

PENNSYLVANIA DEER FARMERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

-To Preserve, Protect & Promote the Deer Industry in Pennsylvania-



NEWSLETTER

Volume 9

Fall 2011

No. 3

NORTH DAKOTA: MEASURE TWO DEFEATED

According to the American Deer and Wildlife Alliance, the highly publicized battle over game preserves and private property rights ended with a defeat on Measure Two, a ballot initiative for which the HSUS spent more than \$130 million to promote.

If passed, Measure Two would have banned hunting preserves and prevented sportsmen from deciding for themselves how and where to hunt. In addition, the measure would have made it a Class A misdemeanor for someone to receive payment for a hunt involving privately-owned big game or exotic mammals, ultimately closing hundreds of businesses and ranches across the state and costing thousands of jobs.

Roger Kaseman, who founded North Dakota Hunters for Fair Chase and spearheaded Measure Two, said as for the future, he is finished with the cause. "I can't speak for others but as of tomorrow, I'm done," he said.



EDUCATIONAL MEETING PLANNED

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 26th for an excellent educational session.

You remember last year we had two Spring Regional Meetings, one held in Grantville, Pa. and one held in Clark, Pa. For the 2011 year a combined meeting will be held in Moshannon, Pa., just four miles off the Snow Shoe exit of I-80. This is as close to the center of Pennsylvania as we could find.

The meeting is being held in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and both deer farmers and veterinarians are invited. The cost will be \$25.00 per person. The day will begin with refreshments and check in from 8:00-9:00. Speakers will include Dr. Karen Martin, Dianne Miller, Dr. Jason Brooks from Pennsylvania State University and Sarah Yuriscic from PDA. There will be more about the program in the Winter newsletter.

A roast beef dinner will be served for lunch and the program will conclude by 3:00. A question and answer session will conclude the day's program.

AGRICULTURE, GAME OFFICIALS STRENGTHEN PLAN TO PREVENT CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE FROM ENTERING PENNSYLVANIA

Harrisburg – Agriculture Secretary Russell C. Redding and Game Commission Executive Director Carl G. Roe today unveiled an updated plan designed prevent the spread of a disease that threatens the state's deer and elk populations but poses no threat to humans.

The officials said the improved Chronic Wasting Disease, or CWD, response plan is part of the state's ongoing aggressive efforts to prevent the disease from establishing itself in Pennsylvania. The disease has been

identified in New York, Virginia and West Virginia, but has not yet been found in Pennsylvania.

CWD is progressive and fatal. It affects the nervous system of cervids, including mule deer, elk, and black and white tailed deer. There is no known treatment, vaccine or live animal test for detecting the disease.

"Chronic Wasting Disease has been detected in three neighboring states, and we must be ready to respond to protect our state's wild and captive deer and elk populations," said

Redding. "The deer and elk populations are important not just to our state's one million hunters, but also to Pennsylvania agriculture. With more than 1,000 cervid livestock operations in the state, we are one of the largest cervid farming states in the nation."

Pennsylvania is ranked second in the nation for commercial deer and elk farms with a more than \$40.3 million in direct farm receipts and 3,500 industry-related jobs.

(continued on page 3)

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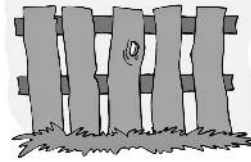
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OVER THE BACK FENCE

by Beverly Gruber

Executive Director



HUNTING NUMBERS DOWN

Seems like every article I pick up, someone is talking about the lack of participation by our youth in the sport of hunting. According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services, the number of active hunters in America has declined by 35 percent since 1975. Plus, the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association reports that youth participation in hunting declined by 26 percent between 1990 and 2000. If that was not bad enough, the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation reports that only 25 percent of children from hunting households actively participate in hunting today. These numbers add up to one thing--our industry is declining and our children and our children's children may never and experience and appreciate the outdoors like we do today.

In 1975, 19.1 million Americans (16-years old or older) had hunted in their lifetime. In 2006, that number had plummeted to only 12.5 percent. That's a steady decline of a quarter percent annually which, if continued, will result in another 5 percent loss in 20 years and a 7.5 percent loss in 30 years.

Our youth are the future of the industry. Without their involvement today, our industry could fade into obscurity within the next 20 to 30 years.

