

*Helping Michigan's Families in Need
Founded 1991*



*MSAH, 2101 Wood St.
Lansing, MI. 48912*

MICHIGAN SPORTSMEN AGAINST HUNGER
sportsmenagainsthunger.org

2023-24 CONTRACT YEAR ANNUAL YEAR END REPORT

May . 2025

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About the MSAH organization: The MSAH is a volunteer based 501c3 organization started in 1991 and has been a contractor working in coordination with the State of Michigan under contract since 2005.

The Beginning The founding of MSAH came around after 1989, when representatives Safari Club International, teamed up with the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, to create a wild game donation program where hunters could donate part or all of their processed and wrapped harvest to a central freezer to be distributed to non-profit Pantries and Shelters

Not long after its creation, it was decided to call the program the Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger program and invite Michigan organizations wanting to participate in such a humanitarian and conservation effort for Michigan's communities, to get involved. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan United Conservation Club came on board as did Ted Nugent's World Bowhunters, United Methodist Men's Club, Michigan Bow Hunters Association, and later the Greater Lansing Food Bank, National Wildlife Federation and Michigan Quality Deer Management would all be represented on the MSAH board in those years.

MSAH organizational changes in 2024 The MSAH would go through a few organizational changes for 2024;

- Adoption of an Executive Director to replace the exiting Executive Director.
- Adoption of a new Treasurer for the retiring Treasurer.
- Adoption of a partnership between the Food Bank Council of Michigan and the MSAH.
- Adoption of a Website Director

The process for finding and electing a new Executive Director did find a choice candidate in August of 2023, who regretfully had to leave the position in December 2023. The previous Executive Director agreed to return to finish out the 2023-24 contract year with the MDNR.

The new Treasurer for MSAH agreed to that position and was approved in October 2024.

The partnership agreement with the Food Bank Council of Michigan (FBCM) was created to work with the FBCM who was chosen by the MDNR to distribute the processed venison that passed scanning process mandated by Food X Inspection of Holland, Michigan. While this partnership was agreed on, it began to fall by the wayside as the FBCM focused on contracting with the MDNR for the 2024-25 year ahead.

Program Funding Funding for the program comes primarily through contracting with the State of Michigan and the State of Michigan controlled Sportsmen Against Hunger Fund (*SAH Fund*) which was created by the legislature in 2005..

Through this legislative creation of Public Acts 116 and 117 in 2005 that the MSAH along with the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) initiated in legislative process, the department (MDNR) had to create a fund account to be called the “Sportsmen Against Hunger” fund, which is funded through voluntary fund donations at the point of hunting/fishing licenses sales to pay for the processing of donated deer to help feed the hungry of this State.

All voluntary fund donations at the point of license sales or permit applications go directly into the SAH fund and are used solely for the processing of donated

deer to feed the Hungry in local Michigan communities through nonprofit food banks, pantries and shelters.

As an established 501c3 nonprofit organization, the MSAH also receives direct funding to our organization from corporate donors and individual supporters that hunt as well as those who do not hunt or fish but support the MSAH mission of *Channeling Precious Resources into Opportunities for a Better Community*.

MDNR Program changes The MDNR had the option to contract services for the program they had to create and that is how the MSAH started contracting with the MDNR in 2005. Utilizing our established network of processors, established venison distribution network of participating processors in the program connecting with local Michigan based non-profit Food Banks, Pantries and Shelters to distribute processed venison to, and our established process of reimbursement.

When our contract agreement with the MDNR ended on September 30, 2024 and a new contractor was chosen, the MDNR asked if the MSAH would continue as contractor until January 1, 2025. The MSAH declined the offer to focus on reconstruction and renewal of our organizations program without financial assistance from the MDNR.

The State of Michigan deer donation program along with the fund controlled by the MDNR would go under a change in name to *Hunters Feeding Michigan* after September 30, 2024.

2023-24 Contract Year Review The 2023 MSAH Contract Year with the State of Michigan ran from October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024.

Changes from previous past contracts for the 2023-24 contract year were;

- 1) *This contract was a verbal agreement between the MDNR, State of Michigan and the MSAH of the 2022-23 year contract. Being as according to the MDNR contract program manager Tom Weston, the MDNR was reconstructing the program and did not have a formal contract put together after the past program contract ended.*
- 2) *After the verbal agreement between the MDNR Program Manager and the MSAH of an extension of the 2022-23 contract to go by, the MDNR Program Manager contacted the MSAH Executive Director to notify the MSAH that the MDNR would be taking over and overseeing the MSAH Program for the coming contract year. With mandates to be followed by the MSAH and MSAH Participating processors.*
- 3) *All deer donated to the MSAH which were harvested in a CWD known county, must be tested for CWD and all deer harvested in a bTB known county, must be tested for bTB and cleared of any diseases before being used by food banks, pantries or shelters.*
- 4) *Processor performing Lymph Node Removal of donated deer to be submitted for CWD Testing, were to be compensated \$20 per deer.*
- 5) *The MDNR began contracting with inspection facility Food X Inspection located at 449 Howard Ave., Holland, Michigan 49424 where all donated deer processed for the States SAH program by MSAH Participating Processors would be picked up directly from MSAH Participating Processors by the MDNR and/or Food X Inspection company and transported to Food X Inspection to be scanned for metal fragment contaminants.*
- 6) *All processed venison transported for scanning would be paid for processing costs through the MSAH as contractor for the MDNR. Processed Venison which passed the scanning process with zero contaminants (copper jacket particles, lead particles, any other possible metal contaminants) would be distributed at the will of the MDNR, back to the processor it came from or given to the Food Bank Council of Michigan for distribution through their networks.*

SAH Program Funding Contract: The State of Michigan contract initially restricted a total budget of \$250,000.00 for the 2023-24 contract year for the MSAH to operate on. With an allocated Processing Budget of \$225,000.00 and an allocated Administrative budget of \$25,000.00.

