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1987 Maine Moose Hunter's Guide

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

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1987 MAINE MOOSE HUNTER'S GUIDE

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

MOOSE HUNTING LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The following are summaries of laws and regulations (and interpretations) which specifically concern the hunting of moose. In addition to these, you must also comply with all other applicable fish and wildlife laws of Title 12, Maine Revised Statutes.

WHO MAY HUNT: Only holders of valid moose hunting permits and their designated subpermittees may hunt moose. The permittee must possess his moose hunting permit at all times while hunting; both hunters must possess a valid Maine hunting license while hunting. The permittee may hunt alone, if he chooses, but not the subpermittee, who must always be accompanied by the permittee while hunting. (For enforcement purposes, "accompany" means that the subpermittee shall be in contact with the permittee by use of the natural senses of sight or sound unaided by any devices except eyeglasses or hearing aids required by the wearer.)

(Hunting parties may include other individuals, including licensed Maine guides, but only permittees and subpermittees may hunt or kill moose.)

OPEN SEASON: The open season for moose is from October 19 through October 24, 1987.

LEGAL HOURS: The legal hunting hours for moose shall be from one-half (½) hour before sunrise until sunset. (Oct. 19: 6:29 a.m. to 5:49 p.m.; Oct. 21: 6:31 to 5:46; Oct. 22: 6:33 to 5:44; Oct. 23: 6:34 to 5:42; Oct. 24: 6:35 to 5:41).

OPEN AREAS: Hunters must hunt within their assigned zones (see map and description).

CLOSED AREAS: Within the moose hunting district there are several areas which may not be hunted. They include all game sanctuaries, Indian territories, Baxter State Park (including those areas ordinarily open to hunting), the Allagash Wilderness Waterway (the portion within approximately 500 feet of the high water mark), Aroostook State Park and Lily Bay State Park. Such areas are usually well marked and easily identified. See the hunting law booklet for details on location of game sanctuaries and Indian territories. Anyone wishing to hunt on Indian territory should contact appropriate Indian agency for further information (see phone numbers elsewhere in this booklet).

BAG LIMIT: One moose of either sex per permit holder. It may be shot by either the permittee or the subpermittee. It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt moose after having killed or registered one during the open season of that calendar year.

HUNTER ORANGE CLOTHING: Anyone who hunts with a firearm in the moose hunting district during the moose season shall wear an article of solid-colored hunter orange clothing (as defined in Title 12 MRSA, Section 7001) which is visible from all sides and is in good and serviceable condition. Exempt from this requirement are persons hunting waterfowl from a boat or blind or in conjunction with waterfowl decoys.

ILLEGAL FIREARMS: The law sets only minimal restrictions on firearms. Illegal are handguns less than .35 caliber, .22 caliber rimfire firearms, and shotguns using shot loads. Any other legal means of taking deer may also be used for hunting moose; however, to have the greatest assurance of making a clean kill, only the larger cartridges are recommended.

BOW AND ARROW: Use of bow and arrow is legal for moose hunting. No firearm except a handgun may be carried by anyone hunting with bow and arrow. (One moose hunter may hunt with bow and arrow, and his permittee or subpermittee with any legal firearm.) Anyone hunting moose with bow and arrow must possess a valid archery hunting license; a regular hunting license must also be possessed if the hunter wishes to carry a firearm at any time.

MOOSE TO BE TAGGED: The official transportation tag (small tag with string), bearing the full name and address of the person who **killed** the moose shall immediately and securely be attached to its **head**. (The **adhesive-backed tag** should be placed on a **hind leg**, following instructions on the tag.)

MOOSE TRANSPORTATION: The entire animal, except the viscera, must be brought out and presented for registration, but it may be dismembered for ease of transportation. Whenever moose are dismembered, each part shall be labeled with the name and address of the person who killed the moose.

Before any person, at any time and in any manner, moves or transports any moose:

- A. A portion of the moose must be open to view;
- B. The moose tag portion of the permit, bearing the name and address of the person who killed the moose, must be securely attached to the head of the moose;
- C. The person who killed it must accompany the moose while it is being moved or transported.

MOOSE REGISTRATION: All moose shall be presented for registration and inspection at the first open moose registration station on the route taken by the person who killed the moose. The entire animal shall be presented.

If you feel that the moose you shot is unfit for consumption because of disease or parasite infestation, ask a game warden or wildlife biologist about the condition **before** registering it; once the moose is legally registered it becomes the property of the person who registered it, and under no circumstances will an opportunity be given to take another moose.

Inland fisheries and wildlife wardens or wildlife biologists shall register each moose legally presented for registration and shall attach a metal seal to each moose.

No person shall keep a moose at his home or at any place of storage except at an official registration station or at the office of an inland fisheries and wildlife warden for more than twelve (12) hours, without first notifying a game warden, unless that moose has been legally registered. Unregistered moose may be left in the woods if the shooter notifies a game warden within 12 hours as to location of moose and circumstances necessitating leaving it. A person is guilty of false registration if he presents for registration, or allows to be registered in his name, any moose which he did not lawfully kill.

RADIO COLLARS AND EAR TAGS: All radio collars and ear tags found on harvested moose must be submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Department at the time the animal is presented for registration.

GIVING MOOSE AWAY—PARTS TO BE LABELED: Except for permittees and subpermittees who have legally harvested and transported a moose, no person shall have in his possession any part or parts of a moose given to him unless each separate part is plainly labeled with the following:

- A. The registration seal number; and
- B. The name and address of the person who registered the moose.

MOOSE NOT TO BE SOLD: The law prohibits the buying or selling of moose or parts of moose, except that any person who has legally killed and registered a moose may sell the head, hide, antlers and feet.

QUESTIONNAIRES: Each permittee shall complete a questionnaire, to be provided by the Fish and Wildlife Department, and return this questionnaire to the Department within a period of 10 days after the close of the moose hunting season.

TWO-YEAR WAITING PERIOD: Moose hunting permit holders must wait two years before being eligible to receive another one.

This requirement affects status as a permit holder only; it does not concern hunters who have been subpermittees, nor prohibit a hunter from being a subpermittee during the two-year wait.

