

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 10-16-02

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

OR \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT Wild-Coone

Farms

(NAME) Garv Nelson

(Street Address or Route Number) N20549 LaFare Dr

(City and Zip Code) Ware WI, 54120

(Representing) Whitetails of Wisconsin

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 10-16-02

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

OR \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT Deer Farming

(NAME) Robert Carol Graf F

(Street Address or Route Number) 6611 Quarter Rd.

(City and Zip Code) Whitehall, WI 54247

(Representing) Kolow deer owners

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 10-16-02

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

OR \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT Support of

Commercial Deer and Elk Farms

(NAME) Douglas Ray

(Street Address or Route Number) P.O. Box 191

(City and Zip Code) Spring Valley WI 54767

(Representing) WODEFA

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 10/16/02

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
SUBJECT CWD

WESTER Ramack

(NAME) \_\_\_\_\_  
N 3758 Vermont Rd  
(Street Address or Route Number)

PAKFIELD 53065  
(City and Zip Code)  
WISCONSIN

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:  
but not speaking:

Registering Against:  
but not speaking:

Speaking for information  
only; Neither for nor against:

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**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 10-16-02

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
SUBJECT CWD in support

of deer farms

(NAME) \_\_\_\_\_  
8309 Fleas Ln  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Resolt WI's 54473  
(City and Zip Code)  
Whitetails of WI's.

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:  
but not speaking:

Registering Against:  
but not speaking:

Speaking for information  
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**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 10/16

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR  
SUBJECT CWD -

Secretary Hansford

(NAME) \_\_\_\_\_  
2811 Agriculture Dr  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Madison, WI 53708  
(City and Zip Code)  
DART

(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:  
but not speaking:

Registering Against:  
but not speaking:

Speaking for information  
only; Neither for nor against:

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**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 10/16

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

OR

SUBJECT COVID

Dr. Shultz's molars

(NAME) \_\_\_\_\_

(Street Address or Route Number) \_\_\_\_\_

(City and Zip Code) \_\_\_\_\_

(Representing) WIACP

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

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**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 10/16/02

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

OR

SUBJECT Chronic Wastrel-

Disease

(NAME) Tom Theisen

(Street Address or Route Number) 101 Wastrel St.

(City and Zip Code) MADISON, WI, 53711

(Representing) WIS DNR

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 10-16-02

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

OR

SUBJECT COVID

(NAME) TOM Solin

(Street Address or Route Number) 101 West Webster

(City and Zip Code) Madison WI

(Representing) DNR

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: ~~10/16/02~~ 10/16/02

BILL NO. Game Farms  
OR

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Tom Hauge  
(NAME)

Ol. S. Webster  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Madison, WI 53703  
(City and Zip Code)

WARR  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:  
but not speaking:

Registering Against:  
but not speaking:

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**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 10/16/02

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Dave Country Sup.  
(NAME)

110 Merrill Ct  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Madison, WI 53705  
(City and Zip Code)

SELF  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:  
but not speaking:

Registering Against:  
but not speaking:

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**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 10/16/02

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

DANA SHERD  
(NAME)

780 WOODLAND LN.  
(Street Address or Route Number)

WEST BEND 53090  
(City and Zip Code)

WI COMMERCIAL DEER + ELK  
(Representing) FARMERS

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:  
but not speaking:

Registering Against:  
but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

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Madison, WI 53707-7882

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
OR \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Prof. Todd Aiken  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(NAME)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Prof. of Animal Health +  
Research Services in

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City and Zip Code)

The UW-School of Veterinary  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Representing) Medicine

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

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P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882



State of Wisconsin  
Scott McCallum, Governor

---

**Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection**

James E. Harsdorf, Secretary

**DATE:** September 11, 2002

**TO:** David P. Schmiedicke  
State Budget Director  
Department of Administration

**FROM:** ✓ James E. Harsdorf *James E. Harsdorf*  
Secretary  
Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

**SUBJECT:** S. 16.505/16.515 request for additional positions and spending authority

**Request**

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) requests 5.00 FTE project positions ending September 30, 2004, and \$500,000 in additional spending authority in PR-S Appropriation 830, 20.115(8)(ks), State Services.

The additional positions and spending authority are needed to control and prevent the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). There is sufficient funding to support the additional positions and spending need.

**Background**

Act 108 authorized additional spending by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to control Chronic Wasting Disease. DNR has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to perform activities to assist in controlling and preventing CWD. A copy of the MOU is attached.

**Analysis**

DATCP is requesting 5.00 project positions to control and prevent the spread of CWD. These positions will be responsible for working with the 930 deer farms in Wisconsin. These positions will be involved in the following activities:

Three Compliance Officers:

- ◆ Monitor submission of samples to ensure that samples submitted are timely and complete.
- ◆ Ensure compliance with rules related to Chronic Wasting Disease
  - ◆ Proactive border patrols with law enforcement to stop illegal movement
  - ◆ Monitor slaughter plants
  - ◆ Audit of all farm records

- ◆ Annually inspect all cervid farms
- ◆ Follow up on complaints
- ◆ Case development and prosecution

**One Program Coordinator:**

- ◆ Track all registered captive cervids in the state
- ◆ Manage census data
- ◆ Track testing submissions
- ◆ Track animal movement into and within the state
- ◆ Animal identification
- ◆ Coordinate the activities of the USDA-APHIS CWD veterinarian, the DNR CWD veterinarian and the DATCP CWD field veterinarian.

**One Field Veterinarian:**

- ◆ On-site visits to deer farms establishing an active presence in the industry
- ◆ Ensure proper bio-security measures are being taken
- ◆ Train accredited veterinarians, or department approved persons, to take appropriate samples for CWD testing
- ◆ Education and program development

In addition to the positions, funding will be needed in order to buyout herds that are potentially a disease threat or have been exposed to a potential disease threat and to educate industry to mitigate risk of disease introduction or spread.

| <b>Objectives</b>        | <b>Positions</b>      | <b>Salary</b> | <b>Fringe</b> | <b>Supplies &amp; Services</b> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Compliance               | 3 Compliance Officers | \$97,668      | \$41,061      | \$62,940                       |
| Program Coordination     | 1 Program Coordinator | \$49,172      | \$20,672      | \$17,200                       |
| Prevention               | 1 Field Veterinarian  | \$55,687      | \$23,411      | \$33,680                       |
| <b>Total Staff Costs</b> |                       |               |               | <b>\$401,491</b>               |

|  |  |  |  |                  |
|--|--|--|--|------------------|
| <b>Other Costs:</b><br>Education, information<br>and herd buyouts. |  |  |  | <b>\$98,509</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL COSTS</b>   |  |  |  | <b>\$500,000</b> |

**Alternative**

The alternative would be to maintain the status quo. DATCP would not be able to aggressively pursue preventing the spread of CWD. DATCP would only be able to investigate a very limited number of cases, on a complaint basis. That would not be adequate to ensure that the new rules that have been put in place to protect Wisconsin wildlife and agriculture are being complied with.

**Revenue Source for Appropriation**

This is the department's State Contractual Services PR-S appropriation. It is a continuing appropriation. DNR has agreed to provide the funding to support these positions and activities.

**How the Request Meets Statutory Criteria**

Additional position authority is needed under S. 16.505 to meet critical program needs.

Additional spending authority also is needed. The occurrence of CWD and availability of funding were unexpected at the time that the base budget for this appropriation was established.

**Contact Person**

For further information, please contact Melissa Mace at 224-4883.

cc: Susan Buroker  
Barbara Knapp  
Keeley Moll



**State of Wisconsin**  
Scott McCallum, Governor

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**Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection**  
James E. Harsdorf, Secretary

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN THE  
STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

AND THE  
STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER  
PROTECTION

**I. Purpose**

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) are partners, with other agencies, in an effort to combat Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Wisconsin's captive and free-ranging white-tail deer herds and in captive elk herds. The purpose of this project is to carryout CWD monitoring and detection activities in Wisconsin's captive whitetail and elk herds.

**II. Project Description**

Under the 2001 Wisconsin Act 108, the Legislature approved \$2,000,100 from the Wildlife Damage Fund to fund activities to eradicate CWD in Wisconsin's captive and free-ranging white tail deer herds and captive elk herds. The Legislature further approved \$1,000,000 from the Wildlife Damage Fund and \$1,000,000 from an unknown funding source for CWD management upon the passive review of a plan for spending the additional \$2.0 million.

From the \$2,000,100 approved in 2001 Wisconsin Act, Senate Bill 1, the Department of Natural Resources is providing \$250,000 in funding to DATCP for monitoring and inspecting captive white tail deer and elk herds in Wisconsin and to indemnify the owner of captive animals if the animals must be killed and tested for CWD because the department believes the animals have been exposed to CWD.

Upon the Legislature's approval of an additional \$1.0 million in expenditures from the Wildlife Damage Fund for CWD management, WDNR will provide \$250,000 to DATCP for monitoring and inspecting captive and commercial cervid farms in Wisconsin, purchasing captive animals as needed to manage the disease, and developing and distributing a CWD publication for meat processors.

### III. Scope of Work

- A. DATCP agrees to use the funds to prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease.
- DATCP will hire necessary staff to do appropriate surveillance and monitoring of captive and commercial deer farm operations and captive cervid movement into and around the state.
  - DATCP will use the money as necessary to prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease.
  - DATCP will indemnify the owner of animals that must be killed and CWD tested because the department believes the animal is exposed to CWD in compliance with ss 95.23 (1m) and 95.31 Wis. Stats.
  - DATCP will produce and distribute a brochure for meat processors addressing concerns related to the processing of venison.
- B. DNR shall:
1. Transfer \$250,000 from the Wildlife Damage appropriation to DATCP for the purposes stated above upon the signing of this agreement.
  2. By October 1, 2002 transfer \$250,000 from the Wildlife Damage appropriation to DATCP for the purposes stated above.