As the contract year proceeded and the MDNR wanting to provide a higher payment to Participating Processors for hopes of a higher yield of processed venison, the initial MDNR Delivery Order approved by the MDNR was ignored with the MDNR Program Manager promising whatever additional funding needed for payments to processors would be provided to the MSAH.

MSAH Organization Funding through Private Donations: Private funds donated directly to the MSAH by check or electronic donations in the October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023 time period through an Electronic online link at the MSAH website and Facebook donation options (Network for Good), collected at outdoors events, Deer Donation Drives, Corporate Sponsorship support and Memorial Donations in memory of loved ones, grants, private donations, were used to pay for expenditures extending over the State allocated MSAH Processor or Administrative budget, without reimbursement from the state of Michigan.

Processor Reimbursement Payments: Starting October 1, 2023, MSAH Processors were initially compensated \$1.75 per processed pound resulting from deer donations they received. This amount was increased through request by the MDNR in May of 2023 to a reimbursement rate of \$3.00 per processed pound in some instances and in one specific instance for one specific processor \$125.00 per processed deer.

These increases were to compensate processors for processing Crop Damage deer donated throughout the Spring and Summer months.

Specific MSAH Participating Processors who performed Lymph Node Removal of donated deer from known CWD areas to be sent in for testing, were compensated at an additional \$20.00 per deer.

Another benefit in compensation to two specific processors was payment for their refrigeration unit operations during those Spring/Summer deer processing time periods.

Venison Donation Collections:

The Final 2022-23 Contract Year Deer Donation Figures

- **114,817** lbs. of venison was collected.
- From **22** MSAH Processors

NOTE:

- 1) Due to no update from the MDNR it is unknown to the MSAH what percentage of the collected 114,817 lbs. of processed venison was destroyed due to failing the scanning process.
- 2) It is also unknown how many different agencies and where their locations are that benefited from receipt of processed venison due to no information being supplied from the MDNR.

Expenditures for Processing reimbursements

Totals for Deer Processing, Lymph Node Removal, Storage was \$290,805.52

- MSAH processors for 114,817 lbs. was \$285,735.80
- Compensation for CWD testing was \$4,260.00
- Compensation for cost of running refrigeration storage unit outside of normal hunting season to one processor was \$809.72

NOTE: No transportation costs by the MDNR or the Food X Inspection company are included in this report.

MSAH organization Administrative Costs:

The MSAH Treasurer is supplied this information in spreadsheet. MSAH Administrative Expenses total \$14,696.83 for the period from October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024. This amount utilized 58.7% of the allocated MSAH Administrative Budget of \$25,000.00. The administrative expenses for the October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023 period are shown in **table A** at the end of this report.

Deer Management Programs included in deer donations Besides traditional Michigan deer hunting seasons where much of the deer are donated by hunters, there are deer donated in pre-season through farmers crop damage permit harvest as well as post season deer management in non-hunting urban cities and townships that contributed

In 2023-24 MSAH was contacted with requests to provide processing costs for deer taken through management programs by city/township governments of Big Rapids, Muskegon, Mt Pleasant, Grosse Ile.

ShowSpan & MSAH Partnership in Canned Food Drives For many years ShowSpan and the MSAH have teamed up to hold a Canned Food Drive at their ShowSpan events in Michigan. Event participants are asked to bring a sack of non-perishable not expired food items (4 items or 6 lbs., canned or boxed) and get in FREE with a voucher supplied by ShowSpan Inc.. 8,728 lbs. of non-perishable food items that were donated to local food banks and pantries.



2025 SHOWSPAN EVENT SUCCESS

Ultimate Fishing Show	1,000 LBS.
Outdoorama	250 LBS.
Ultimate Sport Show	7,478 LBS.
TOTAL	8,728 LBS.

TABLE A _ 2022-23 MSAH Administrative Expenditures Oct. 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024

PHONE	\$519.41	DEDICATED VERIZON BUSINESS ACCOUNT
USPS	\$357.65	STAMPS, SHIPPING, PO BOX RENTAL
MARKETING	\$1,268.36	TRIFOLD PRINTING, FLYER PRINTING, DECALS
DIRECTOR STIPEND	\$7,200.00	\$800.00 PER MONTH, INCLUDED WEBSITE BUILDING, SOCIAL MEDIA, ARTWORK LAYOUT
TAX PREP	\$400.00	
WEBSITE & DOMAIN	\$189.00	
INSURANCE	\$1,058.00	ORGANIZATION AND OFFICER LIABILITY
DEER TRANSPORT	\$120.69	TRAILER RENTAL
SUPPLIES	\$3,506.75	MAILING ENVELOPES, PAPER, 2LB. MEAT FREEZER BAGS,
BANK & CARD FEES	\$76.97	
TOTAL	\$14,696.83	

