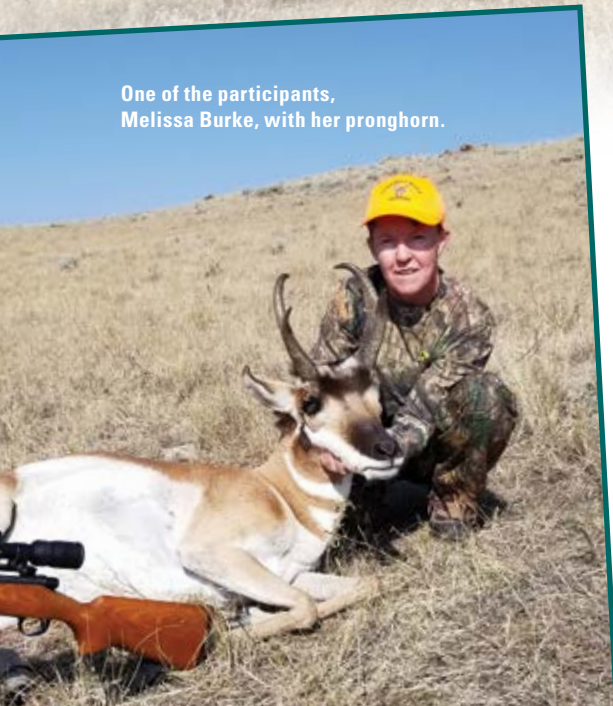


# Wyoming Women's Antelope Hunt



One of the participants, Melissa Burke, with her pronghorn.



Helping Wyoming women and girls thrive, despite the added challenges of 2020, made fundraising for the Wyoming Women's Foundation's (WYWF) mission—to invest in the economic self-sufficiency of women and opportunities for girls in Wyoming—more important than ever.

So, instead of postponing or canceling its 8th Annual Wyoming Women's Antelope Hunt, the Foundation hosted a modified hunt for 39 hunters on-site at the Ranch at Ucross, Wyoming. Fundraising activities included a small auction with raffles for hunters and guides plus an online auction with live raffles for the more-than 300 virtual attendees!

The 2020 hunt and online auction brought together many fabulous women, wonderful volunteers and generous supporters. WYWF is truly honored to offer participants the chance to ask questions of the Wyoming Game & Fish Department, explore lands with conservation minded stewards focused on a fair chase and network with women from across the country! Providing the resources to practice outdoor activities like archery, fly-fishing and shotgun shooting increases mentoring, comradarie and empowerment.

The mentorship and comradery experienced among all hunt attendees was incredible! Experienced hunters and guides freely shared field advice, assuring first-time hunters that harvesting an animal is only part of the hunting journey.

According to a 2020 hunter, "The knowledge, skills and experience gained from this event was immeasurable. I can only hope that I can put these skills to use next year and hope to share my knowledge, skills and experience with other first-time hunters."

This year marked the first where hunters had the option to donate part or all of their harvest through the Food from the Field Program, thanks to Wyoming's First Lady Jennie Gordon. While participants could previously

## QUICK FACTS

140+

partner organizations

199+

Sisters of the Sage (alumnae)

90+

First time big game hunters

About 1/3 of our hunters attend on **scholarship** including first-time hunters, military veterans and single mothers.

Hunters come from all over the U.S., with 36 states represented and counting!



Open to 40+ hunters per year



Participants develop **mentoring** relationships and establish life-long friendships.



**ABOVE:** Heather Ruth with her pronghorn. **TOP RIGHT:** The hunters and guides worked together in the field. **RIGHT:** The meat processing fees of those who chose to donate their harvest were fully covered by the Food from the Field program. Hunters also had the option to learn how to process their harvest themselves with the help of volunteers during our DIY meat processing workshop.

choose to donate their game meat, it was more on an individual basis, and each person had to pay their own processing fees. In 2020, processing fees were covered by the Food from the Field program.

“Food security is a very big part of self-sufficiency,” WYWF Director Rebekah Smith said. “(Game meat) is really an amazing protein that people are providing to these food banks, so we really are proud that we can be a part of the Food from the Field program.”

Twelve women donated more than 250 pounds of game meat from the event that went directly to the state’s food banks, the highest number of donations since the hunt’s

inception in 2013!

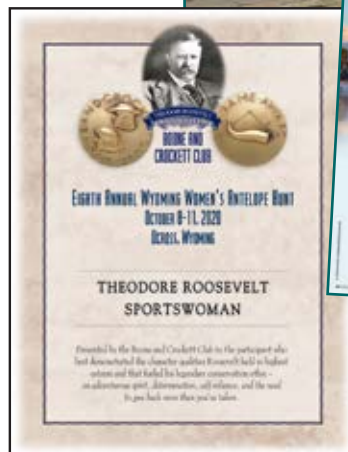
The 2020 online auction also enabled WYWF to reach more past hunters and supporters, share hunt video highlights, wrap up the bidding and do some live raffle pulls!

You can learn more about what makes this event so special by visiting WYWF’s website, [wywf.org](http://wywf.org), or its YouTube channel or Facebook page and watching the 2020 hunt recap video. The Wyoming Women’s Foundation would like to extend a huge thank you to all hunters, guides, landowners, volunteers, bidders, donors, sponsors and supporters including the Boone and Crockett Club. None of this would be possible without you! ■

For the last eight years the Boone and Crockett Club has sponsored the Theodore Roosevelt Sportswoman Award. This award is presented to the participant who best demonstrated the character qualities Roosevelt held in highest esteem and that fueled his legendary conservation ethic—an adventurous spirit, determination, self-reliance, and the need to give back more than you’ve taken. “Thanks to the guidance provided by the Boone and Crockett Club these past years, WYWF confidently promotes the core principles of conservation and fair chase hunting throughout our annual event.” said Rebekah Smith, WYWF Director.



The next hunt is set for October 7-11 2021 at the Ranch at Ucross, Wyoming. If you are interested in joining WYWF as a hunter, sponsor or donor, please visit [wyomingwomensantelopehunt.org](http://wyomingwomensantelopehunt.org) for more information and then reach out to Alex at [alex@wywf.org](mailto:alex@wywf.org).



Read stories about past Wyoming Women’s Antelope Hunts online in the Associates Community in Summer 2014 and Spring 2018 issue of *Fair Chase*.