### IV. Period of Performance

This agreement is for the period July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003.

### V. Party Representatives

The representatives of the parties who shall serve as principle contacts for the purposes of this MOU are: WDNR: Linda Freitag, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 and, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection: Melissa Mace, 2911 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53718-6777.

### VI. Indemnification

Each party shall be responsible for its own acts and the results thereof, and shall not be responsible for the acts of the other party and the results thereof. Each party, therefore, agrees that it will assume all risk and liability to itself, its agents or employees, for any injury to persons or property resulting in any manner from the conduct of its own operations, and the operation of its agents or employees under this MOU, for any loss, cost, damage or expense resulting at any time from any and all causes due to any act, or acts, negligence, or the failure to exercise proper

precautions, of or by itself or its own agents or its own employees, while occupying or visiting the premises under and pursuant to this MOU.

VII. Worker's Compensation

DATCP agrees to provide Worker's Compensation insurance for all its employees performing services on the project. DATCP will require all of its independent contractors (if any) working on the project to provide Worker's Compensation insurance for all of the independent contractors' employees.

VIII. Termination

- A. This agreement shall be automatically terminated if, for any reason, the funding for this agreement is withdrawn or made unavailable by the Wisconsin Legislature or Governor.
- B. In the event of termination, the DATCP and DNR shall determine the amount, if any, which is due either party for costs already incurred as a result of this agreement and that party shall reimburse the other accordingly.
- C. The expiration or termination of this agreement shall not in any way affect or diminish a party's right to pursue available remedies for the enforcement of the other party's obligations required to be performed under this agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THE PARTIES HAVE EXECUTED THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AS OF THE LAST DATE WRITTEN BELOW.

STATE OF WISCONSIN DNR  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BY: Darrell Bazzell

DATE: 7/23/02

Darrell Bazzell, Secretary  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707

BY: James E. Harsdorf

DATE: 7/18/02

James E. Harsdorf, Secretary  
Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection



State of Wisconsin  
Scott McCallum, Governor

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection  
James E. Harsdorf, Secretary

October 15, 2002

## **Chronic Wasting Disease; Permanent Rule Draft Clearinghouse Rule 02-078**

The department adopted a temporary emergency rule, effective April 9, 2002, in response to recent finding of chronic wasting disease in wild deer near Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin. This rule will adopt the emergency rule provisions (with some modifications) on a more "permanent" basis.

### **Background**

Chronic wasting disease is a contagious disease known to affect several species of the cervid family, including elk, white-tail deer, black-tailed deer, red deer and mule deer. The disease affects the brains of infected animals, and is always fatal. At the present time, there is no scientific evidence to suggest that chronic wasting disease is transmitted to non-cervids or to humans. But there is limited scientific knowledge about the disease, and this lack of knowledge has contributed to public concerns.

Science does not understand how chronic wasting disease is spread. It is thought that infected cervids can transmit the disease to other cervids, either directly or by contaminating their environment. It appears that cervid-to-cervid contact facilitates the spread of the disease.

On February 27, 2002, chronic wasting disease was confirmed for the first time in this state. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) subsequently tested over 1000 deer in the Mt. Horeb area. To date, DNR has found a total of 31 deer infected with chronic wasting disease. This suggests that the disease has established itself in the wild deer herd in that area.

In 1998, the department instituted a voluntary program of CWD surveillance testing in captive cervid herds. Since October 1998, there have been 735 captive deer tested for CWD. In April 2002, when the emergency rule was adopted, the department required CWD testing in herds that move live animals and of any cervid that dies on the farm if any part of the carcass leaves the farm. For the first time on September 18, 2002, the National Veterinary Services Laboratory advised the department that a captive deer had tested positive for CWD. The positive deer was a white-tail deer that had been tested as a result of the emergency rule provisions.

Persons importing deer and elk to Wisconsin are currently required to obtain an import permit from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Importers must identify the herd of origin and the herd of destination. A veterinarian must certify that the cervids appear to be in good health, and that they have been tested for tuberculosis and brucellosis. An animal that will be imported is not required to be tested for CWD before import because there is no way to test live cervids for the disease. This rule, like the emergency rule, will strengthen Wisconsin's import requirements related to chronic wasting disease.

DATCP currently registers herds of "farm-raised deer" (including deer and elk) in this state. Under the new captive wildlife law (2001 Act 56), captive white-tail deer will also be classified as "farm-raised deer" effective January 1, 2003. This rule will regulate the keeping of "farm-raised deer" including captive white-tail deer. This rule, like the emergency rule, will strengthen current regulations related to chronic wasting disease. It will also regulate the movement of farm-raised deer between herds in Wisconsin. (For a discussion of DATCP's authority to regulate white-tail deer see *Appendix A.*)

For the most part, this rule does not apply to wild deer or elk regulated by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). However, this rule does regulate *imports* of wild deer and elk. This rule also requires a person to report to DATCP if farm-raised deer *or a wild deer or elk* tests positive for chronic wasting disease.

## Rule Contents

### Farm-Raised Deer; Herd Registration

Under current rules, no person may keep a herd of farm-raised deer in this state without an annual registration certificate from DATCP. This rule modifies current registration requirements. Under this rule:

- Captive white-tail deer herds are considered farm-raised deer herds, and must be registered with DATCP. This implements the recent captive wildlife legislation, which classifies captive white-tails as "farm-raised deer" effective January 1, 2003.
- A person may no longer register herds kept at 2 locations as a single herd, but must obtain a separate registration certificate for each herd. The person must comply with intra-state movement regulations (see below) when moving farm-raised deer between the 2 herds.
- A person may register separate herds at the same location if there is "medically significant separation" of the herds. There must be adequate fencing and facilities to maintain the separation, and the herd owner must comply with intra-state movement regulations (see below) when moving farm-raised deer between the herds. A person might choose to register separate herds at the same location if, for example, the person maintains a breeding operation (from which live animals are shipped) and a separate hunting operation (from which no live animals are shipped) at that location.
- A person keeping separate herds at the same location must register each herd separately, and pay registration fees for each herd. Before DATCP registers separate herds at the same location, DATCP must inspect the premises to determine whether the facilities and fencing are adequate to maintain "medically significant separation" of the herds. The herd owner must pay, in addition to the normal registration fees, a \$150 inspection fee to cover the inspection cost. This rule does not change any other herd registration fees.

- Under current rules, DATCP must grant or deny registration within 30 days after DATCP receives a complete application. Under this rule, if DATCP must inspect to ensure that there is "medically significant separation" between herds kept at the same location, DATCP must grant or deny the registration within 60 days after receiving a complete application.

### **Duties of Herd Owners**

A person keeping farm-raised deer must comply with this rule. The person must keep complete herd records, including records related to animals entering or leaving the herd. The person may not add an animal to the herd unless the animal is imported in compliance with this rule, or moved from another registered herd in compliance with this rule. The person may not accept into the herd, on a temporary or permanent basis, any animal from a wild herd. DATCP may deny, suspend or revoke a registration certificate for cause, including violations of this rule.

### **Deer and Elk Imports**

Under this rule, no deer, elk or other cervid may be imported into Wisconsin unless an accredited veterinarian certifies one of the following:

- The cervid originates from a herd monitored for at least 5 years under a state-approved chronic wasting disease herd certification program that complies with federal uniform methods and rules.
- The cervid originates from a herd that meets all the following criteria:
  - Herd members have all been born in the herd or kept in the herd for at least one year.
  - Herd members have not been added from any outside source, or exposed to cervids from any outside source, in the past year.
  - There have been no clinical signs of chronic wasting disease in the herd for the past 5 years.
  - Animal health officials in the state of origin have access to herd records for the past 5 years, including records of cervid deaths and causes of death.
  - The herd of origin is enrolled in a state-approved chronic wasting disease monitoring program that complies with federal uniform methods and rules. The required length of enrollment will increase over time.

### **Moving Farm-Raised Deer in Wisconsin**

Under this emergency rule, no person may move a farm-raised deer from a herd in Wisconsin unless the herd is enrolled in a herd monitoring program (see below). This does not apply to:

- An animal moved directly to slaughter if the animal is tested for chronic wasting disease.
- An animal moved by or under the control of DNR.

- An animal moved between registered zoos.

### **Mandatory Testing in Wisconsin**

This rule requires chronic wasting disease testing of farm-raised deer. There is no test available for live farm-raised deer. Tests must be conducted on brain tissue collected from dead animals. Tests are only effective on animals at least 16 months old. This rule requires herd owners to have all the following tested for chronic wasting disease:

- All farm-raised deer at least 16 months old that are shipped to slaughter.
- All farm-raised deer at least 16 months old whose carcasses (or any part of whose carcasses) leave the herd premises.

A herd owner enrolled in Wisconsin's herd monitoring program (see below) must also test animals at least 16 months old that die on the herd premises, even if their carcasses do not leave the herd premises. No live animals may be shipped from a herd (except to slaughter) unless the herd is enrolled in the monitoring program.

### **Test Standards and Reports**

This rule spells out standards for official chronic wasting disease testing in this state. Under this rule:

- Test samples must be collected by a DATCP-certified veterinarian, a DATCP employee, an employee of the animal and plant health inspection service (APHIS) United States department of agriculture, or another person approved by DATCP. The person must complete training approved by DATCP.
- Test samples must be collected according to standard veterinary procedure, and tested at a laboratory approved by DATCP or APHIS.

Persons must report to DATCP if test results are positive for chronic wasting disease. This reporting requirement applies to voluntary tests, as well as required official tests.

