

VENISON FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS SHEET

GUN SEASON: November 22nd - November 30th, 2025

Address: 728 W. State St., Fox Lake, WI 53933. Across the street from the Fox Lake retail store.

What hours are you open for full deer drop-off during gun season?

We are open from 9am - 6pm for full deer intake. However, we may decrease hours, limit quantity or close at any given time if we have reached our full capacity for safely keeping deer to preserve the meat's integrity.

How long does dropping off a deer take?

During gun season there may be increased wait times up to 2 hours. Please be patient and stay in your car. When you get to the driveway, you will be asked to form two lines. At that time, untie your deer and use the ATM if needed to take advantage of our cash discount. When it is your turn, you will back your vehicle up so we can get the deer off and placed where it needs to go.

Can I get my head back or have it caped?

Yes. If you want your head back, you will get this at the time of drop-off. If you want the hide, or have it caped, that will be done within 24-48 hours. You will be called to pick this back up in a timely manner at the Wild Game Processing Center. If no one is there, it will be in the night drop cooler, tagged with your name.

I want to donate my deer, what is needed?

There is no cost to a hunter to donate a deer through us to local food pantries. However, the deer needs to be CWD tested first. Please refer to the DNR website for further instructions on our self-serve kiosk to test.

What do I need to do to test my deer for CWD?

We have a self-serve kiosk that has instructions listed for you to follow. You can also refer to the DNR website for further instructions.

What is the cost to process my whole deer?

The cost starts at \$150 for basic processing or \$190 for it to be caped. We do require a \$50 deposit, per deer at the time of drop-off. We offer a \$30 cash discount if the entire amount is paid in cash, at time of drop off. Refer to our website for more detailed pricing information. We accept cash, check, or credit card. An ATM is onsite.

What is included in the processing fee?

The processing fee includes skinning, wrapping of; steaks, roasts, and tenderloins; burger with no add; and any trim. Anything added to the ground meat or further processing into sausage products will have additional fees. Refer to our website for pricing.

Where and when can I drop off my venison?

All 3 of our locations accept boneless trim September 1st through March 31st. Full or quartered deer are only accepted in Fox Lake at the Wild Game Processing Center across the road from the store (728 W. State St., Fox Lake, WI 53933). During Bow Season, we offer a Night Drop Cooler. There are directions outside of this cooler on how to tag your deer. Someone will call the next day for cutting instructions. We close the Night Drop Cooler during the Gun Season due to the large volume of whole deer we take in. We will also limit the total number of deer that we take in due to cooler space. Customers should check our website or Facebook throughout the day to see if we are accepting at that time. We do not take any deer Thanksgiving Day.

Do I get my own meat back?

With whole deer, customers will get their own cuts back; backstraps, tenderloins, roasts and steaks. However, all the trim turned into burger and/or sausage products are all put into large batches.

Is there someone at the Wild Game Center to help me if it's not during gun season?

We try to staff the Wild Game Center to match our store hours. Depending on the workload, this does not always happen. If no one is there and the store is open, call 920-485-2554 ext 2 and we will send someone over if available. There is a Night Drop Cooler to tag and leave your deer (not during gun season).

Do you have a dumpster for the public?

There is a dumpster at the Wild Game Center that the public can put deer carcasses and scraps in. This is a free service to the public through the DNR and there is no fee for using it.

How long does it take to get my meat back?

If you have a hide or cape to pick up, we will call you within 24-48 hours to pick this up separately at the Wild Game Center. We will call you when your meat is ready. Lead times change based on the volume that we take in. If there are not any sausage products being made out of the trim, it is usually done quicker than those that are getting burger and/or sausage. But, there is still no guarantee. You can call our Fox Lake Retail Store for inquiries on lead times at any time. We try our best to process full deer first in, first out.

How much meat will I get back?

There is no guarantee how much meat you will get back. Trim weight can amount to anywhere from 10# - 50# with an average of 20#. Yes, it depends on how big the deer is, however, looks can be deceiving; as it also depends where it was shot, how it was cleaned at the time it was shot, and how we have to trim damaged meat off. If you are getting any cuts back, this will also diminish what's left of trim.