



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to PM's, AUGUST 4, 1961

#### SURPLUS BIG GAME SALE ANNOUNCED

If you like buffalo or elk meat and want to buy some from the Federal Government at the annual surplus big game animal disposal sales at four National Wildlife Refuges, get your order in before September 1, the Department of the Interior advised today in announcing the 1961 sales.

There will be 250 buffalo, 128 elk and 128 longhorn cattle sold at the refuges. Only buffalo and longhorn cattle will be sold alive. When buffalo are sold alive, the minimum price will be \$180.00 each, no matter at which refuge.

Prices for butchered animals vary, depending upon the type of handling provided at the different refuges and the amount of the carcass purchased. They range from \$50.00 to \$240.00 for buffalo and from \$50.00 to \$130.00 for elk.

The longhorns will be sold at public auctions at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Cache, Oklahoma, and Fort Niobrara Refuge, Valentine, Nebraska. Buffalo also are being sold at these two refuges; at National Bison Range, Moiese, Montana, and at Sullys Hill National Game Preserve, Fort Totten, North Dakota. Elk will be sold only at Wichita Mountains and Sullys Hill.

If orders received by August 31 exceed the number of animals marked for disposal at the Refuges, refuge managers may limit the sale quantities of live or butchered animals and they will make a selection of successful applicants by lottery. Orders received after September 1 will be honored on a "first come--first served" basis, provided animals or meat still are available.

The official price list and conditions of sale can be secured from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., but orders should be sent only to the manager of the refuge involved.

The removal of a number of animals from these refuges is necessary each year to keep the big herds from exceeding the carrying capacity of the ranges they occupy.

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