GENERAL HUNTING LAWS

Summarized below are some Maine general hunting laws that you should be aware of while moose hunting. This listing has no legal weight and is not intended as a substitute for reading the current hunting law booklet.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- Discharge a firearm within 100 yards of a residential dwelling without permission of the owner.
- Hunt from any paved way (any road with a bituminous surface). Possession of a loaded firearm within the limits of a paved way is evidence of hunting.
- Hunt on Sunday or at night
- Possess a firearm in a motor vehicle on Sunday on an unpaved road in an unorganized township (most of the townships in the moose hunting area are unorganized) unless the firearm is carried securely and completely wrapped, in a case, or in at least two separate pieces so that it cannot be fired unless pieces are put together (a clip, magazine, or cylinder of a firearm is not considered a piece of firearm).
- Use artificial lights at night to illuminate wildlife.
- Hunt from any motor vehicle (including trailer, all terrain vehicle, aircraft, snowmobile, motorboat or railway car. Hunting includes pursuing and hunting for animals. You may use your vehicle to go from place to place and , if on the way you see a moose, you may get out and begin hunting on foot).
- Have loaded firearms in or on any of the above vehicles.
- Hunt without being accompanied by adult (18 or older) if you are under 16 years of age.
- Hunt while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs.
- Hunt with automatic firearms (continue to fire as long as trigger is held back).
- Hunt with auto-loading firearm whose magazine will hold more than five cartridges.
- Interfere with anyone who is hunting legally, or disturb wild animals with the intent to interfere with the hunting of them.

MOOSE HUNTING ZONES

To insure distribution of hunting pressure throughout the moose hunting district, each permit holder is assigned to a zone that he and his subpermittee must hunt in.

All zone assignments are final, and there is no provision for zone swapping.

All zone boundary lines are well marked physical features, such as roads, rivers, lake shores, international boundaries, etc.

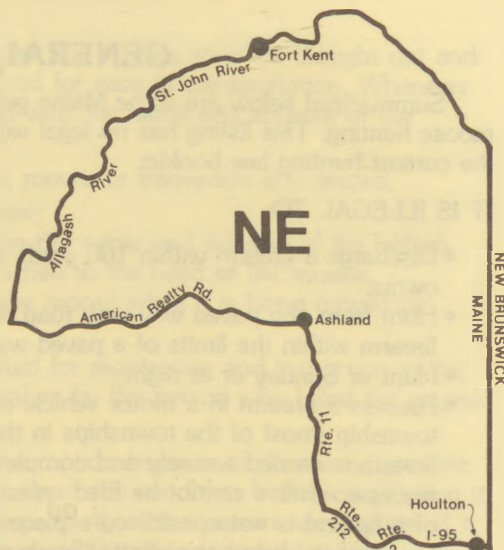
NORTHEASTERN ZONE (NE) (220 Permits)

The Northeastern Zone is bounded by a line beginning where Interstate Highway #95 meets the Maine-New Brunswick border in Houlton; then following Interstate Highway #95 westerly to State Highway #2 in Ludlow; State Highway #2 westerly to State Highway #212 in Smyrna Mills; State Highway #212 northerly to State Highway #11 in Knowles Corner; State Highway #11 northerly to the Garfield Road in Ashland; the Garfield Road westerly to the entrance of the American Realty Road; the American Realty westerly to the Allagash River; the east shore of the Allagash River northerly to the St. John River; the east shore of the St. John River northeasterly to the Maine-New Brunswick border; then along the border easterly and southerly to the point of beginning.

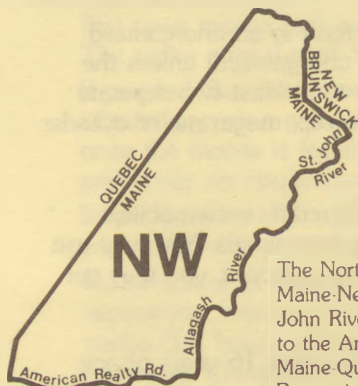
The Northeastern Zone contains vast commercial forestlands as well as a mixture of intensive agricultural land and woodlands. Agricultural areas are found in eastern portions of the zone. Public roads are available in many sections, and hundreds of miles of logging roads make the commercial forestland accessible to the public. Numerous waterways can be used to gain access to areas which cannot be reached by vehicle. Access to timberlands in the northwestern portion of

the zone is through North Maine Woods* checkpoints at Six Mile (west of Ashland), Fish River (west of Portage), and at St. Francis. Much of the commercial forestland is a considerable distance from developed areas and contains no facilities except for camps which are scattered throughout these areas.

*(North Maine Woods is an organization of private landowners and Maine's natural resource agencies which controls access and manages recreational use of two and a half million acres of commercial forestland in the northwestern portion of Maine. Visitors to the area must register upon entry and pay a land use fee. For further information and a map of the area send \$1.50 to North Maine Woods, P.O. Box 421 Ashland, ME 04732.)



NORTHWESTERN ZONE (NW) (100 permits)



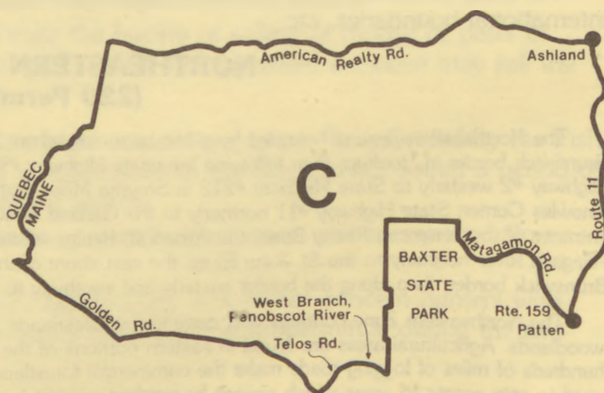
The Northwestern Zone is bounded by a line beginning where the St. John River and the Maine-New Brunswick border meets in St. Francis; then following the east shore of the St. John River southwesterly to the Allagash River; the east shore of the Allagash River southerly to the American Realty Road in T11R13 WELS; the American Realty Road westerly to the Maine-Quebec border in T11R17 WELS; then along the Quebec border and the New Brunswick border northeasterly and southeasterly to the point of beginning.

The Northwestern Zone is primarily very remote commercial forestland containing hundreds of miles of logging roads. Numerous navigable rivers and streams can be used to gain access to areas which cannot be reached by vehicle. Access to the zone is limited and for the most part is through North Maine Woods checkpoints in the town of Allagash Plantation and at three locations along the Maine-Quebec border (Daaquam, St. Pamphile, and Estcourt). Access from Quebec is also controlled by the U.S. Customs at the latter three border crossings. The area is also accessible via the Telos, Six-Mile and Fish River checkpoints; these access routes eliminate the problem of the restricted hours at border checkpoints. Visitors to the area must register and pay a North Maine Woods land use fee. Some developed campsites are available, and camping is permitted in certain other areas with a Maine Forest Service fire permit. Although this area is not a true wilderness, it is very remote and contains no facilities. For further information and a map of the area send \$1.50 to North Maine Woods, P.O. Box 421, Ashland, ME 04732.