So what can we do about this problem? A few ideas are being considered across the country. Bob Steiner, a Western Pennsylvania outdoor writer, thinks we should increase outdoor recreation education. He feels we need to introduce kids to hunting, fishing, bird-watching, canoeing, hiking, biking, backpacking and camping, just to name a few. Maybe some of the state money spent on recreational fields and sports equipment could go toward outdoor recreation.

Pennsylvania's Department of Education, working with the Bureau of State Parks, should be able to design an outdoor recreation elective course--rather than gym class--for high school kids looking for guidance in finding meaningful lifetime outdoor recreation.

Jeff Mulhollen, editor of Pennsylvania Outdoor News, also feels that the answer lies in outdoor education. His choice to do this is Mark Strand from Minnesota, who is developing a series of instructional DVDs which will be free of charge. The series will be called the "School of the Outdoors."

In Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan, the apprentice licenses for youth seem to have helped in recruiting new young hunters, but all feel that more needs to be done to keep hunting from being a dying species.

As an association, maybe we need to brainstorm ideas to work with our youth and be sure they know hunting is good and it's an American outdoor tradition.

Sincerely,

Bev Gruber

TO ALL PA DEER FARMERS FROM PDA

If anyone is interested in learning how to sample deer and elk brains for Chronic Wasting Disease, please let our office know. Contact:

Sarah E Yurisc
Domestic Animal Health Inspector
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services
13410 Dunham Road
Meadville, PA 16335
814-332-6890

Every year we remove tissues from hunter-killed deer during the deer hunting season as a part of CWD surveillance for Pennsylvania. This is a perfect time to practice your technique. This year we will be in Franklin at the Pennsylvania Game Commission office on Wednesday, December 1st and Thursday, December 2nd.

In order to submit samples for CWD to the laboratory, specific paperwork and sample management is required. You must be trained to do this and you must receive the correct paperwork.

The PGC needs us to assign people to specific training slots. It is not OK just to show up for this. We need to schedule your training.

Please call our office ASAP to schedule your time.

CHAIRPERSON NAMED FOR SPRING ANNUAL MEETING AND BENEFIT SALE

Kelly Pittenger, Thunder Valley Whitetails, Montoursville, Pa., has been named the chairperson for the Spring Annual Meeting and Benefit Sale. The event will be held at the Lancaster Host Resort in Lancaster on April 9, 2011.

There will be speakers and the Annual Meeting in the morning followed by lunch and then the auction starting at noon.

Kelly is looking for both deer and non-deer items for the auction, which will take place after lunch. We will also be asking all members for support in selling chances on a drawing for 20 guns and a grand prize of a 125 BC Class guided whitetail hunt, with all profit going into the PDFA Political Action Fund.

A great trade show will also be featured. All exhibitors are welcome to a free space to display your product as long as you donate something to our auction. Space is available on a first come, first serve basis.

Again, the PDFA Spring Meeting is open to anyone and everyone. The speakers are FREE, the lunch is FREE, the exhibits are FREE and the deer talk is FREE.

Plan to come and enjoy the day. Watch your mail for your raffle tickets, and your donation and booth forms. If you have questions, call Kelly at 570-435-5809.

If you would like to stay at the Lancaster Host Resort, the rate is \$99 for double occupancy. Cutoff is Wednesday, March 9th. To make your reservation, call 800-233-0121. Be sure to mention that you are with the Pennsylvania Deer Farmers Association.

(CWD, continued from page 1)

Redding said the new plan further defines prevention methods and procedures for detecting and containing the disease early if found here. It calls for collecting more samples from the state's cervid population through hunter harvest, road kill and domestic cervids. The plan also outlines movement restrictions for live cervids and carcasses from CWD-positive states to non-positive areas.

"For nearly a decade, the Game Commission has tested more than 27,000 hunter-killed deer and elk, and has not detected, found, confirmed or suspected any cases of CWD in Pennsylvania," Roe said. "To continue that monitoring effort, we are planning to collect samples from 4,000 hunter-killed deer to test for CWD in the upcoming firearms deer season, and have collected samples during this year's elk season."

The CWD Response Plan is a coordinated effort involving the Game Commission, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the state departments of Agriculture, Environmental Protection, and Health.

CWD has been detected in wild and/or captive herds of deer and elk in neighboring New York, Virginia and West Virginia, as well as Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming and Canada.

Clinical signs in infected animals include poor posture, lowered head and ears, uncoordinated movement, rough-hair coat, weight loss, increased thirst, excessive drooling and, ultimately, death.

