



Anne Arundel County  
Venison Food Relief Program

January 19, 2021

Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation

2660 Riva Road, Suite 200

Annapolis, MD 21401

## Executive Summary

Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC), on behalf of Anne Arundel County, launched a Venison Food Relief Program on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 which ran through December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This program was administered by AAEDC's Arundel AG team. The purpose of the program was to provide protein-rich, low fat venison meat to the Anne Arundel County Food Bank to distribute to families in need. One of the challenges the Anne Arundel County Food Bank has come across during this COVID-19 pandemic is the high cost of meat due to the shortage of available protein. Venison introduces a new protein source and a properly processed deer can feed dozens of people.

"Local farmers report that crop damage from deer is their greatest obstacle when attempting to grow the local produce that has been so important to our residents during this pandemic," said County Executive Pittman. "Past efforts to reduce the deer population through managed hunts and crop damage permits have not been effective because no incentives were offered to hunters. This first-in-the-state program will have the dual benefit of getting quality meat to our food bank for residents who need it, and reducing the population of deer that would otherwise destroy next year's crops. It's smart and it's cost-effective."

Hunters with the necessary licenses and permits received \$50 for each legally harvested deer and had to bring their harvested deer to one of the three participating processors by December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The processor then paid the hunter, processed the deer, and then donated the meat to the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. The processor received \$100 for each deer processed.

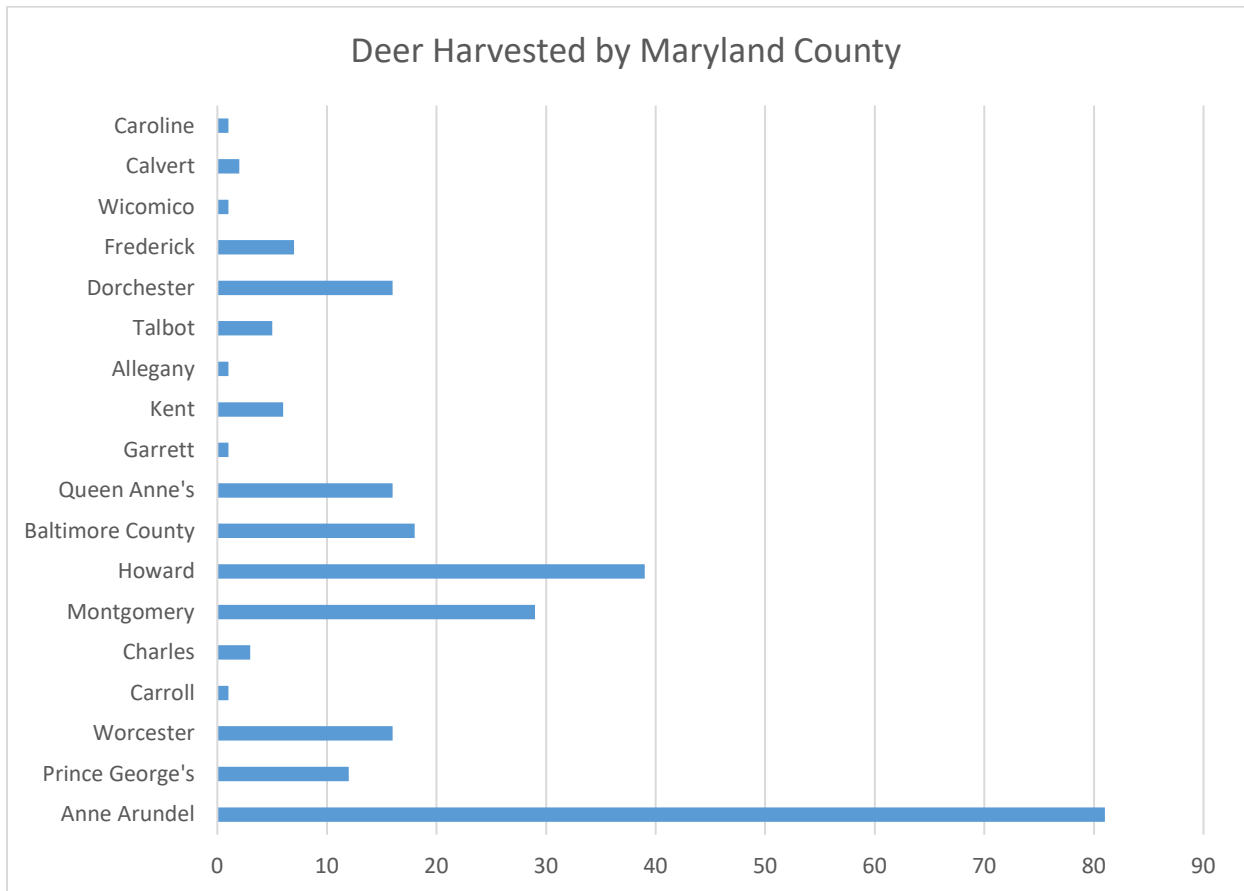
In total, 255 deer were harvested and 5,727 pounds of venison meat were donated to the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. Of the \$126,000 in federal CARES Act money allotted to the program, \$12,750 went to hunters, \$25,500 went to processors (plus an additional \$945.00 administrative fee), \$6,000 to AAEDC to administer the program, and the remaining \$80,805 was donated to the Anne Arundel County Food Bank and used to purchase additional proteins.