Individuals hunting this zone must plan to bring all equipment and supplies that they will need.

CENTRAL ZONE (C) (290 permits)

The Central Zone is bounded by a line beginning where the American Realty Road crosses the Maine-Quebec border in T11R17 WELS; then following the American Realty Road easterly to the Garfield Road; the Garfield Road easterly to State Highway #11 in Ashland; State Highway #11 southerly to Patten; State Highway #159 northwesterly to the Matagamon Road in Shin Pond; the Matagamon Road westerly to the northeast entrance of Baxter State Park; the boundary of Baxter State Park northerly, westerly and southerly to the West Branch of the Penobscot River in T3R11 WELS; the north shore of the West Branch of the Penobscot River westerly to the Telos Road; the Telos Road southerly to the Golden Road; the Golden Road westerly to the Maine-Quebec border; then along the Quebec border northerly to the point of beginning.



The Central Zone is composed of remote commercial forestland containing hundreds of miles of logging roads. Numerous waterways can be used to gain access to areas which cannot be reached by vehicle. Access is available from Ashland, Oxbow, Patten, Millinocket, Greenville, Rockwood, Jackman, Quebec (Daaquam, Ste. Aurelie and St. Juste) and other localities and is totally limited to private logging roads which penetrate into the zone from these outlying areas. Landowner checkpoints, some involving the payment of a fee, are located at several points along the major access routes. Access to the eastern and northern portion of the zone is through North Maine Woods checkpoints at Ashland, Oxbow, Telos, Caucomgomac, Daaquam, Ste. Aurelie and St. Juste. Access from Quebec is also controlled by the U.S. Customs at Daaquam and Ste. Aurelie. A limited number of permits will be issued by North Maine Woods, on an advanced reservation basis only, for access through Ste. Aurelie, St. Juste and Caucomgomac checkpoints. Visitors to the portion of this zone within the North Maine Woods area must register and pay a user fee. Some developed campsites are available, and camping is permitted in certain other areas with a Maine Forest Service fire permit. For further information and a map of the area send \$1.50 to: North Maine Woods, P.O. Box 421, Ashland, ME 04732. Except for a few gated roads, access is generally open to the public. Although this zone is not a true wilderness, it is very remote and contains no facilities. The majority of the commercial sporting camps are located in the eastern half of the zone. Individuals hunting in this area must plan to bring all equipment and supplies that they will need. In the area between the North Maine Woods boundary and the Golden Road visitors will be required to register and pay a land use fee; for further information on this area write to: Land Use Manager, Great Northern Paper Company, 1024 Central St., Millinocket, ME 04462.



SOUTHEASTERN ZONE (SE) (150 permits)

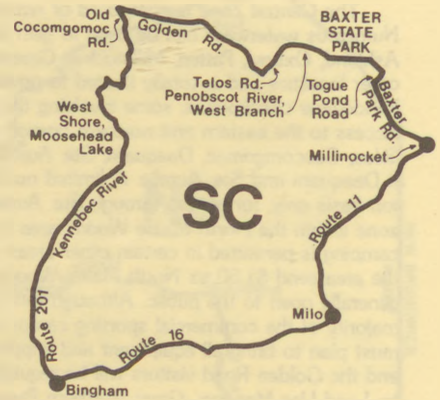
The Southeastern Zone is bounded by a line beginning at the confluence of the St. Croix River and Stoney Brook in Baileyville; then following the west shore of Stoney Brook southwesterly to State Highway #9; then following State Highway #9 westerly to State Highway #178 in Eddington; then following State Highway #178 northerly to State Highway #2 in Milford; then following State Highway #2 northerly to State Highway #6 in West Enfield; then following State Highway #6 westerly to State Highway #11 in Milo; then following State Highway #11 northerly to Baxter State Park Road in Millinocket; then following the Baxter State Park Road northwesterly to the Togue Pond Road; then following the Togue Pond Road northerly to the Baxter State Park boundary; then following the Baxter State Park boundary easterly and northerly to the Matagamon Lake Road; then following the Matagamon Lake Road easterly to State Highway #159 in Shin Pond; then following State Highway #159 southeasterly to State Highway #11 in Patten; then following State Highway #11 northerly to State Highway #212 in Knowles Corner; then following State Highway #212 southeasterly to State Highway #2 in Smyrna Mills; then following State Highway #2 easterly to Interstate Highway #95 in Ludlow; then following Interstate Highway #95 easterly to the Maine-New Brunswick border; then following the Maine-New Brunswick border southerly to the point of beginning.

The Southeastern Zone is composed of large areas of commercial forestland and several local areas of agricultural land. Public roads are available in many sections of the zone, and logging roads make the commercial forestland accessible to the public. Numerous waterways can be used to gain access to areas which cannot be reached by vehicle. Equipment, services, and supplies are available at numerous locations such as Brownville, Millinocket, Sherman, Patten, Island Falls, Houlton, Danforth, Princeton and many locations between Lincoln and Bangor. Individuals hunting the more remote portions of this zone should plan to bring all the equipment and supplies they will need. Numerous private and commercial sporting camps are scattered throughout the zone. This area is not within the North Maine Woods area and, except for gated roads and Indian territories, access is generally open to the public at no charge.



SOUTHCENTRAL ZONE (SC) (120 permits)

The Southcentral Zone is bounded by a line beginning at the junction of State Highway #16 and State Highway #201 in Bingham; then following State Highway #201 northerly to the Kennebec River in The Forks; the east shore of the Kennebec River; the east shore of Indian Pond and the east shore of the Kennebec River East Outlet northerly to Moosehead Lake; the west shore of Moosehead Lake northerly to Seboomook; the Old Caucomgomoc Road northerly to the junction of the Golden Road; the Golden Road easterly to the Telos Road; the Telos Road northerly to the West Branch of the Penobscot River; the north shore of the West Branch of the Penobscot River easterly to the Baxter State Park boundary line; the Baxter State Park boundary line easterly to the Togue Pond Road; the Togue Pond Road southeasterly to the Baxter State Park Road; the Baxter State Park Road easterly to State Highway #11 in Millinocket; State Highway #11 southerly to State Highway #16 in Milo; then following State Highway #16 westerly to the point of beginning.

