

Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission

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ITEM

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DECISION

TOPIC

HUSH Agreement with the Food Bank of Iowa

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The Department requests Commission approval to renew the annual agreement with the Food Bank of Iowa to assist in the administration of the Help Us Stop Hunger (HUSH) program. There are no changes from the previous several years. The contract requires the DNR to pay the Food Bank \$70 per donated deer.

Services provided by the Food Bank include arranging for storage and distribution of the ground venison from 90 individual meat processors (lockers) to needy Iowans, making payments to each of the lockers for processing, and completing all financial and deer donation records. The Food Bank retains \$5 per deer for administrative costs and they disburse \$65 per deer to meat processors. Their services allow the DNR to devote only a 0.3 FTE in the administration of one of the nation's most efficient and largest deer donation programs. The majority of funding for this program is supported by the HUSH fee (\$1) on each deer license and supplemental funding is annually budgeted for in the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.

HUSH has, also, become an important part of the deer management strategy, this year accounting for approximately 4.3% of total deer harvested. It is presumed that most donated deer would not have been harvested if HUSH did not exist. During the last contract, hunters donated 7,103 deer which has generated approximately 1.3 million quarter-pound servings of venison for needy Iowans.

Ross Harrison, HUSH Coordinator  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
April 9, 2009