



The Country Food Trust – Scottish Wild Venison Scheme

Scottish Venison (SV) has been liaising with the Country Food Trust (CFT) to support and promote its initiative to supply venison from the Scottish uplands and lowlands into the charitable sector in Scotland.

The preferred Scottish Venison approach with CFT which we are encouraging and supporting is outlined below.

- Estates/deer forests/land holdings (producers) agree individually on an annual basis with CFT to donate a specific number of carcasses to the Trust – this agreement should cover approximate timing of supply, deer species and sex. Producers may wish to do this as part of their own environment, social and governance (ESG) programmes, charitable giving objectives or for philanthropic or other reasons.
- The whole carcass is donated to CFT. Those carcasses donated to CFT are uplifted as per normal routine collection by the game dealer/processor.
- The game dealer/processor breaks down the carcass, then supplying CFT for further processing for ambient meals and onward supply to community kitchens.
- As this commitment by a producer is a charitable donation the game dealer/processor retains the strip loin and haunches without any payment to the producer. This is to cover their costs including collection/transport.

To ensure that best quality in terms of end product is achieved (CFT supply should be no different from that destined for retail, catering and food service and other supply chains). Scottish Venison has advised against rutted male venison being included for this initiative.

Until there is a change in the law there is no requirement for the carcass to have been culled using non-lead ammunition.

The producer may choose to make separate arrangements with CFT and their game dealer/processor. For this and for more information contact sj@thecountryfoodtrust.org

Scottish Venison is promoting the structure above as least complex, therefore hopefully resulting in a higher volume of venison being made available to CFT.

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