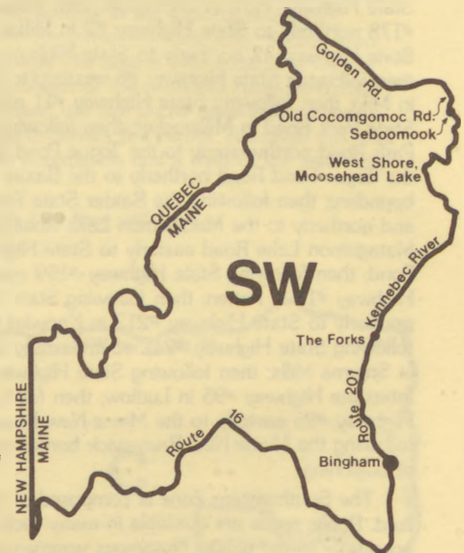


The Southcentral Zone is composed primarily of fairly accessible commercial forestland and can be reached by major public roads. There are also areas of agricultural land, primarily in the southeastern portion. Access to the interior portions of this zone is available from Greenville or Millinocket on a network of private logging roads. Numerous waterways can be used to gain access to areas which cannot be reached by vehicle. Equipment, services, and supplies are readily available in southern parts of this zone and are also available at Greenville or Millinocket, and to a lesser degree at several locations such as Beaver Cove, Kokadjo, Ripogenus Dam, and Seboomook in the central and northern sections. Individuals hunting the more remote portions of this zone should plan to bring all the equipment and supplies they will need. Numerous private and commercial sporting camps are scattered throughout this zone. Visitors to the portion of this zone within the North Maine Woods area (Katahdin Iron Works/Jo-Mary) must register and pay a user fee. A map and information concerning the KI/Jo-Mary Multiple Use Forest is available by sending \$1.50 to North Maine Woods, P.O. Box 421, Ashland, ME 04732. Hunters must stop to register and pay a land use fee at the Great Northern Paper Company's Siras Hill checkpoint (north of Kokadjo) if they wish to reach the northern portions of this zone.

SOUTHWESTERN ZONE (SW) (120 permits)

The Southwestern Zone is bounded by a line beginning where the Golden Road crosses the Maine-Quebec border in T5R20 WELS; then following the Golden Road easterly to the junction of the Old Caucomgomoc Road in Seboomook Twp.; the Old Caucomgomoc Road southerly to Seboomook; then following the west shore of Moosehead Lake southerly to the Kennebec River East Outlet; the east shore of the East Outlet, the east shore of Indian Pond and the east shore of the Kennebec River southerly to State Highway #201 in The Forks; State Highway #201 southerly to State Highway #16 in Bingham; State Highway #16 southwesterly and westerly to the Maine-New Hampshire border in Magalloway Plt.; then following the New Hampshire border and the Maine-Quebec border northerly to the point of origin.

The Southwestern Zone is composed primarily of fairly accessible commercial forestland and can be reached by major public roads. Logging roads make much of the interior sections accessible to the public. Waterways can be used to gain access to areas which cannot be reached by vehicle. Equipment, services, and supplies are available at Jackman, Rockwood, Rangeley and numerous other locations along Routes 16 and 201. Individuals hunting the more remote portions of this zone should plan to bring all the equipment and supplies they will need. Private and commercial sporting camps are scattered throughout the zone. This portion of the state is not within the North Maine Woods area, and except for several gated roads access is generally open to the public at no charge. However, hunters must stop to register and pay a land use fee at the Great Northern Paper Company's Twenty-Mile checkpoint (south of Pittston Farm) if they want to reach the northern portions of this zone.



REGISTERING YOUR MOOSE

All moose must be presented for registration at a moose registration station. Station hours during the week of the moose hunt are from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 8:00 a.m. to noon on Sunday. After your moose is legally registered, wildlife biologists may ask to examine it and take certain measurements, which will take only a few minutes. Your cooperation is appreciated. NOTE: Routine weighing of all moose will no longer be done at registration stations. The nine stations are located as follows:

Eagle Lake. Located at the George E. Townsend aircraft base on Brown's Point. The access road is between the towns of Plaisted and Eagle Lake on Rt. 11 and turns east off Rt. 11 about 3 miles north of Eagle Lake. Phone: 444-5430.

Ashland. Located on the Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife regional headquarters, on Station St. (Rt. 11), between the center of Ashland and the Aroostook River, on the north side of the street. Phone: 1-800-322-4011 or 435-3231.

Houlton. Located at Ivey's Motel & Restaurant, 2 miles south of Houlton, on 2A west.

Medway. Located at the Dept. of Transportation garage on the Grindstone Rd. (Rt. 11), 0.9 miles north of the intersection of routes 157 and 11, on the east side of the road.

Greenville. Located at the Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife regional headquarters. From the light in the center of town, go 0.3 miles north on the road that follows the east shore of Moosehead Lake; turn left on Village Street and continue to the facility. Phone: 1-800-322-9844 or 695-3756.

Enfield. Located at the Cobb Fish Hatchery and regional Fish and Wildlife headquarters on Route 188, 0.1 miles south of the intersection of Routes 155 and 188 in Enfield village. Phone: 732-4132.

T31MD (near Wesley, Washington County). Located at Cloud 9 Motel and Restaurant on Route 9, 4 miles west of the intersection of Routes 9 and 192, on the south side of the road.

Dallas Plt. Located at the Dept. of Transportation garage on Route 16, 1½ miles east of the junction of Routes 16 and 4 in Rangeley Village.

Moscow. Located at the Dept. of Transportation garage, 2 miles north of Bingham village on Route 201.

MOOSE HUNTERS: YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

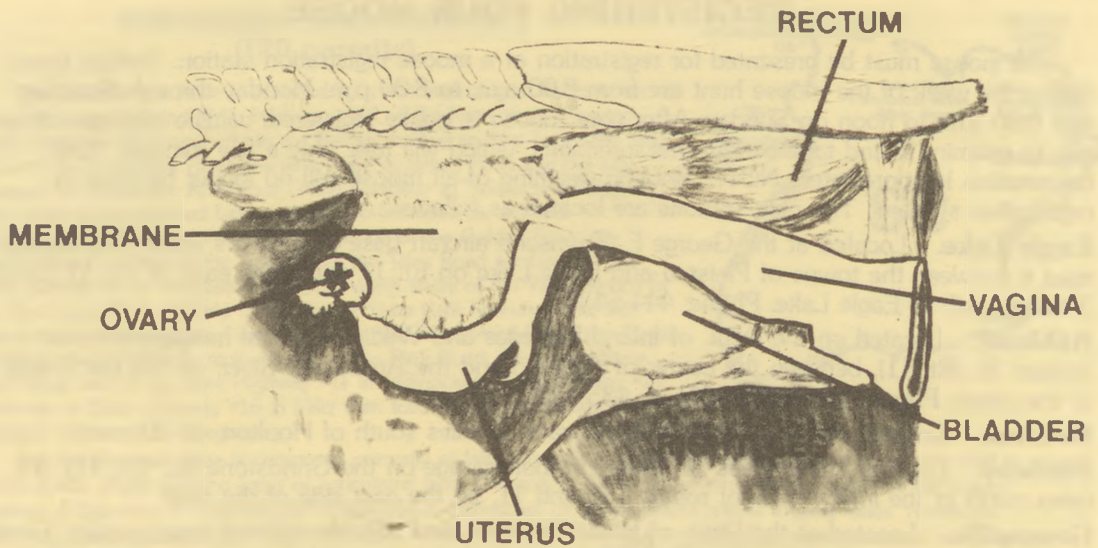
Fish and Wildlife Department personnel hope to collect the reproductive tracts of as many female moose as possible during this year's hunt.