Of the 255 deer harvested, 81 were harvested in Anne Arundel County and the remaining 174 were harvested across 18 other Maryland counties. Utilizing hunters and hunting locations from across Maryland and nearby jurisdictions, this ensured a diversified source of protein supplied to the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. Three processors, Hitchcock, Back 40 Processors, and the Harwood Butcher Shop participated in the program. There were a total of 151 hunters that participated.

Overall, AAEDC's Arundel AG team was pleased to partner with the Anne Arundel County Food Bank and the County to increase the supply of meat available to families in need, provide supplemental income to hunters, and at the same time helping to reduce crop damage on county farms.

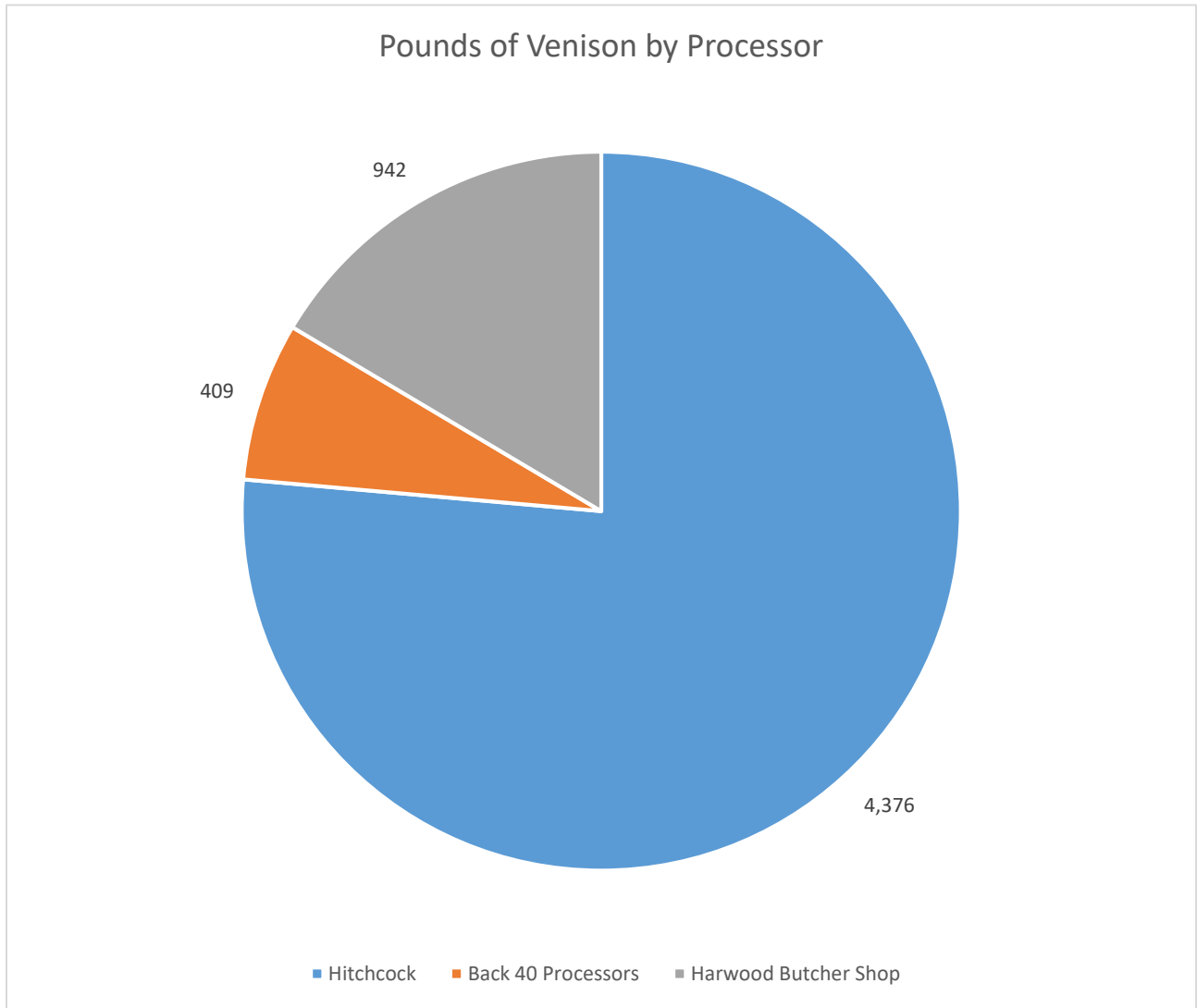