### **Quarantine and Condemnation**

Under this rule, if a farm-raised deer tests positive for chronic wasting disease, DATCP must quarantine the herd. DATCP may condemn animals exposed to the disease, and may direct the disposition of their carcasses. The herd owner may apply for statutory indemnity payments. If a herd owner is eligible, indemnities will normally cover 2/3 of the appraised value of the condemned animals, but not more than \$1500 for each animal.

### **Herd Monitoring Program**

This rule establishes a herd monitoring program for chronic wasting disease. No live farm-raised deer may be shipped from a herd (except to slaughter) unless the herd is enrolled in the monitoring program. A herd owner who wishes to enroll in the program must do all the following:

- Complete an application form.
- Provide a report of a herd census completed not more than 30 days before the application date.
- Provide a statement from the herd veterinarian. The veterinarian must certify that no farm-raised deer in the herd has shown any clinical signs of chronic wasting disease in the past 12 months.

DATCP must grant or deny the application within 30 days. A herd is enrolled in the program when DATCP accepts the herd owner's application. The herd owner must do all the following to remain in the program:

- Identify each farm-raised deer in the herd, with official individual identification, before the animal is one year old.
- Test every farm-raised deer that dies or is shipped to slaughter, if that animal is at least 16 months old. This testing requirement applies, regardless of whether the animal's carcass leaves the herd premises.
- Notify the herd veterinarian within 24 hours after the herd owner observes any signs or symptoms of chronic wasting disease.
- Provide an annual statement from the herd veterinarian. The herd veterinarian must certify that no animal in the herd has shown any clinical signs of chronic wasting disease since the last annual statement.
- File a report of an annual herd census. Among other things, the annual census report must indicate:
  - The number, species and sex of farm-raised deer in the herd, and the official individual identification of each animal that is at least one year old.
  - The number, species and sex of farm-raised deer added to the herd since the last reported herd census. The report must indicate whether these new animals were born into the herd

or added from another source. If animals were added from another source, the report must identify the source from which they were obtained.

- The number of animals that left the herd since the last reported herd census. The report must explain how each animal left the herd, including all the following:
  - \* Whether the animal died on the premises, was shipped to slaughter, or was shipped live other than to slaughter.
  - \* If the animal was shipped live other than to slaughter, the name of the person to whom it was shipped and the place to which it was shipped.
  - \* If the animal died on the premises, the animal's age and the disposition of its carcass. If the carcass left the premises, the report must identify the carcass destination or recipient. If the animal was at least 16 months old, the report must include a chronic wasting disease test report.
  - \* If the animal was shipped to slaughter, the animal's age and the name and address of the slaughter establishment. If the animal was at least 16 months old, the report must include a chronic wasting disease test report.
- Keep complete herd records, and make those records available to DATCP for inspection and copying upon request.

#### Next Steps

The department has held public hearings on this rule around the state. The department is currently analyzing the information submitted at the public hearings and in writing for the record to determine what changes it will propose in a final draft rule. The final draft rule will be submitted to the DATCP Board for its consideration at its December board meeting. If the Board approves a final draft rule, the department will transmit that final draft rule to the Legislature by January 1, 2003, for review by appropriate legislative committees.

If the Legislature takes no action to stop the rule, the Secretary will sign the final rulemaking order and transmit it for publication. The rule will take effect upon publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register. The Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules has extended the current emergency rule until June 1, 2003. The department anticipates having the "permanent" rule published by May 31, 2003. If publication is delayed, the department is authorized to seek further extension of the emergency rule until the permanent rule is published, but not longer than September 1, 2003.

*Appendix A*

DATCP Authority over White-Tail Deer Farms, as of 10/15/02.

Under s. 95.55, Stats., DATCP registers people who keep farm-raised deer.

Section 95.001(1)(a), Stats., defines farm raised deer to specifically exclude white-tail deer.

Section 93.07(10)(a), Stats., defines domestic animals to include farm –raised deer as defined by s. 95.001(1)(a), Stats., that is, domestic animals does not include white-tail deer that are kept in captivity.

Under s. 93.07(10)(b), Stats., DATCP has authority over health matters that affect domestic animals. Under this authority, we do not have health authority over white-tail deer, either free-ranging or captive, unless we can establish that the authority we are exercising impacts the health of domestic animals. Under the theory that if CWD or TB are present in captive white-tail herds it could affect the health of domestic animals, such as cattle or farm-raised deer, DATCP adopted its emergency rule in April, 2002, placing import and movement restrictions on white-tail deer that are held in captivity. That rule was published April 9, 2002. DATCP currently has no authority over white-tail deer except what it takes as a result of health threats white-tail deer present to domestic animals.

When DATCP adopted its emergency rule, it imposed import restrictions on all deer and elk. No deer or elk can legally be imported into Wisconsin unless it is accompanied by a health certificate from a veterinarian verifying that the herd from which that deer or elk originated has been under observation for 5 years and has shown no signs of CWD. The veterinarian must also verify that no animal has been added to the herd of origin in the last 12 months except those born to herd members, and that the animal that is being imported has not had contact with any deer or elk from outside the herd of origin within the last 12 months. In addition, any deer or elk being imported to Wisconsin must have tested negative for TB before it can be imported.

The DATCP emergency rule also placed stringent testing requirements on all deer and elk prior to movement within Wisconsin. Before any carcass or any portion of a carcass can be moved off a deer farm, tissues must be collected from the animal and submitted for testing. Any animal sent to slaughter must have tissues collected for CWD testing at the time the animal is slaughtered. Any owner who moves live animals off the deer farm, other than to slaughter, must participate in the CWD monitoring program. When an owner participates in the CWD monitoring program, all deer that die on the farm must be tested for CWD. The effect of this rule is that CWD testing is mandatory for all people who are engaged in the business of deer farming.

DATCP's authority over white-tail deer farms will change 1/1/03.

On April 3, 2002, the Governor signed 2001 Wis. Act 56, commonly known as the Captive Wildlife Law. This law will take effect on January 1, 2003. Under that law, the definition of farm-raised deer is specifically changed to include any member of the cervid (deer) family that is kept in captivity or that is present in the wild and has an ear tag or other mark identifying it as being raised on a farm. This clearly expands the definition to include white-tail deer that are kept in captivity or that are marked as farm-raised deer, even if they are outside the fenced area of a deer farm. This means that effective January 1, 2003, people who keep white-tail deer in captivity will have to register with DATCP as a deer farmer.

In addition, 2001 Wis. Act 56 changes DATCP's animal health authority to include health issues that affect any animal located in this state and any animal health issue that could affect humans in this state. So, after January 1, 2003, will have clear authority to address health issues related to white-tail deer whether those deer are captive or free-ranging.

Testimony to the Senate Agriculture Committee  
Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection  
Secretary James E. Harsdorf  
October 16, 2002

*Background on CWD in Wisconsin:*

In February 2002, the Department of Natural Resources reported that its hunter harvest survey of white-tail deer had found animals with chronic wasting disease in Wisconsin.

CWD is a fatal disease of the central nervous system in deer and elk. CWD is part of a class of diseases known as TSE's, (transmissible spongiform encephalopathies) similar to BSE in cattle. However, CWD is a separate disease known to infect only deer and elk.

Like other TSEs, chronic wasting disease is apparently caused by an abnormal prion, a type of protein, that replicates itself in the animal's brain and spinal cord. It causes sponge-like lesions in the animal's brain.

Scientists are not certain how it is transmitted, but believe CWD passes from animal to animal in close contact, and perhaps from mother to offspring. CWD has not been associated with any particular feeding practice, as BSE has.

According to the World Health Organization, there is no scientific evidence that CWD affects humans. It has not been associated with eating infected animals. In 16 years of surveillance in infected areas of the western United States, there has been no evidence of the disease affecting any species other than deer and elk.

The disease progresses slowly, so animals may be infected and not show any signs for several years. Symptoms include lack of coordination, separation from other animals in the herd, excessive salivation, depression, unusual behavior, paralysis, weight loss, difficulty swallowing, increased thirst and urination, and pneumonia. Signs usually last weeks to months before the animal dies. Most animals are 15 to 35 months old when outward signs appear, but they may be as old as 13 years.

The only sure way to diagnose CWD is to examine the animal's brain for the characteristic lesions that make the brain look like a sponge. There is no approved test for live animals, although one is in development.

CWD was first seen in Colorado deer belonging to several research facilities in 1967. Since then, it has been found in wild deer and elk herds in the area where Wyoming, Nebraska and Colorado meet. It has been found in captive elk herds in Colorado, Nebraska, Montana, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Saskatchewan, Canada. In June 2002, it was discovered in a free-ranging mule deer in New Mexico.

The greatest threat in Wisconsin is probably to Wisconsin's wild whitetail deer population, because testing and tracing are difficult in wild animals. Wisconsin also has 575 farms with captive whitetail deer, and 272 with captive elk. We have about 100 farms raising red deer, reindeer, fallow deer and sika deer. We don't know if these species are susceptible to CWD. There is no evidence that species other than deer and elk are susceptible to CWD.

What are we doing to prevent the spread of CWD in Wisconsin?

Since February, when we first were notified that the first positive for CWD in the deer herd in Wisconsin had been found, Gov. McCallum directed his state agencies to work diligently on this issue. The state agencies have made stopping the spread of this infection, and eradication of this disease our top priority.

There are three agencies involved in fighting this disease. ... DNR, DATCP, and DHFS. We all are very involved in combating CWD... but we all have very different responsibilities and roles in this battle.