Examination of the ovaries will allow biologists to learn more about the reproductive history of cow moose and to determine the capacity of the herd to replace annual losses.

If you shoot a cow moose you can help with this collection effort by removing the ovaries when you dress out your animal, and delivering them to the registration station.

Removing the ovaries is an easier job than you think. Carefully roll the internal organs out of the body cavity until you see the point where two tubes (the rectum and the vagina) exit through the pelvic bone (see illustration). The vagina is the tube nearest the belly. Grasp this and follow it carefully forward until it forks into two tubes, which are the left and right horns of the uterus.

Once you have located the uterus, insert your fingers under it and work your hand in until the organ lays in the palm of your hand. You will notice a thin, almost transparent membrane which connects this organ to the animal's back. All that now remains is to carefully follow the horns of the uterus to the ovaries. These are bean-shaped organs one to two inches in length.



They may be covered with fat, so keep looking! When you find them, cut the membranes holding them in place, remove the ovaries, and place them in a plastic bag. Both ovaries are needed. Your cooperation is appreciated.

CUSTOMS

Hunters who will be entering the moose hunting district via Canada should be aware of Customs hours and regulations. You must consider the American Customs going into Maine and the Canadian Customs when entering Canada.

Some larger Customs stations (Madawaska, Fort Kent, Van Buren, Jackman, etc.) are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. But some such as Ste. Aurelie, Daaquam, St. Pamphile, and Estcourt are open only for limited hours on weekdays. Hunters planning to use one of these border crossings are advised to call U.S. Customs in Jackman (207-668-3711) to assure that the crossing will be open. There are very heavy fines for improper border crossing.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO TAKE HANDGUNS INTO CANADA.

Although you are not normally required to stop at American Customs on leaving the U.S., you should do so to register your rifles so that there will be no problem re-entering the U.S. on your return.

Moose legally shot in Maine can be transported into Canada and back into Maine with proper Customs clearance.

SOME HELPFUL HINTS

- Shooting a moose that is in water can present enormous difficulties unless you have a way to get it ashore. If it doesn't sink, which sometimes happens, you could end up gutting it out and quartering it right in the water—an experience you'll never forget!
- Hip boots are often handy to have along on a moose hunt.
- With two people allowed to hunt, but to kill only one moose, there is a risk of an inadvertent violation in which both hunters shoot a moose. The permittee and subpermittee should either stay close together or have a good communication system worked out as a precaution against double shooting.

- Another precaution against a double shooting is to be aware that during the rutting period a cow moose is almost always accompanied by a bull. One of them may be nearby but out of your sight, and may be reluctant to leave if the other is shot. The same would apply to calf moose, which remain with the cow through the first year.
- If you are camped out, it is not a good idea to practice moose calling at night—that is, unless you want a bull moose standing in the middle of your tent!
- Friendship and communication can help make a hunt more enjoyable and perhaps increase the chances for success. Most hunters, foresters and woodsmen—as well as game wardens—are willing to answer questions or provide help if asked.
- A come-along or some other kind of portable winch, and a good length of nylon rope, are almost indispensable on a moose hunt. Two come-alongs are even better.
- Polyethylene bags and sheets of poly are useful to bring along on your trip, but NEVER use it to wrap moose meat except when ready to freeze it.
- Keep some distance between you and other moose hunters and, especially, between you and the non-hunting public. Don't hunt along well-traveled roads or near camps, recreation areas or popular moose-watching sites.
- Don't park where your vehicle will interfere with log hauling. Don't hunt around active cutting operations.
- If the weather is warm and you have far to travel, it is recommended that you leave your moose with a professional meat cutter with a cooler. Even if the weather is cool, you should take steps such as skinning and quartering to prevent spoilage. You may want to take it home to show it to your friends, but wouldn't showing them pictures be better than risking a spoiled moose?

PHONE NUMBERS YOU MAY NEED

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Fish & Wildlife Dept. office (Greenville) | 1-800-322-9844 or 695-3756 |
| Fish and Wildlife Dept. office (Ashland) | 1-800-322-4011 or 435-3231 |
| Fish and Wildlife Dept. office (Bangor) | 1-800-322-2033 or 941-4440 |
| Fish and Wildlife Dept. office (Enfield) | 732-4132 |
| State Police (Orono) | 1-800-432-7381 |
| State Police (Houlton) | 1-800-432-7384 |
| North Maine Woods | 435-6213 |
| Passamaquoddy Indian | 853-2551 ext. 202 |
| Penobscot Indian | 827-7776 ext. 230 |
| Maine Forest Service (Island Falls) | 463-2214 |
| Maine Forest Service (Greenville) | 695-3721 |
| Maine Forest Service (Old Town) | 827-2079 |

LET SOMEONE KNOW

Make sure someone at home knows exactly where you will be staying on your moose hunting trip. Also give them the number of the Fish and Wildlife Dept. office (above) nearest there. This precaution will greatly simplify locating you, should that become necessary.

RECORD BOOK MOOSE

Is your moose a new North American Canadian moose record? Does it qualify as a trophy bull moose according to the Maine Antler and Skull Trophy Club?