There is no scientific evidence that CWD has or can spread to humans,

either through contact with infected animals or by eating meat of infected animals. But as a precaution, consumption of animals known to be infected is not recommended.

Anyone coming into contact with an animal exhibiting one or more clinical signs should report it immediately to the Pennsylvania Game Commission at 717-787-4250, or the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture at 717-772-2852.

For more information about CWD, visit the U.S. Department of Agriculture's information site at www.aphis.usda.gov/vs and click on "Chronic Wasting Disease."

The state's CWD Response Plan is online at www.agriculture.state.pa.us, click on "Animal and Plant Health," "Chronic Wasting Disease," then "Response Plan."

ELK CENTER NOW A REALITY

With a snip of the ribbon, the new Elk County Visitors Center in Benezette was opened by Governor Ed Rendell on October 6, 2010.

The 8,420-square-foot green building is owned by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, but managed by a new player on the conservation front – the Keystone Elk Country Alliance.

Outside, the center features a large bronze statue of a bull elk, informative signage, several trails and wildlife-viewing blinds and parking for cars and buses. Inside, visitors will find interactive museum-quality exhibits, a theater and year-round clean restrooms.

High-powered binoculars are available at window viewing stations, and Web cameras provide a glimpse of fields and wildlife beyond the viewing range of the center.

The elk are wild, and seeing one outside the center is never guaranteed. The landscaping is littered with fresh elk tracks and bull elk are using a white pine tree adjacent to a center kiosk as a rubbing post.

According to John Geissler, of Erie, chairman of the board of the Keystone Elk Country Alliance, more than 20,000 people from 29 states and six countries have visited the center since its unofficial opening just one month ago.

While building the center is an achievement, many feel that the real success story is the formation and growth of the Elk Alliance.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation was an original partner in the center as well as the organization that had pledged to provide the operating capital. However, the foundation abruptly backed out in September 2009.

If necessity is the mother of invention, then this is truly an example of that old adage. With the future of the center in limbo, six members of the elk foundation formed a new organization -- the Keystone Country Elk Alliance – in December 2009, just three months after the foundation reneged on its pledge.

The alliance is growing fast. They now have three chapters, 76 life members, 65 sponsors and heritage members and nearly 1200 individual members.

One of the major goals of the alliance is to keep the center staffed and open and to start an endowment to make sure the facility, the elk and Pennsylvania Elk Country continues to prosper.



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DATES SET FOR FALL SALE

September 9 & 10, 2011, have been chosen for the PDFA Fall Sale. The sale will be held at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona.

Our hotel will be the Marriott Courtyard, which is connected to the convention center. The rate is \$104.00 per night. To make your reservation call 800-321-2211 and identify yourself as a PDFA member. Cutoff date is Thursday, August 25, 2011.

BY-LAW CHANGE PROPOSED

The board of directors would like to propose a by-law change to Article II, Section 2 A., Life Membership. It currently reads, "Life membership shall have all voting membership privileges without payment of annual dues upon payment of a one time fee of \$500.00.

It is proposed that it read, "Life membership shall have all voting membership privileges without payment of annual dues upon payment of a one time fee."

With this change, the board of directors would have the duty of setting the life membership fee.

DIRECTORY HAS GONE TO DESIGN FIRM

The 2011 Pennsylvania Deer Farmers Directory and Resource Guide has left the PDFA office and is in the hands of our design firm, A. W. Designs in Manheim, Pa. It should be back from the printer by mid-January and will be mailed to you as soon as it returns.

We have had a good response to ads this year and our membership is nearly 560.

Happy Thanksgiving
from Office of the Pennsylvania Deer Farmers Association



HUNTERS SHARING HARVEST

Harrisburg--Hunters who are successful in the upcoming deer hunting seasons are encouraged by the Pennsylvania Game Commission to consider participating in the state's Hunters Sharing in the Harvest program, which channels donations of venison to local food banks, soup kitchens and needy families.

Pennsylvania's Hunters Sharing the Harvest program is recognized as one of the most successful among similar programs in about 40 states.

"Using a network of local volunteer area coordinators and cooperating meat processors to process and distribute venison donated by hunters," said Carl Roe, Game Commission executive director.

"HSH has really helped to make a difference for countless needy families and individuals in our state.

"Pennsylvanians who participate in this extremely beneficial program

should be proud of the role they play. HSH truly does make a tremendous difference."