A short outline of DATCP responsibilities:

- 1.) DATCP registers people who keep farm-raised deer. Farm raised deer, by statute, specifically exclude whitetail deer. However, DATCP has authority over health matters that affect domestic animals. So, with an understanding that if a disease such as CWD was present in captive whitetail deer herds, it could affect the health of domestic animals, DATCP adopted its emergency rules in April 2002.
- 2.) These rules place import and movement restrictions on whitetail deer that are held in captivity.
- 3.) When DATCP adopted its emergency rule, it imposed import restrictions on all deer and elk.
  - No deer or elk can legally be imported into Wisconsin unless it is accompanied by a health certificate from a veterinarian verifying that the herd from which that deer or elk originated has been under observation for 5 years and has shown no signs of CWD.
  - The veterinarian must also verify that no animal has been added to the herd of origin in the last 12 months except those born to herd members, and that the animal that is being imported has not had contact with any deer or elk from outside the herd of origin within the last 12 months.
  - In addition, any deer or elk being imported to Wisconsin must have tested negative for TB before it can be imported.
- 4.) The DATCP emergency rule also placed stringent testing requirements on all deer and elk prior to movement within Wisconsin.
  - Before any carcass or any portion of a carcass can be moved off a deer farm, tissues must be collected from the animal and submitted for testing.
  - Any animal sent to slaughter must have tissues collected for CWD testing at the time the animal is slaughtered.
  - Any owner who moves live animals off the deer farm, other than to slaughter, must participate in the CWD monitoring program.
  - When an owner participates in the CWD monitoring program, all deer that die on the farm must be tested for CWD.
  - Total number of negative CWD test results from farm Raised Deer and Elk = 734 (from Oct. 1998 through Oct. 10, 2002). 514 of these tests were done since April 2002 (emergency rule goes into effect)
  - Total number of positives = 1 (whitetail)
  - The effect of this rule is that CWD testing is mandatory for all people who are engaged in the business of deer farming. So that's what DATCP's emergency rules say...
- 5.) What is happening now?
- 6.) You have heard that we have confirmed the presence of CWD in one whitetail deer from a hunting preserve - game farm in Portage County... It was testing required by the CWD rule implemented by DATCP that led to finding the disease on this game farm. As a result of that finding, we immediately quarantined that farm. Initial investigations indicated two other farms that had direct links to the farm in Portage County... both are in Walworth County, and both were also immediately quarantined.
  - C.) Currently- we are awaiting results from 13 samples taken at all these three farms.
- 7.) We're working jointly with DNR on the investigation as it relates to these premises. They have secured copies of WTD records we will be re-interviewing all parties as part of the epidemiology.
- 8.) The owners of these farms are cooperating with the investigation.
- 9.) We are working very aggressively with DNR, and USDA to trace the movements of animals from those farms. The investigation is on-going. As with any investigation as complex as this one, there are many questions we are asking, and many records and leads we are following up on. You need to know we are doing our utmost to gather accurate information and make our decisions based on what we find. At this point we have engaged nearly all our resources in the Animal Health Division to this disease.
- 10.) I also ask for hunters help this fall as we move into the gun deer-hunting season. Governor McCallum and State Agency Secretaries have been working with USDA and other federal officials to make sure we have the resources we need to fight this disease. We have gone to Washington several times to talk

directly with USDA Secretary Ann Veneman, and FDA's Deputy Secretary Lester Crawford, and Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, and President Bush. We have talked about testing needs, and the need for federal dollars, and the need for cooperation and assistance from our federal counterparts.

- 11.) I also have asked for our game farmer's help. There is a need for cooperation as we move farther into this investigation. The deer farmers we have worked with, as well as their organizations have been cooperating, and we've been working closely with them as we implement our Department's rules.
- 12.) Thank you. If there are any questions from the committee, I would be happy to answer them.

#####

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

Date: October 16, 2002

“Wisconsin Commercial Deer and Elk Farmers Association warns against overreaction to CWD. Unreasonable restrictions could kill fledgling agriculture industry.”

In a statement before the Senate Labor and Agriculture Committee on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, the Wisconsin Commercial Deer and Elk Farmers Association (WCDEFA) warned that unreasonable restrictions on responsible deer and elk farmers relating to CWD would threaten the continued existence of a promising new farming industry. “The WCDEFA has been a strong proponent for regulating the deer and elk farming industry.” Testified Diana Susen, Secretary/ Treasurer of the WCDEFA. “However, proponents of overzealous new restrictions threaten the very existence of our businesses. Let’s not cure the cancer by killing the patient.” She added.

Susen’s testimony before the committee emphasized the following:

1. Red deer and elk farming represent an exciting new growth opportunity for Wisconsin agriculture.
2. Members of the WCDEFA are farmers who have been at the forefront of good animal husbandry and health practices.
3. The WCDEFA fully supports strict enforcement and penalties under current law.
4. As farmers, WCDEFA members believe that the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is best qualified to regulate health and animal husbandry practices for deer and elk inside the fence.

“The current management of our industry by DATCP must be allowed to continue. The incidence of CWD in red deer and elk in agriculture is rare and is being addressed through the regulatory program currently in place.” Susen concluded.

The WCDEFA is an association of over 150 red deer, elk, sika and fallow deer farmers in Wisconsin. Products produced for sale and export include venison, lean elk meat, vitamins (beneficial for osteo-arthritis) and food supplements.

For Further Information Contact:

Dan Gunderson  
608/229-2345  
608/220-9527

## Wisconsin Commercial Deer and Elk Farmer's Association



October 16, 2002

## Established in 1992

- Trade Association
- Elk, Red Deer, Fallow, Sika, and Reindeer
- Devoted to improving the techniques of raising deer and elk livestock
- Exciting new growth opportunity for Wisconsin Agriculture.

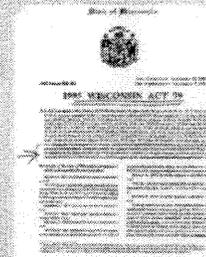


## WCDEFA Activities

- Seminars and workshops
- Forefront of good animal husbandry and health practices
- Participate in marketing opportunities for members
- Appearances at shows and exhibits to inform public about our products
- Be a voice for members in government issues

## An Agricultural Alternative

- Recognized
- Regulated
- 1996 Bill 356  
WI Department of  
Agriculture



## The Wisconsin Industry

| Cervid        | # of Farms | # of Head     |
|---------------|------------|---------------|
| Elk           | 272        | 10,815        |
| Red Deer      | 43         | 4,480         |
| Reindeer      | 17         | 149           |
| Fallow Sika   | 40         | 2,330         |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>372</b> | <b>17,777</b> |

## Elk and Red Deer adapt well in a farm setting



Livestock

## Reasons for Elk and Deer Farming

- Agricultural Alternative
- Use of existing Wisconsin Farms
- Marginal Land Use
- Low Herd Health Costs
- Demand for Quality Products

## Velvet Antler



## Velvet Antler



- Early stages of antler growth
- Grows at Incredible rate of speed
- Only bulls grow antlers
- No harm to the elk
- Re-grows each year

## Velvet Antler -

A 2000 year-old history of use

- Traditional Chinese Medicine  
Wisconsin farms produced 7 tones of velvet antler in 2002 (*mostly exported*)
- Nutritional Supplement  
WI velvet antler capsules sold to health food stores and chiropractors nationwide

## Velvet Antler Research

- Healthy joints
- Immune system
- Energy & stamina
- Anti-aging
- Minerals-calcium, copper, zinc, iron, magnesium, phosphorus
- Proteins - amino acids, collagen, lipids
- Growth hormones & growth factors (IGF-I)
- Glycosaminoglycans (GAG's)  
Chondroitin sulfate  
Glucosamine sulfate



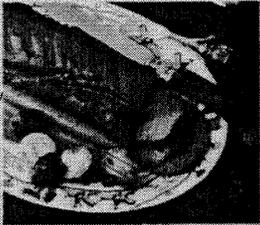
## Elk Quality Assurance Program

- Wholesomely Fed
- Velveting Certificate
- Drug Smart
- Harm-free



## Meat Products

- Health conscious consumers
- Specialty meats
  - Snack Sticks & Jerky
- Restaurants
  - Over 2.5 million pounds imported from New Zealand annually



## Hard Antler





## Breeding Stock



- Small family farmer
- Outdoor enthusiast
- Genetic improvements

## Chronic Wasting Disease Historical Overview

- 1967 - First recognized as a clinical syndrome at Division of Wildlife Research facility in Fort Collins in a captive mule deer
- 1997 - First appeared in domestic elk in South Dakota
- 1998 - Elk Breeders requested USDA to develop a CWD Eradication and Control Program that was later adopted and funded by USDA.

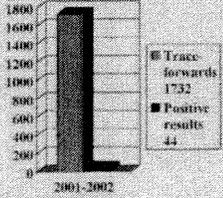
## Success of National CWD Eradication and Control Program

- National program has helped identify and depopulate potentially exposed animals



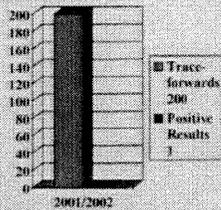
## Colorado Intra-state Trace-forwards

- 3000 domestic elk were killed and tested in Colorado for CWD
- 44 of the 3000 animals tested positive for CWD, prevalence of 1.5%



| Year      | Trace-forwards | Positive results |
|-----------|----------------|------------------|
| 2001-2002 | 1732           | 44               |

## Colorado Interstate Trace-forwards



- 200 CWD-exposed elk exported to 15 states
- Trace-forward elk quickly identified, depopulated, and tested
- Only one trace-forward tested positive
- Indicates program is working effectively

18

## Wisconsin Breeders' Initiatives

- Wisconsin Wildlife Coalition
- Work with DATCP
- Met with Senator Kohl on CWD issues
- Public informational campaign with facts
- Support live animal test and Genetic Susceptibility Strains Elk Study



20

## WI CWD Program & Import Requirements

- Written agreement
- Annual herd census report
- Purchases, sales, death reports
- Sample submissions on all deaths or slaughter
- Annual inspection by certified veterinarian
- Import requirements
- Five year surveillance



21

## Wisconsin Farms Test for CWD

- WI is 6th in the nation for submitting brain stems
- Over 616 negative brain stem results submitted as of 10/04/02
- 107 WI elk, red deer, fallow or reindeer farms enrolled on CWD Program (plus an additional 31 pending)

22

## RESEARCH AND THREATS

23

## Human Health: No Threat

- "There is no indication that CWD is a threat to human health." —John Pape, Colorado Department of Health
- "To date there's no identified instance of disease in human beings attributable to chronic wasting disease, either through contact (with sick animals) or through consumption." FDA TSE Advisory Panel chairman Dr. Paul Brown, National Institutes of Health
- Species barrier prevents transmission of CWD
  - Raymond, C.J., et al. "Evidence of a Molecular Barrier Limiting Susceptibility of Humans, Cattle, and Sheep to Chronic Wasting Disease." *The Embo Journal*. 19.17 (2000):4425-4430.

