

EQUIPMENT/FOOD LIST FOR A FALL MOOSE HUNT

by
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The following assumptions/suggestions are made:

- a) Hunt is a six day hunt (Monday to Saturday).
- b) Hunters arrive at hunting location prior to noon on the Saturday before the hunt and leave in a.m. of Sunday after the hunt.
- c) 8 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 8 suppers are involved.
- d) 4 hunters are in the party.
- e) The hunt is a fly-in and occurs in the fall.
- e) Emphasis is on an enjoyable outdoor experience with harvesting an animal being a bonus.
- f) All non burnable garbage such as tin cans will be brought out with you - remember you may be returning to the sight next year and do not want to have a campsite littered with garbage - also, consider your feelings if someone left this for you!
- g) You will use an open fire for some cooking and heating of water - this reduces the amount of fuel necessary for a camp stove.
- h) If you hunt from the same location each year consider storing some of your equipment in the bush in a well hidden site.
- i) Preparations should begin at least 6 weeks prior to leaving for the hunt.
- j) Use plastic containers instead of bottles - they are lighter.
- k) Stay away from cans as much as possible because of weight.
- l) My hunting party usually is up by 5:15 a.m., at which time we have coffee and toast and leave by 6 a.m. for the hunting area. We return to camp about 11 a.m. for brunch and then head out in mid afternoon for the evening hunt. A brunch as described usually means food for lunches can be cut down.
- m) Woolclothing is preferred for hunting (quiet) and warmth.

Preparations should involve 4 categories namely, personal things (ie. clothes, etc.), food, equipment for camp life and equipment for handling moose. Every effort should be made to keep the weight to a minimum and avoid duplication.

Note: Should you hunt the same area each year consider acquiring older canoes which can be left in the bush (well hidden). Canoes on the outside of aircraft reduce the inside load by about 50%.

Personal

- hunting licenses.
- sleeping bag, air mattress (or similar type material for sleeping on) and pillow.
- repair kit for air mattress and rubber boots.
- tooth brush, tooth paste, deodorant, shaving cream and razor, hair brush and/or comb (leave the aftershave at home!!).
- 2 towels and a face cloth.
- one pair of hip waders.
- one pair of good bush boots - leather boots not recommended unless waterproof.
- one pair of slippers/loafers for camp use.
- 2 pair of long underwear and suitable summer underwear for 8 days.
- suitable T-shirts for 8 days.
- 3 warm shirts.
- one warm sweater.
- mitts or gloves (one pair).
- legal hunting hat and outer jacket (outer jacket should be of wool or other material which is quiet - nylon to be avoided).
- 2 pair of pants for bush use and one non hunting pair for camp. Bush pants to be made of a material which will not be noisy in the bush - wool preferred).
- sufficient wool socks (light and heavy) for 8 days.
- warm vest preferably with a soft outer covering (again not nylon).
- sun glasses.
- life preserver.
- rain gear.
- warm outer jacket ie. parka.
- good quality compass with an attached string enabling it to be hung around your neck for quick use and to reduce chances for losing it.
- matches and lighter in your "day bag".
- binoculars.
- camera equipment with sufficient film - install new batteries before you go or bring them with you.
- band aids in "day bag".
- map of the hunting area.
- flash light (new batteries before you go).
- moose call - perhaps a shoulder blade also.
- fishing rod and a few hooks (not the usual summer fishing tackle box - plan with your partners to bring no more than two).
- one shotgun with one box of shells (again plan with your partners to bring only one if you want to plan for a meal of grouse or waterfowl).
- rifle, clip plus sufficient number of shells, cleaning kit (arrange with your partners to bring only one cleaning kit not four).

- beverage for "toddy" prior to supper.
- alarm clock (should have one for each tent - new batteries before you go).
- small radio (optional).
- space type blanket for your day bag.
- small packsack which can be used as a day bag.