Started in 1991, HSH has developed into a refined support service for organizations that assist the Commonwealth's needy. Each year, Hunters Sharing the Harvest helps to deliver almost 200,000 meals to food banks, churches and social services feeding programs for meals provided to needy Pennsylvanians.

"This program is all about the generosity of hunters and their desire to help make a difference," Roe said. "It's a program that many hunters have become committed to and enjoy supporting. After all, what is more gratifying than providing needed food to families?"

As part of the program, hunters are encouraged to take a deer to a participating meat processor and identify how much of their deer meat - from an

entire deer to several pounds - that is to be donated to HSH. If the hunter is donating an entire deer, they are asked to make a \$15 tax-deductible co-pay, and HSH will cover the remaining processing fees. However, a hunter can cover the entire costs of the processing, which is tax deductible as well.

HSH established a statewide toll-free telephone number - 866-474-2141 - which also can answer hunters' questions about where participating meat processors can be found or other general inquiries about the program.

To learn more about the program and obtain a list of participating meat processors and county coordinators, visit the Game Commission's website (www.pgc.state.pa.us), click on "Hunting" and then select "Hunters Sharing the Harvest." Information also can be found on the HSH website (www.sharedeer.org).



THE HARRISBURG PERSPECTIVE

Milliron Associates

John Milliron, Ken Brandt and Andrew Goodman

BY ANDY GOODMAN, MBA

After much work, House bill 2273 is on its way to the Governor’s desk for his signature or veto. The bill would place a fee on the renewal of Cervid Livestock licenses. The fee would be \$150 every two years. That money would be restricted to the Department of Agriculture for the administration of our livestock monitoring program. The fee will help our industry self-sustain itself with Department of Agriculture partner. The bill is expected to arrive on the Governor’s desk in the next few days.

Following the national trend, Pennsylvania politics are now firmly controlled by Republicans. Attorney General Tom Corbett won the Governor’s race defeating Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato by a margin of 54.5% to 45.5%. Mr. Corbett will now begin the transition from candidate to Governor-elect. Mr. Corbett will officially become Governor on the

3rd Tuesday of January (18th). Transitions of power are very interesting times. Our office intends to keep you in the “know” of the upcoming changeover. The House and Senate will be sworn into office on the first Tuesday of January (4th).

The Senate had, as expected, minimal changes. Seats that were vacant due to retirements were filled allowing new Democrats to take over positions that were previously filled by Democrats. The end result is a ratio of 30 Republicans to 20 Democrats. That ratio maintains the majority position for the Republicans, where they have been for more than 20 years.

In the House, many changes occurred. Before Election Day the ratio of Democrats to Republicans was 104 to 99. Now, after the election the majority in the House has shifted from Democrat to Republican with an estimated ratio of 112 to 91 (some calcula-

tions are still taking place; calculations of absentee ballots and recounts).

The House Republicans have announced that they will hold leadership elections on Tuesday November 9th. Our office will communicate, through electronic means, the outcome and insiders scoop of the internal elections. The leadership elections are critical because it will shape how the House Republican caucus will operate and who is appointed to our “key” committees. Legislative Committee appointments will not occur until January.

Although the Pennsylvania General Assembly had many electoral changes over night, please be assured that Milliron Associates is a bi-partisan firm and we work well with both Republicans and Democrats. We will continue to follow our mission of, “educate those who serve” during the 2011-2012 legislative session.

PDFA Lifetime Members

Jarrid Barry
Joseph Barry
Denis Beachel
Dean Borntrager
David M. Byler
Lester A. Byler
Duke Carl
Andy Coblentz
Jesse A. Jr. & Lydia Detweiler
Marvin & Kelly Diller
Steven Ebersole
Ken and Julie Erway
David P. Esh
Jesse Esh
Samuel Esh
Kermit R. Fidler

Samuel K. Fisher
Andy Foor
Stacy Fry
Mike Gee
David & Rick Griffith
George Hazard
Joseph Hostetler
Crist and Lizzie Ann King
Sam A. Kinsinger
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Aaron E. Lapp, Jr.
Bob Lieberum
Larry Lint
Greg & Amanda Manelick
Henry Martin
Levi S. Mast

John J. Miller
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Tim Orton
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Vince Piancone
Larry & Kelly Pittenger
William E Quickel
Blair Soars
Amos Stoltzfus
John Ervin Stoltzfus
Lloyd Stoltzfus
Stevie Stoltzfus, Jr.
Dale and Margaret Streams
William D. Swarey
Roy D. Yoder

Thanksgiving Day is a jewel, to set in the hearts of fionest men; but be careful that you do not take the day, and leave out the gratitude.