24

## Livestock Health: No Threat

- No evidence that CWD can be transmitted from deer and elk to cattle under natural conditions

• Beth Williams, DVM, Ph.D., of the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory, noted two studies:

- 10-year study involving 12 cattle orally fed CWD-infected deer brain one time in 1997, all cattle are healthy.
- Contact study begun in 1997, 24 cattle are being kept alongside CWD-infected deer; all 24 cattle are healthy.



## Livestock Health: No Threat

- Dr. Daniel H. Gould of Colorado State University

• Geographically targeted survey of adult-age cattle (five years or older) on 22 ranches where cattle co-mingled with free-roaming deer.

- No indications of chronic wasting disease, and no evidence of prion proteins detected in any animal tissue. (Zebarth, Glen, DVM, "Industry Perspective," FDA TSE Advisory Committee Meeting, Bethesda, MD, 19 Jan 2001.)



## The Real Threats

- Misleading and manipulative distribution of false information
- Heresy
- Hidden agendas

## Wisconsin Farmers feel the effects

- Public perception/ Consumer confidence
- Decline in sales
- Additional expenses for farmer
- Economic decline of industry
- Unreasonable restrictions
- Legislative actions

## WHERE ARE WE GOING?

- Prohibition didn't work
- Common sense precautions will, and are working
- The New Zealand Approach
- Don't kill the industry

## Recommendations for Improved CWD Management

- DATCP to continue monitoring of cervid farms
- DNR needs statewide testing for wild deer population
- Include cervid industry representatives for legislative updates
- Establish state CWD Task Force
  - Each state should form and fund CWD task force and charge it with developing 10-year strategic plan for eliminating CWD from wild cervids.
- Encourage federal/state cooperation
  - Work with National Park Service, US Department of the Interior, US Forest Service, and USDA to on CWD detection and elimination programs.

## Recommendations for Improved CWD Management

- **Educate the Public**
  - on the nature of CWD, its causes and risks – and steps necessary to eliminate it – to alleviate public concerns about the disease.
- **Support Research**
  - to create a live CWD test - validation now underway
  - genetic susceptibility stains studies
- **Rely on Science**
  - A CWD Advisory Council composed of scientists who know what the industry is doing

31

## Vision for the Future

- A viable industry that offers products for world agricultural trade
- Natural products for a healthier lifestyle
- Opportunity for Wisconsin's agriculture heritage to continue by offering farming alternatives



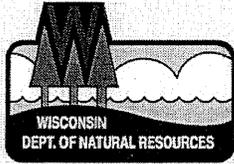
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## References

This presentation was made using materials from:  
North American Elk Breeder's Association  
Dr. Donald P. O'Connor, DVM, Staff  
Epidemiologist, DATCP  
Wisconsin Commercial Deer and Elk  
Farmer's Association  
Gary Goyke  
Issues Management Resources

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## DNR PERSPECTIVE



Captive  
White-tailed Deer,  
Elk and other  
Cervids

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## Status of the CWD Captive Investigation

- Priority of the Investigation
- Goals of the investigation.
- Lack of adequate animal identification and its effects on the investigation.

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## Major Issues

- Lack of permanent individual animal identification.
- Protocol for taking CWD samples.
- Joint Authority for DATCP and DNR to monitor and regulate cervid farms.
- Short term Recommendations.
- Long term Recommendations.
- Fencing Issues.

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### Priority of the Investigation

- Since September 18<sup>th</sup>...this has been a very high priority for the warden service for the following reasons:
- The wild deer herd is at stake in Wisconsin and that is directly related to our mission.
- This disease has the potential to damage deer hunting traditions in Wisconsin.
- This has the potential to create tremendous economic loss to Wisconsin economy.

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### Priority of the Investigation

- Given the gravity of the situation, we have taken the following steps to identify the origin of the CWD positive deer:
- Since we have no wardens exclusively assigned to deer farm issues, we have pulled wardens off of traditional duties (game enforcement, fish runs, public relations and education activities) to conduct this investigation.

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### Priority of the Investigation

- To date over 80 field wardens, supervisors and support staff are involved in the investigation and have generated over 300 case activity reports and over 240 leads requiring further investigation.
- Numerous leads involving sick looking deer and violations of DATCP regulations have been forwarded to DATCP for investigation.

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## Priority of the Investigation

- Given the size and complexity of this investigation, we created an incident command organizational structure for the investigation to increase efficiency and effectiveness of our efforts. (Slide)

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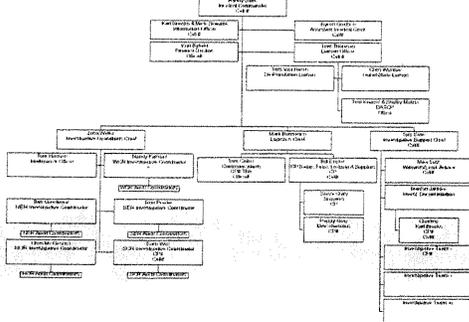
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Deer Farm Incident Command Organization  
DEF & Madison - Revised 10/24/05



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## Priority of the Investigation

- We are using the FBI Rapid Start investigative information tracking system in the investigation.
- The Wisconsin Department of Justice analytical investigation staff are cooperating in providing technical assistance.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Services Forensics Lab in Ashland Oregon is assisting with DNA analysis.

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### Priority of the Investigation

- Again let me emphasize we have re-allocated significant work effort to this investigation given the threat to the wild deer herd and the billion dollar sport hunting industry.

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### Goals of the Investigation

- Positively determine the identity of the white-tailed deer that tested positive for CWD.
- Determine with DATCP which other captive deer and wild deer have potentially been exposed to this captive CWD positive white-tailed deer.

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### Single fences provide little protection from disease



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### Lack of Adequate Identification

- Lack of adequate animal identification and absence of viable records has required Conservation Wardens to send evidence to the Fish & Wildlife Service Forensics Lab in Ashland, Oregon for DNA testing.
- Verifying the identity of the positive deer has been frustrated by the protocol for taking samples and by the inaccuracy of the records maintained by the deer farm.

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### Lack of Adequate Identification

- The lack of a requirement for permanent individual identification has severely hampered this investigation.
- The positive CWD deer only had a farm tag and no other identification.
- On hunting ranches if there are tags they are often removed for picture taking before CWD samples are taken.

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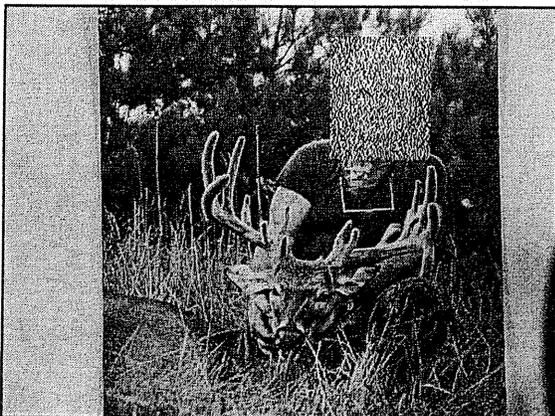
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### Protocol for Removing the CWD Sample

- Under current protocol the veterinarian is not required to do a farm visit.
- In the current investigation the veterinarian received only the head of the animal with antlers removed.
- In this case the veterinarian does not have any direct knowledge about the deer's origin or history.

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### Need for Mandatory Permanent Official Identification

- Lack of permanent identification in this individual case has added thousands of hours to the investigation.
- Crucial decisions are hampered while investigators attempt to verify the identity and origin of the positive CWD deer.
- With out permanent identification a deer is a deer.

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### Transfer of Authority Issues

- On January 1, 2003 wardens will no longer have authority to continue our role in conducting this or future investigations.
- Essentially, this complex investigation will be transferred, midstream, to DATCP. This will result in the level of effort going from 85 people and an established organizational structure working on the investigation to a few DATCP personnel.

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### Transfer of Authority Issues

- DATCP has expertise in the areas epidemiology, animal health, testing protocol, etc..
- DNR wardens have the investigative expertise, training, legal tools, and infrastructure in place to provide the best monitoring and enforcement.

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### Joint Authority to Regulate Captive Cervids

- To meet their mandated responsibilities both agencies have a need to monitor and regulate cervid farms. Using the resources of each agency we can provide the best protection for Wisconsin Natural Resources.
- Similar situations are found with rules on pesticide use were both agencies have regulations and cooperate in management through an MOU.

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### Joint Authority to Regulate Captive Cervids

- Cooperation is much more fiscally responsible and effective.
- Both wild and captive deer herds will be better protected with joint Management.

