



# STATE OF IOWA

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DATE: September 30, 2015

TO: Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Center-based Institutions

FROM: Robin Holz, Lead Consultant - Centers  
Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services

SUBJECT: Donated Meats in CACFP

CACFP allows centers to accept donated food. A record must be kept in the CACFP monthly file to describe the food, the date of donation, donor, and amount (CACFP Administrative Manual p. 5-18). Recent guidance from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) states that game animals may be donated if animals are slaughtered and inspected in a Federal inspected facility, State inspected program, or be from an approved source as established by the State and local regulatory authority that licenses and inspects food service operations.

Childcare food service operations are inspected and licensed by the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), so DHS is the State regulatory authority. DHS has indicated both purchased and donated meat may not be served in child care organizations unless it is labeled USDA or State inspected.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources operates the Help Us Stop Hunger (HUSH) program. Donated HUSH venison may be distributed by Food Banks that serve some non-profit centers. Some adult care organizations are inspected by the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA). DIA allows the use of HUSH venison in adult congregate meal sites because the product will be cooked and the facility is DIA inspected. Other meats used must be inspected by USDA or State authorities. Childcare organizations cannot use venison donated from the HUSH program unless it bears a Federal or State mark of inspection.

Federally inspected facilities are those that engage in interstate commerce. Meat that has been inspected will bear a USDA logo. The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) Meat and Poultry Inspection Bureau inspects meat processing facilities that operate within the State. State inspected meat will have a State logo with the establishment number on the package. All labeling with a Federal or State mark of inspection must go through a prior approval procedure that begins at the plant where the product is processed and packaged. The labels must accurately reflect the product they describe.

Animals processed by the producer or at a custom locker marked "Not for Sale" cannot not be used in CACFP.

Feel free to contact Robin Holz at (515)281-3484 if you have questions or need further information.