

# ALASKA



## FOOD COALITION

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“Red meat is *not* bad for you. Now blue-green meat, *that's* bad for you!”

*Tommy Smothers, Comedian*

## Wild Game Food Donation and Recovery in Alaska

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### A Source for Protein

Proteins are part of every cell, tissue, and organ in our bodies. These proteins are constantly being broken down and replaced. Protein is one of the most important building blocks of a healthy human diet, important to many physiological functions, from building muscle and bone to keeping cells in good working order. Game sharing and road kill recovery programs can add needed protein to the foods you distribute. Accessing wild game is regulated for food safety, with each state having their own rules and food safety regulations for program participants.

### How Much Protein Do I Need?

In general, it's recommended that 10 – 35% of your daily calories come from protein. The Recommended Dietary Allowance for protein is:

#### *Grams of Protein needed each day*

Children ages 1 – 3	13
Children ages 4 – 8	19
Children ages 9 – 13	34
Girls ages 14 – 18	46
Boys ages 14 – 18	52
Women ages 19 – 70+	46
Men ages 19 – 70+	56

#### *Examples:*

- 1 cup of milk has 8 grams of protein
- A 3-ounce piece of meat has about 21 grams of protein
- 1 cup of dry beans has about 16 grams of protein
- An 8-ounce container of yogurt has about 11 grams of protein

### Game Sharing

In Alaska we have access to traditional wild game meat and seafood, great sources of protein. If handled properly, this can be a valuable food source. Food Bank of Alaska in Anchorage, Fairbanks Community Food Bank, and Kenai Peninsula Food Bank have developed systems to accept meat from hunters and distribute it to needy Alaskans. Additional information is available at <http://www.outdoorsdirectory.com/akpages/hunger.htm>. Alaska State game regulations require hunters transferring meat to record the transaction. A "Transfer of Possession" form is located in the Alaska Hunting Regulations handbook or online at Food Bank of Alaska's Website: [http://www.foodbankofalaska.org/uploads/page/44/transfer\\_of\\_possession.pdf](http://www.foodbankofalaska.org/uploads/page/44/transfer_of_possession.pdf). Processing and transportation information can be found at: [http://www.foodbankofalaska.org/uploads/page/44/hunters\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.foodbankofalaska.org/uploads/page/44/hunters_flyer.pdf).

### Recovering Wild Game in Alaska

Feeding America Guidelines for Wild Game Donation does not generally recommend recovery of road kills (wild game animals killed by impact with vehicles), but they do acknowledge several states, including Alaska, allow for recovery. Moose, caribou and bear are considered state property under the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,

and anyone who finds road kill must call a state trooper, who turns the carcass over to charity. When the troopers receive news of a moose road kill, approved volunteers are contacted to come to the scene to butcher the animal, which must be quickly bled, gutted and quartered so the meat can cool as fast as possible. The meat is taken to churches, shelters and soup kitchens for distribution. It is estimated over 800 moose are distributed in this way each year. State troopers require approved groups have a minimum of 3 people over the age of 18 who can assist with the road kill recovery operation. Local residents may also register to be included on the "road kill list" in the more rural areas, ensuring that the valuable meat is not wasted. Application packets are available at state trooper posts in Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla, Glenallen and Kenai. Contact information can be found at:

<http://www.dps.state.ak.us/ast/contacts.aspx>

## **State Regulations**

Alaska Statute 18 AAC 31.205 allows for traditional wild game meat, seafood, plants, and other food donated to an institution or a nonprofit program. Except for food prohibited under 18 AAC 31.210, the aforementioned foods may be donated to a food service of an institution or a nonprofit program, including a residential child care facility with a license from the Department of Health and Social Services, a school lunch program, or a senior meal program, if the operator of the food service meets specific criteria outlined in regulatory statutes. Prohibited foods include fox, polar bear, bear and walrus meat; seal or whale oil (with or without meat), fermented game meat, fermented seafood products, hermetically sealed low-acid food, (unless the food is obtained from a food processing establishment that is permitted or certified by the local, state, or federal agency with jurisdiction); reduced-oxygen packaged food, smoked or dried seafood products, unless those products are prepared in a seafood processing facility or are from another approved source.

## **Good Samaritan Laws**

Both donors and receiver operators should familiarize themselves and their staff with the Good Samaritan laws that limit liability to gross negligence and intentional misconduct. Alaska Statute 17.20.345 addresses liability of the food donor, and 17.20.346 http addresses liability of the food bank. Donors and food banks are defined in Alaska Statute 17.20.347 <http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/akstatutes/17/17.20./08>

## **Resources**

Chapter 31 Alaska Food Code 18 ACC 31.205. Traditional Wild Game Meat Donated to an institution or nonprofit program

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/regulations/pdfs/18%20AAC%2031.pdf>

Implementing a Food Recovery Program, Department of Environmental Conservation

[http://www.alaskafood.org/Food\\_Recovery\\_Recovery\\_3.pdf](http://www.alaskafood.org/Food_Recovery_Recovery_3.pdf)

What is Protein? Centers for Disease Control

<http://www.cdc.gov/nutrition/everyone/basics/protein.html>

*The Alaska Food Coalition is here to help. Copies of Alaska Food Coalition White Papers are available online: <http://www.alaskafood.org/whitepapers.shtml> for additional information, contact Vanessa Salinas, Alaska Food Coalition Manager: [afc@foodbankofalaska.org](mailto:afc@foodbankofalaska.org)*

**NEXT MONTH: Recruiting Youth as Volunteers**