

VENISON DONATION PROCESSOR ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Processor availability and accessibility are among the biggest barriers to donating venison to charitable organizations in Michigan. This grant program allows County Farm Bureaus to apply for funding on behalf of a licensed venison processor or a venison donation nonprofit. The goal is to increase the amount of venison donated to hunger-relief organizations across the state. Funds may be used to support initiatives that collect, process, and donate venison.

ELIGIBILITY

To qualify, applicants must:

- Be a County Farm Bureau partnering with (or attempting to partner with) a local Farm Bureau Insurance Agent, and either:
 - A licensed venison processor, or
 - A venison donation nonprofit
- Ensure the initiative occurs within 12 months of the award date

FUNDING AMOUNT

- Grants of up to **\$10,000** are available.

FUNDING CATEGORIES

1. Venison Processing Support

Up to \$10,000 may be awarded to cover processing fees for a County Farm Bureau-led venison donation event or program. Eligible recipients include licensed processors and venison donation nonprofits.

2. Processor Support Stipend

Licensed processors may receive a stipend of up to \$2,500 to help offset indirect processing costs. This stipend may be awarded independently or as part of a larger grant request.

PRIORITY CONSIDERATION

Preference will be given to initiatives that:

- Aim to donate a high number of deer
- Leverage external support from local businesses or organizations committed to reducing Michigan's deer herd

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applications must be submitted by your County Administrative Manager on the Social Mission Barnyard page. Required information includes:

- **Initiative description**, including timeline and whether it's a first-time or recurring event
- **Date and location** of the event
- **Program budget**, including:
 - Processing cost per deer
 - Testing costs (if applicable)
 - Identification of outside funding sources
- **List of anticipated partners** and their roles (include any other County Farm Bureaus involved)
- **Target number of deer** to be donated
 - Is this a maximum? What if more deer are donated than expected?
- **Primary venison processing partner** (venison donation non-profit or licensed processor)
- **Name of hunger-relief nonprofit recipient**
- **Will the event occur without grant funding?** If so, how will processing be paid for?
- **Preferred County Farm Bureau contact**
- **Event organizer details** (individual or committee, meeting schedule, qualifications)
- **Advertising plan** for the event
- **Letter of support** from Farm Bureau Insurance Agent(s)
- If NOT partnering with one of the three listed venison donation organizations, **a letter of support** from the hunger-relief nonprofit receiving the meat is required



INELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS

Applications will be deemed ineligible if:

- Required information is incomplete
- Processing funds are requested for deer harvested at a **game ranch**

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Within **30 days of the event**, you will be required to report:

- Total number of deer processed
- Total pounds of venison donated
- Number of participating hunters
- Processing invoice

A completed **Harvest for All** submission is required to remain eligible for future funding.

AWARD PROCESS

- Applicants will be notified via email **within two weeks** of the application deadline
- Awardees will receive a **customizable marketing package**, including:
 - Digital event flyer
 - Postcards
 - Large check (available for pickup at the home office)

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- **Friday, March 4, 2026**
- **Friday, September 4, 2026**

Applications must be submitted by your County Administrative Manager on the Social Mission Barnyard page.