## Program Statistics

### Deer Harvested



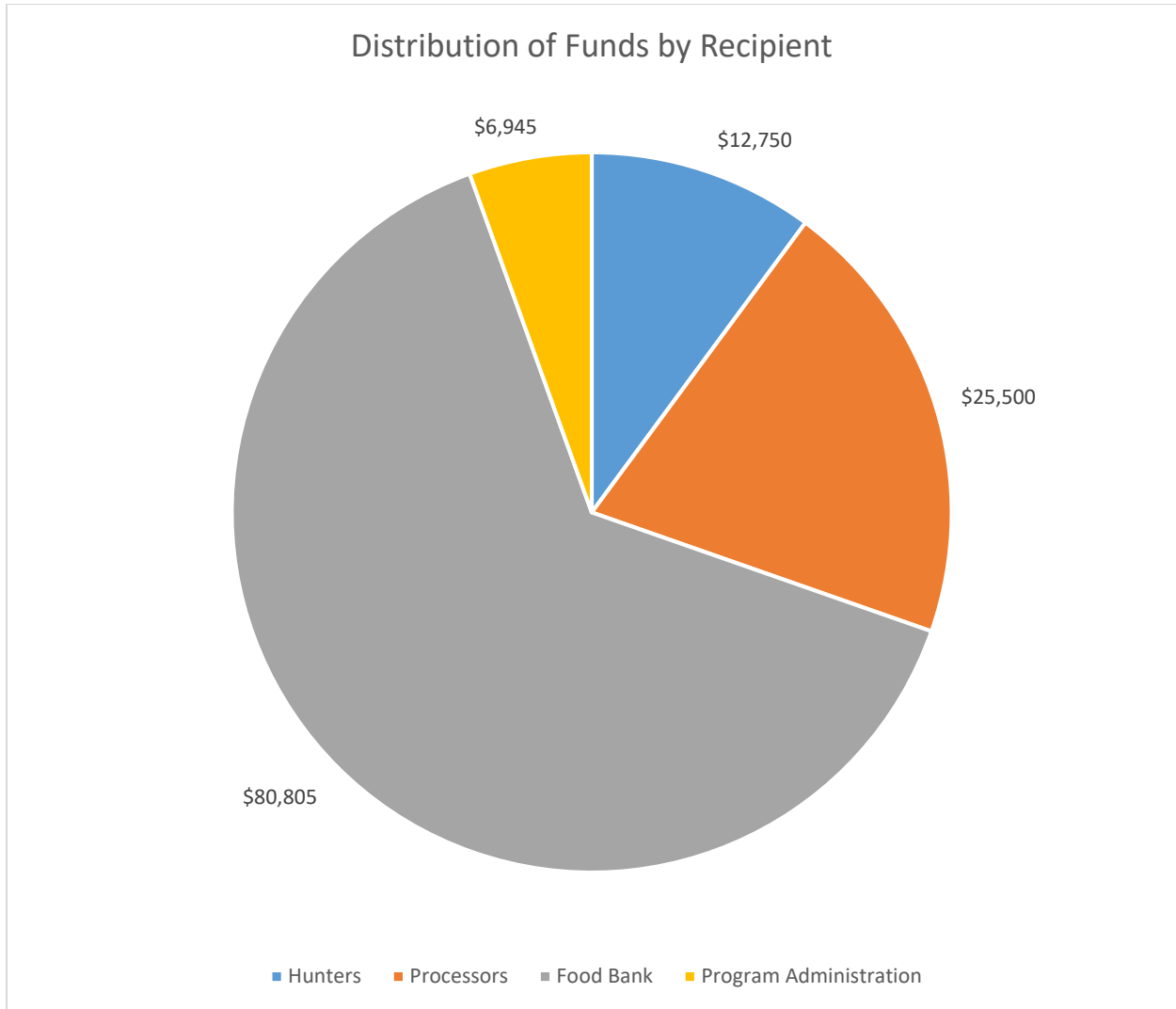
Maryland County Deer Harvested From			
Anne Arundel	81	Garrett	1
Prince George's	12	Kent	6
Worcester	16	Allegany	1
Carroll	1	Talbot	5
Charles	3	Dorchester	16
Montgomery	29	Frederick	7
Howard	39	Wicomico	1
Baltimore County	18	Calvert	2
Queen Anne's	16	Caroline	1
<b>Total Deer Harvested: 255</b>			

Pounds of Venison Donated



Processor	Pounds of Venison Donated
Hitchcock	4,376
Back 40 Processors	409
Harwood Butcher Shop	942
<b>Total: 5,727</b>	

Funds Distribution



Venison Food Relief Program Funding Breakdown	
Hunters	\$12,750
Processors	\$25,500
Food Bank	\$80,805
Program Administration*	\$6,945
<b>Total: \$120,000</b>	

\* Program Administration includes \$6,000 to AAEDC and \$945 to processor