



# Local Hunter Bags The Ghost of RRR



Local hunter Chris Labay hinted to Warren “The Bull” Blesh over the years if he ever had an extra axis to hunt to call him.

“The Bull” ran into Chris at the Ranchland sausage pit opening day of dove season last September. The two exchanged comments about the sausage, then the axis ghost of the RRR came up.

Blesh explained to Chris he had only seen the axis 5-6 times in 7 years and never in a UTV. So, the two made a deal. Come hunt all you want and if you find him, a small tip would be fine.

Labay, a world class hunter, struck out the first night after scouring cedar breaks and riparian habitat for 4 hours.

Monday night, with the heat index at 103, Labay left his pickup near headquarters

around 4:30. He then went on a long, slow stalk that included crawling through waist high ragweed and over ant piles on his knees.

Tired, sweaty and pooped, Labay paused under a small live oak grove to rest around 7:30. “The ghost” was spotted walking left to right at 200 yards and headed once again to safety. Labay took quick aim with his trusty .308 and dropped the axis.

The axis weighed in at 225 pounds and provided much table fare for Chris and his wife Debi last winter.



**WILD GAME  
PROCESSING  
by Wesley Head**



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