Deer Exchange accommodates the additional harvest of deer. Hunters who have filled their freezers may still bag a deer and have somewhere to take the meat.

Deer Exchange participants may register by visiting OutdoorNebraska.org, and then selecting Hunting, Programs, and then the Deer Exchange link. Previous participants must reregister to remain in the program.

Here is how the free program, which runs through March 1, 2012, works: Donors and recipients of deer meat register, search a database for participants in their area, and then make contact by telephone or e-mail to set up the transfer of deer meat. Deer meat may not be sold.

The recipient may accept field dressed deer, skinned and boned deer, or wrapped and frozen deer meat. The donor is responsible for properly field dressing and checking the deer before transfer.

Game and Parks is not responsible for the quality of the meat or failure of the donor or recipient to follow through with the transfer. The agency provides the necessary transfer cards online.