ADDISON

Bruce Worcester (CWF)
RFD#1, Box 119C
Addison, ME 04606
Phone: 483-4404

ATHENS

Foss & Sons Slaughter House (CW)
Hartland Rd.
P.O. Box 138
Athens, ME 04912
Phone: 654-2641

BREWER

Paul's Meat Market (CWF)
35 State Street
Brewer, ME 04412
Phone: 989-2714

BURKETTVILLE

Leonard's Meat Processing (CWF)
Fish Town Road
RFD, Box 1590
Liberty, ME 04949
Phone: 845-2209

CARIBOU

Caribou IGA Foodliner (CW)
Bennett Drive
Caribou, ME 04736
Phone: 498-2043

CLINTON

Jordy's Custom Meat Shoppe (CWFS)
Hill Road, RR#2
Clinton, ME 04927
Phone: 426-8942

DURHAM

Franklin Hunnewell Abattoir (CWF)
Brunswick Road, Durham
RFD#3
Freeport, ME 04032
Phone: 353-2311

EXETER

Chester Sawyer, Jr. (CWF)
RFD#1, Box 20
Exeter, ME 04427
Phone: 379-2722

FORT KENT

John's Meat Market (CW)
115 Market Street
Fort Kent, ME 04743
Phone: 834-5181

Paradis IGA (CW)
Corner of Main & Pleasant St.
Fort Kent, ME 04743
Phone: 834-3020

FRENCHVILLE

Bert's Meat & Fish Market (CW)
Main Street
P.O. Box 56
Frenchville, ME 04745
Phone: 543-6064

GORHAM

County Line Packing Co. (CWFS)
RR #5, Box 346A
Gorham, ME 04038
Phone: 642-2501

Polarzone Foods, Inc. (CWFS)
25 Elm Street
Gorham, ME 04038
Phone: 839-3117

KENNEBUNK

Kennebunk Convenience Store (CWF)
70 Main Street
Kennebunk, ME 04043
Phone: 985-6982

Nest's Custom Slaughtering (CWF)
Perkins Road
Kennebunk, ME 04043
Phone: 985-2363

The widest set of Canadian moose antlers ever recorded in the North American Big Game Records Book was taken in Maine, in 1900, and measured 71 5/8 inches, dry.

A trophy moose will have antlers over four feet wide, with twenty or more points on wide palms. The scoring system measures bone mass; therefore, the most important single factor is large, massive palms.

Should you take what you believe is a trophy moose, let the antlers and the cleaned skull cap dry for 60 days. You must not separate antlers from the skull cap nor break the upper skull as this would change the true spread measurement and will disqualify the antlers from official registration and recognition.

Measuring should be done as soon as possible after the 60-day drying period for the highest possible score. Large moose antlers can shrink up to four inches in spread in three months. For further information, or for a measuring appointment, contact one of the scorers listed below:

Richard P. Arsenault
Gorham
727-3880

Jean R. Arsenault
Rumford
364-2469
(Maine's only official Boone
and Crockett Club scorer.)

Galen Humphrey
Sanford
646-8747

Durward Humphrey
Hampden Highlands
862-4921

Robert Foye
Augusta
622-2578

Thomas W. Berube
Auburn
998-2974

Don Moscrip
Harmony
683-5454

James Slauenwhite
Island Falls
463-2437

Richard Christoforo
Revere, Mass.
617-289-3991

DON'T SHOOT COLLARED MOOSE

As part of a research project in northern Maine, a number of moose of both sexes have been fitted with radio collars and ear tags. Information obtained from following these animals is invaluable to the Fish and Wildlife Department in the management of moose. Much time and effort has gone into collaring these animals, and it would be appreciated if you would pass up any opportunity you may have to shoot one.

Hunters in the Central and Northeastern hunting zones are most likely to encounter collared moose.

Should you inadvertently kill a collared moose, please make detailed notes on the location of the kill and then turn the collar in when you register your moose, as required by law.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

MOOSE MEAT PROCESSING FACILITIES

Butchering an animal the size of a moose is a job not to be taken lightly. If you don't have the know-how and equipment to do your own cutting, wrapping, and freezing, the services of a commercial facility are well worth the cost.

The following establishments have indicated an interest in processing moose. The services that each provides are in parentheses after the name, coded as follows:

C=cutting

F=freezing

W=wrapping

S=frozen storage

MADAWASKA

Madawaska IGA Foodliner (CW)
Midtown Shopping Center
Madawaska, ME 04756
Phone: 728-6316

MANCHESTER

Ballard Custom Meats (CWF)
Myrtle Street, Manchester
RFD#5
Augusta, ME 04330
Phone: 622-9764

MEDWAY

York's Slaughter House (CW)
Woodville Road
Star Rte.
Medway, ME 04460
Phone: 746-5402 or
746-3425

NEWBURGH

Young's Custom Cutting (CW)
Junction Rt. 9 and 69, Newburgh
RFD#2, Box 130 BB
Hampden Hlds., ME 04445
Phone: 234-7182

Emery & Sons Custom Cutting (CWF)
Camp Benson Road
Newport, ME 04953
Phone: 368-5334

NORTH BERWICK

Bauneg Beg Hill Slaughter House (CW)
Ford-Quint Road
RFD#1
North Berwick, ME 03906
Phone: 676-9083

NORWAY

Oxford Foods (CWFS)
4 Danforth Street
Norway, ME 04268
Phone: 743-8921

OXFORD

Oxford Abattoir
Rt. 26
Oxford, ME 04270
Phone: 743-6629

PITTSTON

Bud's Slaughter House (CWFS)
Pittston
RFD #4
Gardiner, ME 04345
Phone: 582-4943

PRESQUE ISLE

Earl's Frozen Foods (CWFS)
Skyway Industrial Park
Bldg. S-316
Presque Isle, ME 04769
Phone: 768-8471

SHAWMUT

Freezer Foods Co. (CWFS)
Bray Avenue
Shawmut, ME 04975
Phone: 453-7446

SIDNEY

Huey's Meatcutting (CW)
Middle Rd., Rt.#3
Sidney, ME 04330
Phone: 547-3768

SKOWHEGAN

Bouford's Custom Meat Cutting (CWF)
133 North Street
Skowhegan, ME 04976
Phone: 474-9069

ST. ALBANS

Dick's Market (CWF)
Box 52
St. Albans, ME 04971
Phone: 938-4577

STOCKHOLM

Peterson's Meat Services (CW)
Lake Street
Box 111
Stockholm, ME 04738
Phone: 896-5681 or 896-3031

UNION

Burns Slaughter Shop
Box 985
Shepard Hill Road
Union, ME 04862
Phone: 785-4055

VAN BUREN

Therault's Abattoir (CWFS)
Hammond Road
Van Buren, ME 04785
Phone: 868-3344

WEST GARDINER

West Gardiner Beef (CW)
Hunter Road
West Gardiner, ME 04345

WALDOBORO

Waldoboro Lockers, Inc. (CWFS)
Rt. 32, Box 375
Waldoboro, ME 04572
Phone: 832-5501

WINSLOW

Earl's Custom Butchering
Morrill Road
Winslow, ME
Phone: 873-6594 or 453-7724

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MOOSE HUNTING IN MAINE

The moose has been an inhabitant of the northeastern United States for millions of years, and throughout has played an important role in man's survival. Records of early explorers tell of the importance of moose to the Indian way of life and how the white man depended on moose for meat and hides.

