



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### SURPLUS BIG-GAME ANIMALS OFFERED FOR SALE

Surplus animals from big-game herds on national wildlife refuges in Nebraska, North Dakota, Montana, and Oklahoma are now being offered for sale, the Department of the Interior announced today.

In order to safeguard range conditions and prevent overgrazing, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which administers the refuges, annually disposes of the normal herd increases. The Bureau maintains four fenced refuges for buffalo and elk where the animals run at large and are maintained as nearly as possible under natural conditions.

The 1958 surplus disposal program includes 272 buffaloes, 68 elk, and 198 longhorn cattle. Buffalo and elk may be purchased alive or butchered. Surplus longhorns are sold at local public auctions, usually held during September.

In selling the animals, the Bureau will give preference to applicants who wish to purchase them alive for propagation or exhibition. Surplus live animals not sold may be obtained by State, county, or municipal zoos, parks, or game preserves desiring such animals for propagation or exhibition at the cost of capturing, crating, and transporting. The sale or donation of live buffaloes, however, will be limited to 20.

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has no authority to donate animals to private individuals or to private institutions for commercial purposes.

Persons desiring to purchase the animals alive may obtain them at the following prices which include the cost of corralling and delivering to the purchaser's truck or crate at the capturing corral on the preserve: Buffalo, mature animals, but less than two years of age, \$150; yearling animals, \$125; live elk, approximately \$100. Yearling animals will be sold alive, only.

Sportsmen who would like big-game roasts and steaks for club dinners and banquets can buy the butchered carcass of a buffalo, weighing about 450 pounds, for \$140 to \$180, depending on where purchased. These are mature animals not less than two years of age. A half carcass sells for \$70 to \$90. A whole elk, weighing from 250 to 300 pounds, sells for \$90 to \$120; one half can be bought for \$45 to \$60. All prices are f.o.b. at the refuge.

Butchered animals will be dressed, quartered, and wrapped in muslin, heavy cloth, or burlap to meet the requirements of transportation companies, except at the Wichita Refuge in Oklahoma where meat will be processed and packed with dry ice in no-return containers. Refrigerating facilities are available only at the Wichita Refuge.

A leaflet containing complete details of the annual sale of surplus animals may be obtained by writing to the Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C.

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