- larger packsack in which to place your personal things.
- small bottle containing matches for your day bag.
- one bottle of fly dope (black flies and mosquitoes have been known to be severe in warm weather at this time of year).
- aspirin, corricidin, cough drops or other similar remedies for headache and colds.
- some flagging tape (*remove it after you have finished - do not leave it to clutter up the bush.*)

Equipment for Handling Animals

- medium sized hunting knife (10-15 cm blade and sharpened before going to the bush).
- sharpening stone.
- light rope to facilitate handling of the carcass.
- meat saw complete with an extra blade (a Wyoming saw is excellent to carry in your "day bag" and is collapsible).
- small block and tackle.
- back pack for carrying out meat or a stretcher (lightweight ones made from aluminum are suitable).
- cheese cloth or sacks made from T-shirt tubing (preferred as flies cannot get at the meat).
- large burlap bags for putting meat in to keep clean while hauling back to camp.
- loose bags made of nylon type material with small holes about one eighth inch in diameter to place around hanging meat. These bags should be about 1.5 metre long and 1.5 metres deep with velcro at the open end. Once meat is on a meat pole, pull these over the meat and seal the top with the velcro around your meat hook - you now have a fly proof meat cage.
- small axe (hatchet).
- plastic or a tarp to make a roof over the meat to keep rain off.

Food

- 8 loaves of bread.
- pancake mix.
- one bottle syrup.
- 5 dozen eggs.
- 4 pounds bacon wrapped in one pound packages and 4 pounds of breakfast sausage done the same way.

- 3 pounds butter or margarine (the latter stays soft in cool weather).
- jam (enough in small container for hunt).
- sugar in a small plastic container.
- tea bags (count out enough for the week).
- coffee (enough just for the week).
- canned milk/coffee mate or whole hermetically sealed whole milk (can be kept in lake) for tea and coffee.
- 4 packs of orange juice crystals (make up in bush).
- luncheon meat (about 5 tins or packaged meat eg. klik, canned ham, shaved ham, various sausages etc. - do not overdo it! Remember, you may reduce your luncheons if your mid day meal is a brunch as suggested above).
- mustard and ketchup in lightweight plastic containers.
- salt and pepper (use small empty spice containers).
- 4 steaks (one meal).
- 8 pork chops (one meal).
- pot of chili made at home (one meal).
- pot of stew made at home (one meal).
- 4 pounds of moose burger packaged into two 2 pound packages (2 meals).
- spaghetti sauce made at home and enough for one meal.
- food for one other major meal - optional - perhaps plan on catching some fish.
- spaghetti (enough for one meal).
- salad makings - lettuce (2 heads), 8 tomatoes, 3 cucumbers, green onions.
- one bottle salad dressing.
- 2 dozen chocolate bars for the bush (assume one each day in your day bag).
- 12 oranges.
- 15 apples.
- 15 small puddings for dessert (they are light and pleasant).
- 2 packages of cookies.
- one box of minute rice for suppers.
- enough potatoes for suppers (count them out - don't overdo).
- enough vegetables for 8 suppers - use frozen vegetables ie. corn, peas etc. and place enough for one meal in plastic zip lock bags and freeze).
- one container of cooking oil.
- premixed ingredients for bannock.
- you may wish to supplement the above with macaroni and cheese.
- soft drinks in either canned containers or plastic (8 plastic containers or about 30 cans).
- some munchies (chips/peanuts).
- 2 pounds of cheese (in a block).
- 2 boxes of crackers (get a couple of different types).
- 2 rolls toilet paper.
- one large roll paper towels.
- one small container of dish soap.
- 2 bars soap.

Note: All meat and vegetables should be frozen, wrapped in newspaper and placed in a durable type cooler (generally two) with two ice packs. Once in camp dig a hole in a cool, dry site, place the cooler inside and cover it over with the top layer of material you removed when commencing the hole - done properly, the ice packs should still be partially frozen after a week).

Equipment

Note: I have two large wooden boxes constructed with lids in which much of the following can be placed. The lids function as shelving when the boxes are emptied and stacked on top of each - a piece of strapping has been fastened half way up each end of the box (on the inside) on which the tops rest. Secondly, I have constructed at my hunt location a couple of "tables" on which one can cook, wash etc. - a little ingenuity will work wonders!!