Periodic fluctuations of moose numbers have been well documented since the arrival of early explorers.

The moose population in Maine is dependent on climate, land use patterns, and the density of the deer population. Deer are also dependent on the first two conditions.

Maine is located at the southern limit of the range of the moose, but it is in the northern portion of the white-tailed deer range. Shifts in climate toward milder conditions, as occurred from 1888 through the mid-1950's, favored the growth of the deer population. In the 1960's and '70's, shifts toward colder temperatures and deeper snow favored moose.

Early timber harvesting in Maine was characterized by many small cutting operations scattered up and down the major river systems, resulting in the interspersed areas of cut-over areas and mature softwood shelter. This provided excellent habitat for deer.

Present industrial timber harvesting practices in Maine often result in large cut-over areas which provide excellent habitat for moose. Moose are able to move about in deep snow and feed during much of the winter in areas which have been intensively cut. While both species use softwood for winter shelter, moose are less dependent on it and use it for shorter periods of time.

Deer also carry a parasite which is fatal to moose. Throughout the area where deer and moose ranges overlap, the general pattern has been for the moose population to increase when the deer population is low and decline when the deer population increases. Presently, moose are abundant in northern Maine and portions of western and eastern Maine, where the climate, habitat conditions, and relatively low deer population are creating good to excellent conditions for moose.

Northern Maine alone supports a conservatively estimated moose population of 15,000-20,000 animals. Moose populations in high quality habitat can remain stable with an annual all-cause mortality of 20-25 percent of the population. The calf:cow ratio observed in this area by aerial count indicates that at least this level of removal is possible. Part of the annual removal can be by legal hunting, thus providing a high quality form of recreation which is in strong and increasing demand (over 32,000 Maine residents applied for moose hunting permits in 1980, almost 60,000 in 1987).

The first law to protect moose in Maine was passed by the legislature in 1830, when the hunting of moose was restricted to the period from September through December. Laws

Conducting annual hunting seasons, with conservative harvest limits, will enable the department to continue to gather necessary information, as well as refine hunting seasons and zones and establish effective regulations. In a few years, the information and experience will have been obtained to effectively carry out moose hunting seasons and allow an annual harvest designed to maintain populations within the carrying capacity of the available habitat.

Observing moose and hunting them are not mutually exclusive recreational pursuits. A goal of management will be to provide an optimum number of moose for use and enjoyment of all the citizens of the state. Numerous moose will be available for people who wish to view or photograph them. Hunting, if properly controlled, will provide for the wise use of surplus animals and the maintenance of desired population levels resulting in the fullest use and enjoyment of this renewable natural resource by the citizens of and visitors to Maine.

MOOSE BOOK

The Maine Fish and Wildlife Department now has a supply of the highly recommended book *"The Moose from Forest to Table."* This 216-page book contains details on moose habits, hunting, field care, transportation, trophy head care, butchering, moose meat recipes, and much more. Valuable to the beginner as well as the experienced moose hunter.

To order your copy of *"The Moose from Forest to Table,"* send a check or money order for \$12.95, payable to Maine Fish and Wildlife Department, to 284 State Street, Station 41, Augusta, Maine 04333.

HOW MUCH DID MY MOOSE WEIGH?... HOW MUCH MEAT WILL I GET?

Many successful moose hunters are interested in knowing how much their moose weighed alive and how much edible meat they might expect it to yield.

Weighing the moose as it is brought out of the woods (without heart, liver* and other edible organs, and without lungs and other viscera) will give you the dressed weight. Although there are a number of variables (sex, age, blood loss and dehydration, etc.) that may make it not exactly accurate, a reasonable estimate of a moose's live weight may be obtained by adding 30 percent to its dressed weight.

How much meat can you expect from your moose? There are even more important variables in making this estimation, but as a very rough guide you can figure that one-half of the dressed weight of your moose is edible—potentially.

The figures which follow represent an accurate accounting of what one pair of hunters obtained from their moose, which was approximately 850 pounds, field dressed weight.

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Steak of various cuts | 118 pounds |
| Stew or fondue meat | 88 pounds |
| Roasts | 11 pounds |
| Mooseburg (includes 21 pounds of beef and pork fat ground in) | 196 pounds |
| Ribs (to barbeque) | 24 pounds |
| Heart, liver*, kidneys*, tongue (estimated weight) | <u>18 pounds</u> |
| TOTAL EDIBLE MEAT FROM 850-POUND BULL MOOSE | 455 pounds |

regulating hunting seasons and bag limits continued to become more restrictive until 1935 when the last moose hunting season for many years was held in Knox, Lincoln, and Waldo counties.

During the succeeding years as the moose herd gradually expanded—probably in response to an improving habitat—renewed interest in a moose hunting season began developing. In 1943, a bill was introduced into the legislature to reinstate moose hunting but was defeated. Another unsuccessful attempt was made in 1951. That year, in response to a legislative directive to determine the number of moose in Maine, wildlife biologists made a major effort to estimate the moose population through use of the first aerial census of this species.

That estimate indicated a population of 7,300 moose in northern Maine. Aerial censuses now indicate that the number of moose has increased to a conservative estimate of between 15,000 and 20,000 animals north of the Canadian Pacific Railroad tracks.

Moose hunting bills were introduced at each legislative session beginning in 1957, but it was not until 1977 that one passed in both the senate and house of representatives. That bill was vetoed by then Governor James Longley, but in 1979 another bill passed in the legislature was signed into law by then Governor Joseph Brennan.

The law provided for a limited moose hunting season in 1980, with a harvest of up to 700 animals in the section of the state north of the Canadian Pacific Railroad tracks. The season was held September 22-27, 1980, for 700 Maine resident hunters (each allowed to be accompanied by one assistant).

The 1980 season represented a conservative approach to the reestablishment of moose hunting and the beginning of scientific moose management in Maine. Six hundred and thirty-six animals were taken during the six-day hunt. Ninety-one percent of the eligible hunting parties were successful and 70 percent of the animals taken were adult bulls. All animals were presented for registration and inspection at one of six moose check stations established by the Fish and Wildlife Department. Compliance with the laws and regulations regarding the hunting of moose was excellent. Hunters were most cooperative, and greatly aided efforts by department personnel to collect biological information and hunting data. A vast amount of information relating to the general characteristics, conditions and status of Maine moose was collected.

