

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

"Be salvage-minded when you go hunting this season," is the admonition directed to hunters by Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

"If each individual hunter would save shot-gun shells, rifle cartridges, down feathers of wild waterfowl, and the fats and hides from game animals, the collection turned in by America's army of hunters would make a tremendous contribution to the national salvage drive."

Dr. Gabrielson explained that although patriotic citizens and civic organizations have responded wholeheartedly to the collection drives for scrap metals and rubber, there are other strategic materials also needed for military uses which will be wasted unless they are collected and salvaged.

"For example, surplus fats from game animals will produce glycerine and glycerine is used in the manufacture of nitro-glycerine, dynamite and other high explosives. The average extraction of glycerine from all fats and greases amounts to about 12 percent; therefore, 100 pounds of waste fats will produce 12 pounds of glycerine which is needed to produce 25 pounds of nitro-glycerine."

Hunters can render a patriotic service if they will bring back all of the fat and tallow from the carcass of every wild animal they bring down during the current hunting season. "Just keep the fat clean and put it in clean paper sacks or cans and turn in promptly, either to your local fat receiving depot or to your butcher. These fats do not need to be rendered before you turn them in," advises Dr. Gabrielson.

The organization for recovering the glycerine is the same as that for the housewife who takes her fat and greases to the butcher or meat dealer. The rendering companies collect these waste fats and greases and their first operation is to remove every ounce of potential glycerine for war use. Although this potential glycerine was formerly wasted, every particle is now being utilized in the making of high explosives.

In some States, Michigan for instance, these raw fats are collected by sportsmen's clubs and deposited in fats depots that have been established by county salvage committees in cold storage plants. From these depots the fats are collected and taken to rendering plants in the State.

Trappers, also, are being asked, whenever or wherever practicable, to turn in for rendering in the same manner the fats from the carcasses they ordinarily discard of fur animals, such as muskrats, opossums, badgers, skunks, and raccoons.

Millions of pounds of fats are left in the wooded sections of the country each year by sportsmen. The collection of these fats and their prompt deposit in good condition can add much more glycerine to America's supply of this much needed ingredient for explosives.

Down and small body feathers, less than 2½ inches in length, dry picked, from ducks and geese are in urgent demand to be used for linings in aviation suits, cold-weather garments, and sleeping bags for our armed forces. Only the body feathers are needed—not the wing or tail feathers, Dr. Gabrielson pointed out.

Two national conservation agencies have established collection set-ups to receive these feathers which may be sent either to the Izaak Walton League—Feathers, 3227 South Shields Ave., Chicago, Ill., or to Ducks Unlimited, 83 Columbi St., Seattle, Wash., marked "waterfowl feathers." Feathers can be shipped in used flour, sugar, burlap, or paper bags, in minimum shipments of 5 pounds. All package must be marked with sender's name and address.

According to published estimates, the seasonal kill of waterfowl would provide enough down and feathers for 300,000 aviators' pants and parkas, more than 10,000 sleeping bags or 500,000 sub-zero down jackets.

Light leathers, made from deer hides, are also needed to replace the heavier leathers used by our armed forces. However, because of the restrictions imposed by most States against the sale of buckskin, local sportsmen's groups interested in collecting hides should take care to see that their salvage campaigns, both for hides and feathers, are fully approved by their State game departments, Service officials cautioned. Efforts are being made now in some States that prohibit the sales of hides to get their stringent regulations relaxed during the war period.

The salvage of used shotgun shells for their brass content is another contribution that the hunter can make to the war program. The paper should be trimmed off with a pocket knife and only the base turned in. Empty rifle and pistol cartridge cases can be turned in "as is." In many hunting communities hardware and sporting goods dealers have set out salvage containers in front of their stores to receive used shells.

In concluding his appeal to every sportsmen to participate in the feathers, fats, hides, and brass-saving campaign, Dr. Gabrielson said, "Hunters are simply being asked to contribute to the war program what they would normally throw away."