~E.P. Powell



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SUMMER PICNIC WAS A FUN TIME



Everyone ate the wonderful food, fished in the creek, guessed the amount of candy in the Mason jars, played games, participated in the candy drop, bounced in the fun house and ate some



more. It was a great two days at the second annual summer cookout held on August 13 and 14 between Reedsville and Belleville in Mifflin County.

Over 350 people participated in this fun summer event which was coordinated by a committee made up of Big Valley PDFA members.

The fabulous food referred to above was home made pizza with home made peach and vanilla ice cream for dessert on Friday evening. There was home made doughnuts and coffee for breakfast on Saturday morning; and for Saturday lunch, bar-b-qued chicken, roast pig, chips, a salad bar to die for with all the trimmings, and fifteen different kinds of home made pies for dessert.

An extravaganza of this magnitude takes a massive amount of physical labor and plenty of funds. The total cost was \$12,125.46. \$8,107.00 was raised from individual donations and \$5,000.00 was supplied by the Pennsylvania Deer Farmers



Association. The balance left will be put toward next year's picnic which will be held on August 12 & 13, 2011.

One child reported that Saturday was "partly cloudy with a chance of candy," and another reported that she "had some much fun playing with the horse and buggy kids."

It was a wonderful two days of networking.



Don't Forget to Check Your Listing on Our Website at

www.padfa.com

Call the office at 610-767-5026 or email lowhill@rcn.com if you have any corrections.



FALL SALE HELD

The Fall Sale of the PDFA was held on September 10 & 11, 2010 in Altoona, Pa. The auction was conducted by Midwest Whitetail Deer Sales. The final sale totals will be in the Winter edition of the newsletter.

Gun Raffle winners were Dennis Roub, Martinsburg, Pa.; Richard Matlock, Jr., Mt. Bethel, Pa.; and Steve Stem, Wingate, Pa.

A special thank you to our dinner sponsors which included:

Melvin Petersheim
 Kyle Krammes
 Billy Sage
 Glenn Dice
 Mike Heiter
 Joe Ludwig
 Matt Kershner
 Seth Bauer
 Amos Stoltzfus
 Aaron Kanagy
 Steve Stem
 Harry Strawser
 Willy Swarey



These folks raised nearly \$6,000.00 for the meal. A unique dinner door prize raffle was held which included 17 very nice prizes which were also donated by our members who purchased the dinner tickets.

Thanks again to all who helped to make the event a profitable one.

Mark Your Calendar



The tentative Board Schedule is as follows:

- Friday, November 17
- Friday February 18
- Friday March 25
- Friday May 13
- Thursday June 16
- Friday August 12 - Reedsville
- Friday October 14
- Friday November 18

Except where noted, all meetings take place at the Huntingdon Ag Extension Office

The 2011 NADeFA Annual Conference and Exhibition

March 17-19, 2011

Gaylord Opryland Hotel & Convention Center
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PDFA Spring Sale & Annual Meeting

April 8 & 9

Lancaster Host Resort & Conference Center
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PDFA Fall Meeting

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Below is the rate schedule for newsletter advertising for PDFA members. If you are interested in taking out an ad, call the office. If you would like to advertise in all four issues you may do so for the price of three.

Reproduce a business card (2 x 3½)	\$ 10.00
1/8 Page (2½ x 3½)	15.00
1/4 Page (3½ x 5)	25.00
1/2 Page (5 x 7½)	50.00
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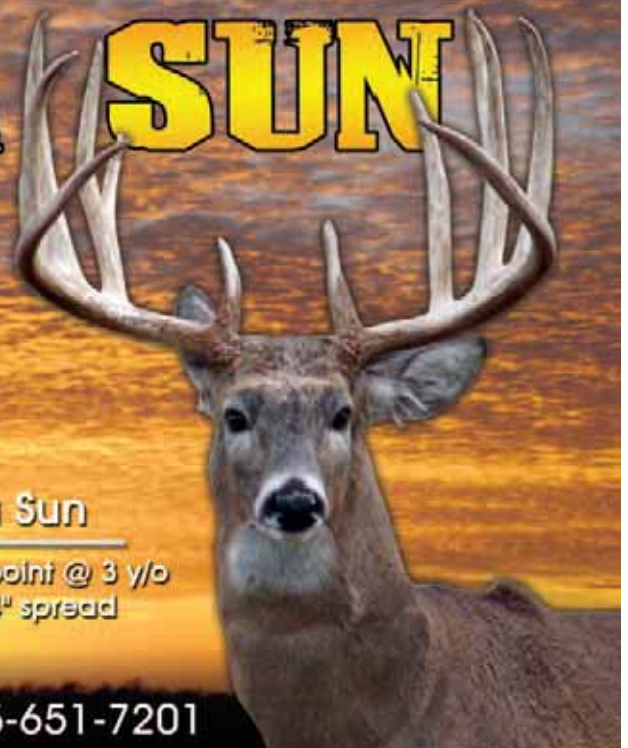
197" Main frame 10 point @ 3 y/o
very typical 21 1/4" spread