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### Short Term Recommendations

- Short term – create an MOU between DNR and DATCP under statutes 93.06 (11) Interagency cooperation and 95.23(2) enforcement assistance, to allow DNR wardens to have a continuing role in the investigation as needed to trace out the potential for additional CWD infected herds that potentially could impact wildlife populations.

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### Long Term Recommendations

- Long term – Create a situation where management and regulation is a joint effort.
- Modify the statutes so DNR retains authority with respect to monitoring and enforcement of transactions, movement, reporting, records and fences for both white-tailed deer, elk and other cervids.

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### Other Recommendations

- Development of a self-supporting regulatory scheme funded by license fees of deer farmers using the Department of Regulation and Licensing occupational fees methodology approved by the LAB audit report # (92-20).
- Development of a viable monitoring system that provides up to date information on the movement of captive cervids and tracks all cervids from birth to death allowing DATCP and DNR to know exactly where the cervids are at any point in time.

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### Fencing Recommendations

- Farms not individually identifying each Cervid and not enrolled in the CWD Monitoring Program should be required to double fence their properties.
- All new farms should be required to install 10 ft. high fences.
- Corridors should have to maintained on the perimeter fences to protect them from damage by trees.

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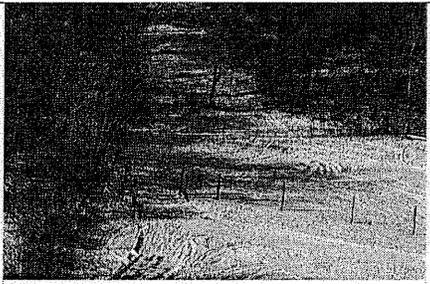
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### Fences gates need to be secured




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### Fencing Recommendations

- Fence regulation for Elk, Red Deer, Fallow deer and Sika Deer are found in Chapter 90 and the township is responsible for review and oversight of fences not meeting the standards.
- Fences are not being maintained and are not being built to specification requirements, Fence inspection needs to be returned to DNR.

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### Reporting of escaped cervids.

- Reporting of escaped cervids must be made mandatory.
- Owner must be responsible for the cost removing the animals from the wild once they escape from their farm.
- In the last two years the DNR has documented 23+ escapes of 116+ cervids.

currently, DNR covers the cost

→ don't know about whitetails, generally not tagged

### Illegal intentional release of captive cervids

- There needs to be increased penalties for illegal release of captive cervids.
- Several cases of illegal release have been investigated this year alone.
- Most of the illegal release cases are associated with persons wanting to get out of the deer farming business.

### Cooperation

- DNR, DATCP and the Deer Farm Industry need to work together to find solutions to these issues.
- Yesterday both agencies and representatives from Whitetails of Wisconsin (WOW) held an initial meeting to begin to address these critical issues.
- We will be looking for guidance from the legislature.



## Controlling CWD on WI Game Farms

Dane County Supervisor Brett Hulsey

October 16, 2002, 608-238-6070, Brett4us@aol.com

### Overview

- Summary
- Problem
- Response
- Sources
- Solutions

### Summary

Thank the committee, Chairs Hansen and Baumgart, Rep. Johnsrud, and the DNR for your leadership on this issue. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is spreading in Wisconsin, now found on a game farm in Portage County. To halt this spread, the state and federal departments of agriculture need a much more comprehensive, effective program to monitor and test all game farms and game farm animals. We should require all game farms to be in a monitoring program, test all sick or dead animals, whether they are transported off the farm or not, double fencing, and expand the live test to game farms. This should be paid for by the game farm industry, not deer hunters or taxpayers.

## A little on my background

- \* Masters on Natural Science, Natural Science and Zoology
- \* Life long hunter and sportsman
- \* Vice chair of the Dane County CWD Task Force
- \* Attended the CWD Symposium in Denver last summer

## The Problem

CWD threatens state deer herd, hunting opportunities, and heritage. Many residents are concerned about their safety— both eating deer and what will happen if this spreads in other ways.

## Possible CWD Sources

1. Game farms, known likely transmission route since 1998
2. Feeding deer supplements with ground animal parts-- how disease spread in Britain
3. Release of infected deer to the wild
4. Infected carcass left on the ground
5. Other?

## Dane County Is Taking Action

Thank the DNR for their efforts and time spent working with local officials and the public.

- \* Set up a CWD Task Force
- \* Banned untested or CWD positive animals from the landfill, baiting and feeding.
- \* Required reporting of dead animals on game farms, see below.
- \* Considering CJD reportable and double fencing game farms resolutions.

## Dane County CWD Task Force

The task force tasks are to:

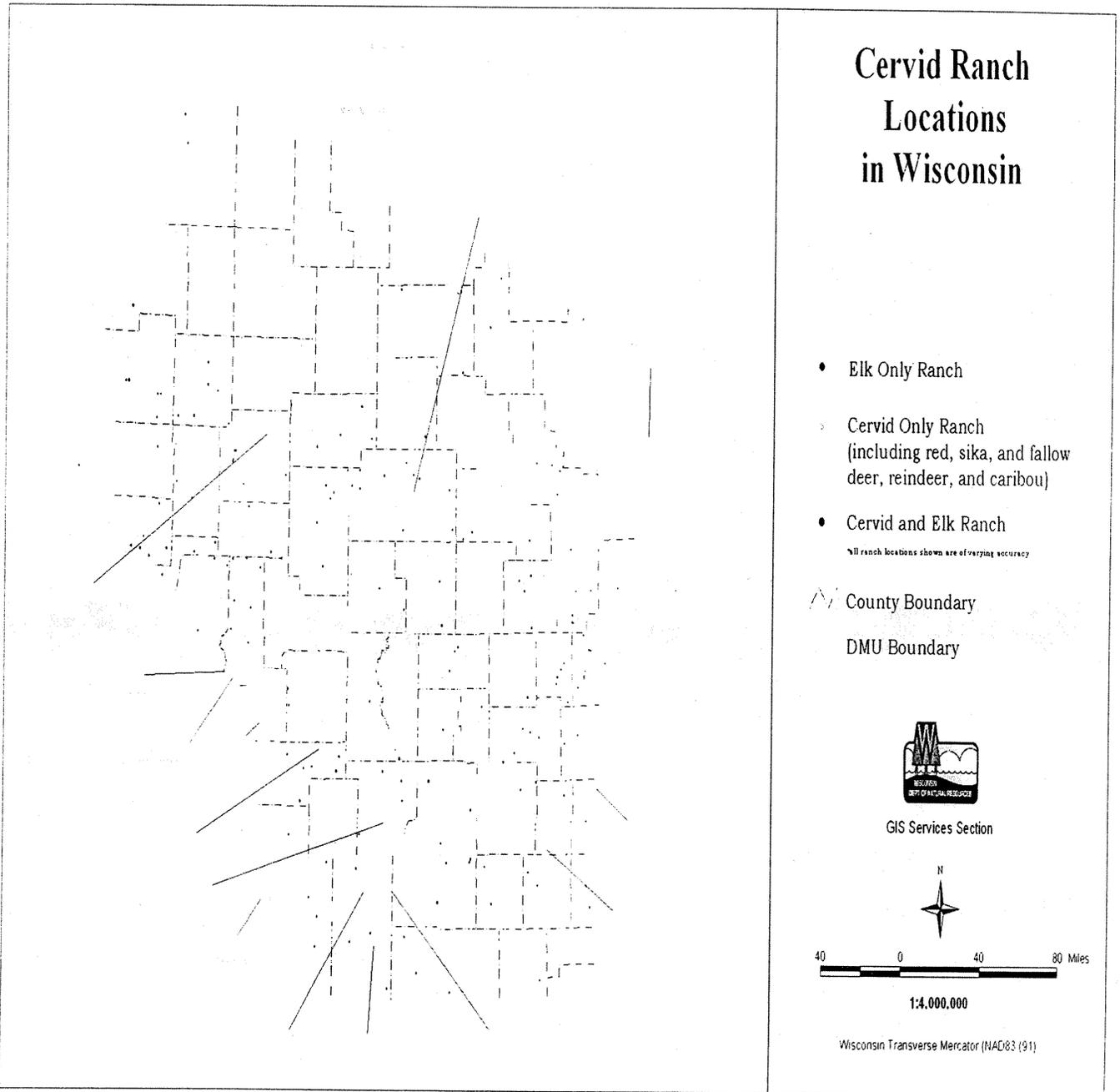
- Review federal, state, and county legislative and administrative initiatives and make recommendations to the Executive Committee and to the County Board;
- Monitor activity and prepare emergency and other responses in Dane County;
- Serve as a forum to coordinate various county government action among agencies related to CWD; and
- Facilitate regular, on-going communication with Dane County cities, villages, towns, and other counties regarding the county response to CWD.

## Made Reporting Mandatory

47.43 REPORTING OF DEER OR ELK DEATH MEASURE PASSED BY THE BOARD ON MAY 16, 2002.

The owner or lessee of land licensed as a game farm under section 29.867, Wis.

Stats., or licensed as a deer farm under section 29.871, Wis. Stats., shall report to the State Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection all cases on the land so licensed of deer or elk deaths. Such reports shall be made to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection within 24 hours of the time the owner or lessee first learns of the death of the deer or elk on the licensed land.



## On game farms, what did we know and when did we know it?

Records Show State Department of Ag. Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) officials allowed 370 elk from states with diseased herds from 1996-99, but did not pass effective rules to protect the whole herd.

### DATCP Officials Knew About CWD in 1998

An April 17, 1998 memo to Dr. Clarence Siroky, Wisconsin State Veterinarian, from the Nebraska State Department of Agriculture reported that a cow elk from a CWD positive herd was shipped to T/D's Elk Farm in Bloomer, Wisconsin. These documents were obtained by an Open Records request by the Isthmus newspaper and Madison writer John Stauber.

