

# Elks Veterans Leather Program



Curtis Blystone

# State Leather Chair



- ▶ The State Leather Chair works with Lodges to collect salted hides that have been prepared for processing.
- ▶ They coordinate the most cost-effective way to transport these hides to the tanneries.
  - ▶ (If you need a semi to pick them up contact Chuck or myself)
- ▶ They collaborate with the Director of the National Veterans Service Commission and other Vice-Chairmen.
- ▶ They work to ensure the smooth and efficient operation of the Veterans Leather Program.
- ▶ Run meetings at state conventions.
- ▶ Order certificates for Lodges that participate.
- ▶ The State Leather Chair is a crucial link in the process of providing support to veterans through the Elks' Veterans Leather Program.



Deer Classic  
(something  
we do in  
Iowa)



# District Chair



- ▶ Assist the State Chair
- ▶ Communication between all the lodges in your district
- ▶ Collection point for the lodges to drop their hides off once salted and packed
- ▶ Report numbers to your state chair on all lodges in your district
- ▶ Attend meetings at convention to discuss the program

# Instructions

- ▶ Spread the Word – Donated hides come from a variety of locations and individuals
  - ▶ such as hunters, farmers, ranchers, slaughter houses, locker plants, taxidermists and highway departments. It never hurts to ask! This program wouldn't exist without donations.
- ▶ Set up collection point(s)
- ▶ Have a location to prepare the hides

# Collecting the hides

- ▶ Set up drop off locations/ check them regularly
- ▶ Examine the hides to make sure they are good and not rotten
- ▶ Hair test- gently tug the hair it should not fall out easily
- ▶ Odor- extremely bad smells
- ▶ Color- look for green/gray discoloration



# Preparing the hides

- ▶ Salt the hides
- ▶ You cannot use too much salt
- ▶ Cover the whole surface area
- ▶ Fold or roll your hides to keep contained inside
- ▶ Place in pallet box









## Packing Hides

- ▶ Keep hides level
- ▶ Do not overload
- ▶ Shrink wrap if available
- ▶ Store in a dry cool place preferably not outside (hides will drain once packed and salted)
- ▶ Transport to your collection point











# Thank You!