Observations made and knowledge gained during this hunt strongly suggested that the moose population is much higher than estimated in some portions of the 1980 moose hunting district. The majority of the animals examined were found to be in good physical condition. Bulls commonly possessed well developed antlers. Approximately 19 bulls weighed over 1,000 pounds field dressed. The largest animals taken (two) weighed 1,070 pounds each field dressed, which equates to an approximate live weight of 1,300 pounds.

Following the very successful 1980 moose season, the Maine Legislature overwhelmingly passed a law providing for annual moose seasons beginning in 1982. This law raised the number of permits to 1,000, 10 percent of which can be issued to nonresident hunters.

Hunter success has continued high since the 1980 moose season. The 1982 and 1983 seasons were also held in late September, but beginning in 1984 the season was moved up to October.

The restoration of moose hunting has not been without controversy. Opponents successfully collected enough petition signatures to force a referendum vote, held in November 1983, in an attempt to repeal the moose hunting law. The measure was defeated, with 60 percent of the voters supporting continuation of the hunt.

Without hunting the numbers of moose would likely reach then exceed the level which can be supported by the available habitat. If this were to happen, natural forces such as starvation, malnutrition, and disease would tend to reduce the population to the carrying capacity of the habitat, which by then would have had its ability to support moose greatly reduced due to over-utilization by excessive numbers of moose. That this will happen with large herbivores, deer and moose, has been demonstrated again and again in many places.

HUNTER ETHICS

ETHICS can be identified as standards of behavior which are considered to be morally right, even without the benefit of legal sanction.

Ethical behavior varies somewhat from place to place, depending on local traditions and practices. However, an overall standard of conduct must be established and observed by the hunting fraternity. While hunting is still considered a respectable activity in Maine, it is frowned upon in many areas by a increasing number of people. The primary reason for this disapproval is the manner in which some hunters conduct themselves in the field.

Instead of formulating a specific list of unacceptable behavior for the hunter, it may be of more value to discuss some desirable attitudes and criteria which should be used by the ethical sportsman in determining behavior.

A HUNTER'S CONDUCT IS DETERMINED BY HIS / HER:

- **Philosophy on harvesting game.** When you go hunting, what is your objective? Is it to get your limit as fast as possible? The ethical sportsman will look at hunting as an overall outdoor experience. There is pleasure to be gained without even firing a shot.
- **Preparation.** The ethical hunter is always prepared before venturing afield. From selecting the right firearm and knowing how to use it, to being ready for an emergency situation, the sportsman is ready for the expected... and the unexpected.
- **Commitment to the sport of hunting above any personal accomplishments.** The ethical hunter *always* puts the survival of the sport first. Whatever is best for the image of the sport must take priority, even if it means passing up a trophy shot or not taking the limit when you know the population is down. Remember the hunter is always being watched by his son or daughter, hunting companions and even strangers. Your behavior will reflect back on you and your sport.
- **Use of traditional skills and methods of fair chase.** The sportsman will want to match wits with the game hunted. Challenge yourself. Selfish and unethical actions degrade the hunter and the sport.
- **Regard for the feelings of others.** Always consider other people, especially non-hunters. Hunt safely. Ensure that your conduct is not offensive. Be prepared to justify your actions. Many people don't appreciate a sign blown full of holes, a messy campsite or a dead animal on display on your vehicle, at your home or camp.
- **Willingness to obey the unwritten laws.** There are a lot of situations in hunting that are technically legal, but shouldn't be done anyway. It's not illegal to take a 500 yard shot at a moose, but for most people it means taking a real chance at wounding the animal. It's not illegal, but it's not right.
- **Respect for the law.** The laws are there to protect people and to protect wildlife. Even if you don't agree with all of them, the ethical hunter obeys all the laws all the time, and reports those who don't. Remember, it's your resource.
- **Attitude toward wildlife.** Above all, the ethical hunter must respect the game which he/she hunts. Part of this respect includes not harvesting more than the limit, not harvesting animals not wanted for a specific purpose, and having the proper size firearm and skill to ensure a clean, one shot kill.

Important factors which affected the yield of meat from this particular moose were:

1. Almost no meat was lost from bullet damage.
2. There was no loss from spoilage or dirty meat.
3. Experienced butchers butchered the moose, so there was almost no waste.
4. The amounts listed are pure meat, with no fat or bone except for the ribs and 21 pounds of fat ground into the mooseburg.

Obviously, these and other conditions can have considerable effect on the percentage of meat which can be taken from a particular carcass. A cow moose or a young moose, for instance, might not yield as much meat per pound of field dressed weight as a mature bull; likewise, a number of bullet holes, spoilage, and hasty or careless butchering could result in a lower yield. Conversely, cutting steaks or roasts in such a way as to include bone (as is done with beef) would increase the total weight going into the freezer.

Also, the percentages of meat that go into various cuts are very much a matter of personal preference. Some might want more put into roasts and less into steak, for instance, or less stew meat and more mooseburg.

***A CAUTION ON LIVER AND KIDNEY CONSUMPTION**

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Bureau of Health recommend that the liver and kidneys of moose not be eaten because of possible contamination with the heavy metal cadmium. Several Canadian provinces and Scandanavian countries have issued similar warnings.

Cadmium is ingested by moose with their food, and accumulates in their liver and kidneys over time. Its source in the environment is not certain at this time.

Human symptoms of acute cadmium poisoning include severe nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle cramps and salivation.

Cadmium concentrations are greater in moose livers, probably because they live longer, but recent studies have also shown smaller amounts of cadmium in liver tissues from Maine deer, and deer, elk and antelope from other states. Maine health officials recommend that deer liver consumption be limited to 0.8 pounds in one sitting and 1 to 1½ pounds per week.

There is no apparent health risk from eating moose meat or deer meat.



THE MAN WHO BREAKS A GAME LAW IS GUILTY OF MORE THAN ONE OFFENSE

Game laws, whether they involve season dates, bag limits, shooting hours or the like, aren't just a set of paper rules and regulations. They're a vital element in overall management efforts to maintain healthy and abundant wildlife populations.

Moreover, the hunter who violates game regulations disregards not only the law but also one of the basic principles of ethical hunting.

Consider that it was turn-of-the-century sportsmen who, in order to curb the

commercial exploitation of wildlife, were the driving force in establishing our nation's first game laws.

Today, leadership in wildlife conservation and a deep commitment to the principles of fair chase continue to be at the heart of our tradition of ethical hunting.

As a sportsman, this is your heritage. Don't abuse it.



National Shooting Sports Foundation
1075 Post Road
Riverside, Conn. 06878