Sunset View



Whitetails

Ray Hanson 715-651-7201
2644 10th Ave Chetek, WI 54728



The Department would like to remind you of certain requirements regarding the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) program and update you on certain changes to the program.

Current:

Under the current Quarantine Order, Herd Certification Program (HCP) participants who fail to meet the requirements of the program may be issued citations or civil penalties.

Proposed:

Once the new Quarantine Order goes into effect, the herds not in compliance may also lose status in the CWD program (see paragraph below from the proposed new order).

Changes of program for enrolled herds. Herds enrolled in the CWD Herd Certification Program that fail to meet the program requirements for mandatory testing (paragraph 8(d)), identification of subject animals (paragraph 8(g)), ongoing record-keeping requirement (paragraph 8(h)), or any other aspect of the HCP Program may be removed from enrollment in the HCP program and may be enrolled in a level of the CWD Herd Monitored Program as determined by the Department.

Intrastate transportation of live cervids**Current:**

Under the current Order, Herd Monitored Program (HMP) participants may only transport live cervids to a shooting preserve or slaughter facility after the herd has tested at least 30 animals for CWD and found them all to be negative.

Proposed:

We have changed our stance on this and have written into the new order that live cervids may be transported intrastate to a shooting preserve or slaughter facility without having to meet the CWD testing requirement.

The new Order is not legally binding at this time since it has not yet been published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin but the Department will allow the above mentioned movements while the Order becomes official. Please remember the requirement to have these animals officially identified prior to transport and to include in your inventory when the animal left, the ID of the Cervid and where it went.

Also, if you are enrolled in the HCP program and cannot meet the identification requirements, you may choose to switch to the HMP by filling out a new CWD application.

Escapes

We would like to remind all of the CWD program participants that any captive cervids which escape or are removed from a herd, or any wild CWD-susceptible cervids which gain entrance into a captive herd must be reported to the Department immediately.

If the escaped cervid is returned into a HCP herd within one week of the escape, there will be no change in status of the herd. If the cervid is out for more than a week and put back into the HCP herd, the status of the herd will go to first year and the anniversary date will become the date the cervid was returned to the HCP herd. You should also contact your local PA Game Commission office to report the escape to them and avoid a possible fine.

One other option to consider if the cervid is not captured within one week would be to place the deer into a separate herd and start another herd with first year status thus maintaining the status of the existing herd.

We appreciate the efforts of all the deer farmers that have taken the time to learn the responsibilities of the CWD program and getting their herds in compliance (having official id, testing for CWD, annual inventory submitted,

prompt reporting of escapes and untestables).

Reporting death losses

The Department would also like to remind all cervid farmers that any time they discover a dead captive cervid that qualifies as an animal that should be tested for CWD they need to contact their regional veterinarian immediately so that we can decide if that cervid is testable.

Reporting fawns

Please put your fawn additions on the inventory sheets the year they are born that you submit your annual report. For example, if your inventory is due November 2009, the 09 fawns must be on it. If your inventory is due March 2010, the 09 fawns should be on it. A lot of times, inventory reports do not show the fawns until the following year. This is unacceptable due to the fact that when they are sold, the person may submit their inventory before you do. All fawns must be included, even if the fawn is given away and not sold.

Premise Identification

Please note the premise identification number next to the name of the person you are buying or selling your animals to. This will be helpful in making sure the animals get placed in the right inventory.

Thank you for working with the Department of Agriculture to maintain a nationally respected CWD surveillance program in captive cervids within the Commonwealth.



Timothy C. Flanagan photo

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