A May 27, 1998 memo to Bob Susen of West Bend from DATCP Vet. said the "The State of Colorado recently informed our office that a herd (Elk Echo Ranch, Stoneham, CO) from which you imported elk was identified as a source herd for an elk diagnosed with "Chronic Wasting Disease" (CWD) in Nebraska. **The state of Wisconsin currently has no rules covering CWD and is taking no action at this time. No restrictions are being placed on your herd.**" Emphasis added.

### DNR Staff Called for Action in 1998

A September 15, 1998 memo from DNR biologist and Land Director Steve Miller to Secretary George Meyer said he was concerned about **"this disease being introduced into Wisconsin's wild deer herd."** He called for a moratorium on the import of all game farm animals, like Montana did. "At present it appears this would be the only way to help assure the disease is not spread into Wisconsin."

### The Industry Strikes Back

On September 23, 1998, Mike Monson, President of the Wisconsin Commercial Deer and Elk Association wrote Dr. Siroky, calling the talk of a moratorium "preposterous" and questioning "DNR's jumping to a poor conclusion when the process need clear thinking and evaluation."

### Money Did the Talking, Rather than Action

On November 11, 1998 Siroky wrote DATCP Secretary Ben Brancel a memo to establish a CWD advisory committee dominated by game farm owners. After meeting for over a year they proposed only voluntary control measures short of testing all dead animals. To date, only 60 farms are signed up in the program and 60 are pending, according to DATCP staff.

Several Ad Hoc Committee members were large donors to former Governor Thompson. James Pankow gave \$1000 to the Governor Tommy Thompson. \$500 in 1998 and \$500 in 1999. Jerry Potts -- business listed as Elk Hills -- gave Thompson \$100 in 1998, according to the State records compiled by the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.

## Isthmus uncovers the problem

A 2000 Isthmus newspaper story reported that the first shipment of farm elk from a CWD contaminated area was in 1992, with 66 elk going to a game farm near Plymouth. DATCP allowed 370 elk to be brought into the state from areas with CWD from 1996-99.

Then and now, Wisconsin game farm owners are not required to test all animals if they are sick or die on their property. Why? Elk hunters will pay up to \$10,000 to shoot a bull elk with massive antlers.

Source: Brian McCombie, "Stop the Madness, Malady Threatens Wisconsin Elk, Deer, and Ultimately, People," Isthmus, July 14, 2000. Page 9,10.

## DATCP Action a Little Too Late

After DNR found 3 CWD infected wild deer in Dane and Iowa Counties in February, 2002, DATCP did establish emergency rules this April. Sadly, those tests apply only to dead animals leaving the farms, and there aren't likely to be many, according to CWD expert Dr. Tom Pringle

Testing every dead animal on every game farm is the norm in the states that have gotten serious. Can't do that if animals are not tagged and accounted for in the operations log of all farms. Testing animals 16 months or older is a big loophole, since CWD has been detected in fawns, according to Pringle. DATCP says animals can have the disease down to 7 months old.

DATCP reports:

- \* They have only 305 of 947 farms enrolled or pending in a monitoring program now, only 32%.
- \* Only 131 farms have had one or more animal tested, 14%
- \* There are 35,000 animals in game farms in the state.

## DATCP Two Years Too Late Respond to a CWD report

This is a transcript of a Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection Animal Health Report on a CWD investigation showing they were more than 2 years late in investigating one death.

## DATCP INVESTIGATION REPORT

Jonathan Bushman  
9097 River Rd.  
Wittenberg, WI 54499

Nature of Investigation: ATCP 10.02(1)(a)

Facts/Allegation: Mr. Bushman Imported Elk from Elk Echo Ranch - CWD trace back

Investigation Results: On July 26, 2000 I went and spoke with Jonathan Bushman about the 2 elk that were marked to be quarantined. Official tag # 84SOR4888 was a female that died in Jan. of 1998. John stated that he did not notice any unusual signs in the elk, he found her dead one day, Elk # 84SOR4881 was to Richard Gohlke in April 1998.

On July 27, 2000 I met with Richard Gohlke and verified he did have the elk at this time which he still does. At that time I issued an order to quarantine, see attached.

Also elk # 6040 was from Bob Hardman of Norwood Co., not Elk Echo. The 6040 tag traced back to Bob Susen herd and was quarantined.

Signed Chris Jacobs Date: July 27, 00. (emphasis added)

If we don't control game farm CWD, it will get worse.

Look at Colorado, Oregon, Montana

Feds closing elk ranches in area with CWD in Colorado, according to The Denver Post, [www.denverpost.com/Stories/0,1413,36%257E53%257E580481,00.html?search=filter](http://www.denverpost.com/Stories/0,1413,36%257E53%257E580481,00.html?search=filter).

Oregon has an initiative on the ballot to ban all game farms.

Montana has a moratorium on new game farms, shooting on those farms.

**Solutions: What is needed for effective CWD control on game farms**

1. Require all farms to be in the CWD monitoring program and double fenced, or shut down.
2. Expand the DNR telemetry live test used in Colorado to game farms.
3. Require all dead or sick deer be tested on those farms, not just farms with moving animals and those animals over 16 months.
4. Require reporting of all dead game farm animals immediately, as we do in Dane County.
5. Require industry to pay for new inspectors and the cost of the program. A \$10 per animal fee would generate \$3.5 million to pay for these improvements.

Your choices are simple: If we take these steps, we have a chance to control the spread of this tragic disease. If we don't, we won't.

Thank you.

# Chronic Wasting Disease News

For Immediate Release  
Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Contact: Brett Hulsey, 608-334-4994

## **Dane County Supervisor Raises CWD Concerns with Game Farms**

Madison--Dane County Supervisor Brett Hulsey, Vice Chair of the Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force, raised concerns on CWD spread on game farms today before the Wisconsin Senate Agricultural Committee.

"The state and federal departments of agriculture have been keystone cops on CWD from the start," Hulsey said. "We must move quickly to require that all farms have a monitoring program, double fencing, expand the live test to game farms, and report all dead animals immediately."

According to the Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) staff statements at the 10/15 Mt. Horeb meeting and press statements:

- ◆ Only 305 of 947 game farms are in the CWD monitoring program or pending, less than 1/3.
- ◆ Only 131 farms have had one or more animal tested, only 1/8.
- ◆ There are more than 35,000 animals in game farms all across the state.
- ◆ There are more likely quarantines from the positive deer found in Portage County.
- ◆ DATCP knew about animals from CWD herds coming into the state in 1998, but did not enact a rule until last spring.
- ◆ USDA allowed animals with CWD to be shipped all over the country for the last 25 years.

"Given the DNR plans to kill 25,000 deer to keep the disease spreading in the wild, we need the Department of Agriculture to take the same serious approach to captive deer," Hulsey said. "We thank Senators Hansen and Baumgart and Rep. Johnsrud for their leadership thus far and hope they can fill these loopholes in the law."

DATCP is considering a permanent rule on game farms now.

-END-



# WISCONSIN CWD UPDATE

August 2002

Wisconsin Commercial Deer & Elk Farmer's Association

1. *Who are the members of Wisconsin Commercial Deer and Elk Farmers Association (WCDEFA)?*

A trade association consisting of livestock producers that commercially raise elk, red deer, fallow, reindeer and sika deer. Products we produce and sell are velvet antler and farm-raised venison and elk meat.

2. *How is our industry regulated?*

All farms are regulated with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture. Each must register annually by submitting a complete herd inventory.

3. *What animal health programs do our members participate in?*

Deer and elk farmers routinely test for tuberculosis (TB) in their animals. Wisconsin has the highest number of TB accredited herds in the United States (136). Working together with DATCAP, members of the WCDEFA have been voluntarily testing for CWD since 1997. Today WI is sixth in the nation for submitting brain stems.

In 2002, new rules and regulations stated that all cervids over the age of 16 months must be tested for CWD.

4. *Does WCDEFA support the new rules and regulations?*

Yes. Industry representatives have worked with the USDA in developing the CWD Surveillance and Eradication Programs that are successfully working to eliminate CWD in farmed cervids.

5. *Has there ever been a case of chronic wasting disease diagnosed on a Wisconsin farm raising elk or deer?*

No. There have only been cases diagnosed in free-ranging deer.

6. *When and where was the first case of CWD discovered?*

Over 35 year ago, a mule deer with the clinical signs of CWD was discovered in a Colorado Division of Wildlife research facility at Fort Collins, Colorado (1967). In 1978, a research facility near Wheatland, Wyoming recognized the second case of CWD. The third discovered case was elk in a research station of the Colorado Division of Wildlife. By 1981 CWD was diagnosed in free-ranging elk in north central Colorado.

7. *Are there endemic areas of CWD?*

Yes. Surveillance for CWD in free-ranging deer and elk in Colorado and Wyoming has been ongoing since 1983, and to date, has confirmed the limits of the endemic areas in those states. Over 15,000 harvested free-ranging deer and elk have been tested to date. Today infection rates in free-ranging deer and elk herds in Colorado vary from less than 1 percent to 13 percent.

8. *How many farmed elk have tested positive for CWD in North America?*

In fiscal years 2000 and 2001, fewer than 300 elk from domestic herds in North America tested positive for CWD - less than 0.2% of the entire North American elk population. Since September 2001, nearly 2000 farmed elk have been tested for CWD.

Of all animals tested, only 44 were CWD positive. Of these 44 animals, all except two were traced to a single farm in an endemic area of Colorado. As a result, many states enacted mandatory surveillance and monitoring rules for CWD.

