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SURPLUS BIG-GAME SALES ANNOUNCED BY INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

Live buffaloes and Texas longhorns, as well as buffalo and elk meat, will again be available through the Department of the Interior's annual surplus big-game sales at three national wildlife refuges.

A total of 228 buffalo, 89 elk and 91 longhorns will be sold this year, the Department said. Live buffaloes and buffalo meat will be sold from all three of the refuges--Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Cache, Oklahoma; Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, Valentine, Nebraska; and the National Bison Range, Moiese, Montana. Live longhorns will be sold at Wichita Mountains and Fort Niobrara. Elk meat sales will be from Wichita Mountains and Fort Niobrara. There will be no sales of live elk.

The animals are removed from these refuges each year to prevent herds from exceeding the capacity of the ranges.

Buffalo will sell for $200 each for live animals, and from $220 to $285 per carcass for butchered animals, depending on the kind of processing. Quarters and halves also will be sold. Elk and buffalo meat will be available packaged and frozen, except from the National Bison Range. Orders to the National Bison Range should come only from the northwest because of lack of freezer facilities at the range.

Butchered elk prices will range from $110 to $145 per animal, again varying with the type of processing. A half carcass is the minimum quantity that can be purchased.

The longhorn cattle will be sold only through local public auctions, to be held September 10 at Wichita Mountains and on October 6 at Fort Niobrara.

If the number of orders received by refuge managers on or before September 30 exceeds the number of animals authorized for disposal, a drawing will be held October 1 to select applicants. Any orders received after September 30 will be honored on a first-come-first-served basis, provided animals or meat are still available after that date.

The official price list and conditions of sale can be obtained from the managers of the respective refuges or from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., 20240, but orders should be sent only to the manager of the refuge involved.

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