- one 10 x 12 tent plus a smaller light weight one to sleep 2 (Note: larger tent for storage of groceries etc, eating in cool weather and contains stove). This tent should have an asbestos ring for stove pipes and an asbestos pad plus a ring for to hang a coleman lamp. Rings and rope on ceiling are useful to enable clothing to be hung up at night.
- one 'fly tarpaulin' to cover 10 x 12 tent (light weight nylon tents usually come with attached fly).
- one 10 x 12 light weight tarp (not canvas) for tent floor.
- 3 10 x 12 light weight tarps for construction of cook "shack" and covering meat in rain.
- 2 boxes of wooden matches placed in water proof containers.
- 5 plates.
- 5 cups.
- 5 knives.
- 5 forks.
- 5 small spoons.
- 5 large spoons.
- two fry pans.
- 5 cereal type bowls.
- 4 dish up bowls.
- one tea pot.
- one coffee pot.
- one egg lifter.
- one butcher knife.
- one can opener.
- 3 large cooking pots (Note: I use an aluminum cooking kit that comes with many different sized pots which fit inside each other and is lightweight).
- one wash basin for dishes (plastic).
- one wash basin for personal washing.
- one portable solar shower (weight one pound and when filled with hot water enables one to have a shower).
- one large pot for heating water on your open fire.
- one water pail.
- one shovel.
- one grill for use on open fire.
- one coleman type camp stove (minimum size - a large two burner).
- one folding camp stove (folded size 12.5" x 27.5" x 3.5" weight 45 pounds plus enough stove pipes for use in 10 x 12 tent which should have an asbestos ring. This stove has an oven and can be used for making bannock or other culinary delights that you would not try at home!!!).
- two lanterns.
- two gallons of coleman fuel (make every effort to conserve fuel).
- one small funnel.
- 4 extra mantles for lanterns.

- extra generator for light and stove.
- 2 axes with protective coverings over cutting edge.
- one file for sharpening axe.
- one small chain saw filled with gas and oil. One extra quart container of chain oil and one of gas and file - option here is a buck saw.
- 2 aluminum square stern canoes.
- 2 small out board engines (max. 5 hp) Note: check and clean spark plugs before trip.
- 10 gallons *mixed* gas for engines. *(Note: [1] engines are to supplement paddling and to assist at certain times; [2] 2 litre plastic drink containers are excellent for carrying mixed outboard gas in the canoe and easy to put in the engine).* If extra gas can be left in the bush until next year consider using aviation gas which when mixed with oil does not deteriorate over time. When the plane comes in to pick you up have some gas for next year brought in to fill your containers (a 10 gallon drum is usually preferred) - this will reduce your weight for next year.
- 4 paddles.
- one small wrench, one screw driver and one pair pliers plus shear pins for engines.
- a sufficient amount of heavy and light rope (Note: rope will be required to hang meat from meat pole thus heavy rope should be of sufficient strength to hold about two hundred pounds - you will get front quarters which will be in this vicinity in terms of weight).
- a roll of heavy guage vapour barrier plastic (it is light, cheap and can be stored in bush.
- about 5 garbage bags - burn all garbage which can be treated this way, that which is biodegradable should be placed in the bush away from camp and tins and bottles must be brought home for proper disposal.
- 2 tea towels.
- one dish cloth.
- 5 SOS type scrub pads.
- some 3 inch nails and spikes (for hangers etc. - they come in very useful).
- one roll snare wire.
- first aid kit.

One closing thought: be careful, enjoy and respect wildlife, use your trip as a learning experience, do not measure success by what is put in the freezer, hunt safely, be sure of your target and only shoot when a clean kill is possible and respect the rights of others. Do not be the "slob hunter" who will contribute more fodder for the anti movement to use against those of us who carry on the hunting tradition in a professional manner. Also, four moose for four people is unnecessary - consider a 50% success rate - this amount of meat is sufficient until the next hunt. Try hunting with a camera (video or otherwise) - you will enjoy it.

Good Luck

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