9. *Can CWD affect antlers or meat products?*

There is no scientific evidence that antler or muscle tissue contain CWD prions, however public health officials advise caution with handling or eating meat from infected animals. As a precaution to consumers, all commercially raised deer and elk producers must test for CWD.

10. *What parts of the deer and elk should be not be consumed?*

Public health officials recommend that you should not consume the brain, eyes, spinal cord, lymph nodes, tonsils, or spleen of deer and elk.

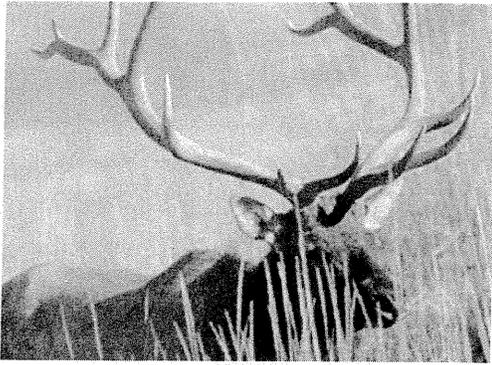
11. *Have there been scientific studies and research on CWD?*

Yes. Surveillance techniques and programs have been developed and instituted by wildlife management agencies for free-ranging deer and elk. Several studies including the epidemiology of CWD and the transmission have been published. Work is progressing on the development of a live animal test.



*"Representing farmers commercially raising elk, red deer, fallow, reindeer and sika deer."*

[www.wcdefa.org](http://www.wcdefa.org) • (888) 233-1667



# Using Research to Validate: CWD - NO THREAT TO HUMANS OR CATTLE

August 2002

Wisconsin Commercial Deer & Elk Farmer's Association

*"We've had scrapie (a prion disease) in sheep for years and we aren't reacting the same way to that disease as we are to CWD in deer."*

BILL MYTTON,  
FORMER WDNR CHIEF DEER ECOLOGIST

*"There is no evidence that CWD can be transmitted from deer and elk to cattle under natural conditions."*

DR. BETH WILLIAMS, D.V.M PH.D.,  
WYOMING STATE VETERINARY LABORATORY

*"Scrapie in sheep has been around for over 400 years. It is a similar type of disease as CWD. Almost everyone over twenty years of age that has eaten sheep or lamb has probably eaten a scrapie infected sheep. It has never been suggested that a human could get infected from eating sheep."*

DR. SAMUEL VANISI, D.V.M.,  
DENMARK, WISCONSIN

*"There are perceptions that CWD may somehow threaten human or traditional domestic livestock health. These perceptions clearly factor into motivations for managing CWD, even though data and experiences to date suggest those threats appear vanishingly small."*

MICHAEL W. MILLER, D.V.M., PH.D.,  
COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE,  
WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER

According to public health officials and wildlife experts, there is no scientific evidence indicating that CWD can be transmitted to humans. In fact research conducted has determined a molecular barrier exists that significantly limits the susceptibility of humans, cattle and sheep.

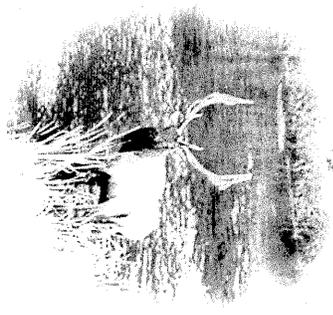
1. FDA TSE Advisory Panel chairman Dr. Paul Brown, National Institutes of Health "To date there's no identified instance of disease in human beings attributable to chronic wasting disease, either through contact (with sick animals) or through consumption."
2. Species barrier prevents transmission of CWD Study published by the European Molecular Biology Organization, The EMBO Journal.19.17 (2000): 4425-4430. Raymond, C.J., et al. "Evidence of a Molecular Barrier Limiting Susceptibility of Humans, Cattle, and Sheep to Chronic Wasting Disease." To read the complete study visit [www.emboj.ourpjournal.org/cgi/content/full/19/17/4425](http://www.emboj.ourpjournal.org/cgi/content/full/19/17/4425)
3. **No evidence that CWD can be transmitted** from deer and elk to cattle under natural conditions. Beth Williams, DVM, Ph.D., of the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory, noted two studies:
  - 10-year study involving 12 cattle orally fed CWD-infected deer brain one time in 1997, all cattle are healthy
  - Contact study begun in 1997, 24 cattle are being kept alongside CWD-infected deer; all 24 cattle are healthy.
4. **Dr. Daniel H. Gould of Colorado State University** <http://www.usaha.org/trreports/reports00/r00idebl.html>
  - Geographically targeted survey of adult-age cattle (five years or older) on 22 ranches were cattle co-mingled with free-roaming deer.
  - No indications of chronic wasting disease, and no evidence of prion proteins detected in any animal tissue.



*"Representing farmers commercially raising elk, red deer, fallow, reindeer and sika deer."*

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with Opportunities.*



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Elk Farmer's Association  
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Spring Green WI 53588-8935  
(888) 233-1667  
www.wcdefa.org

**WCDEFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
Please complete both sides of this application and mail to the office with your check.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Farm/Ranch Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 County \_\_\_\_\_  
 Website address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Partner/Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

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Through the  
cooperation of our  
members, the Wisconsin  
Commercial Deer and Elk  
Farmer's Association provides  
legislative efforts, education,  
and support services to Wisconsin  
deer and elk farmers.

- REASONS FOR DEER  
AND ELK FARMING**
- Agricultural Alternative
  - Marginal Land Use
  - Low Herd Health Cost
  - Breeding Stock Demand
  - Velvet Production
  - Quality Meat Products Demand
  - Velvet Antler Demand

**REASONS TO JOIN WCDEFA**

- Have a voice in legislative regulatory issues
- Participate in velvet pool
- Have marketing opportunities for products
- Be informed about government agencies and legislators
- Help promote deer and elk farming
- Share experience and expertise in the deer and elk industry
- Receive quarterly newsletters with industry news, farmer profiles, and a buy-sell section





The Wisconsin Commercial Deer and Elk Farmer's Association (WCDEFA) was established in 1992 by local

farmers, who realized that they could make a difference in the deer and elk farming industry by pooling their resources and ideas. Their goal was: to support the members with an informative quarterly newsletter, as well as a strong network of farmers; to educate members through seminars, farm tours, and annual convention; and to inform legislators of their interests and their ideas for the industry as a whole.



The members of the WCDEFA come from many walks of life. Farmers, looking for an alternative use for their land, have begun raising deer and elk, because of the ease of transition from dairy farming. Some people, who own land, started raising these animals as a hobby, and they have developed a business from that hobby. Others have gone into the business as an opportunity to get in on the ground floor of a very promising enterprise.



The deer and elk business is a very satisfying business. For those of us who love to see these magnificent animals, the business of working with

them and seeing them on a daily basis is a never ending source of enjoyment. Talking to people about the animals is very satisfying, and the look on their faces when they see the animals, is something to behold.

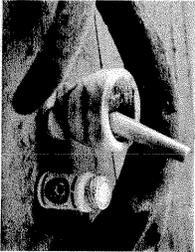
The association has grown over the years, from the original seven farmers with a vision to over 150 members strong today. The activity of the association has increased as well by: holding a velvet collection pool; showing at farm progress days; participating at a number of trade shows state-wide; and participating at live animal auctions.

The future, for the deer and elk business in Wisconsin, looks very bright. Animal prices are holding steady; the velvet market is good; and the sale of meat products is doing well. There are many opportunities awaiting you in this interesting and profitable industry.

## Marketing Opportunities:

### VELVET ANTLER

The antler velvet, which is harvested each spring, has been found to promote overall wellness. Velvet antler has been used by the Chinese



for thousands of years, and it is used to: improve your circulation; provide support for your joint structure and function; improve your endurance; boost your immune system; and enhance your sexual performance. Velvet antler is recognized as a health supplement.



### MEAT PRODUCTS

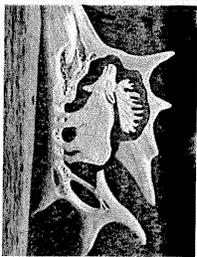
Deer and elk meat have long been known for their low fat content, and they have become more in demand with today's health conscious consumers. Besides the standard cuts of meat you can have processed, you can also venture into the specialty meats; such as snock sticks and jerky. Restaurants are also getting in on the new trend by offering venison and elk on their menus.

### BREEDING STOCK

There is a market for selling the genetics, from top quality animals, if raising breed stock is your desire. You have opportunities for selling animals to those just getting started in the business, as well as opportunities for selling their genetics to existing farmers looking to expand their herd diversity, through use of semen straws or embryo transplant.

### HARD ANTLER

The hard antler, on any animal, is impressive and beautiful. Artisans carve works of art out of the hard antler that is harvested, and out of the butters that fall, after the velvet harvesting is completed. Trophy bulls are also in demand for the outdoor enthusiasts.



For more information on the WCDEFA or to find out how you can become a member, call the office at (888) 233-1667.

If you are a member of NADeFA, NAeBA or ROBA, deduct \$50 from your active membership.



- NADeFA  NAeBA  ROBA
- Life Member - \$2,000
- Active Member - \$200 (owns animals in WI) Membership Application on other side.
- Associate - \$50 (doesn't own or raise animals in the State of WI, Non-voting)
- Supplier - \$150 (supplies feed, fence or other products or services to farmers)
- Supplier for WCDEFA Members - \$75 (supplies feed, fence or other products or services to farmers)
- Junior - FREE (under 18 years, Non voting) Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

The state is divided in quarters with Hwy 51 being the North-South line and Hwy 10 being the East-West line. Section of the state in which your farm is located:

- Northeast  Northwest
- Southeast  Southwest

Would you like your farm on one of our future tours?  yes  no

I am interested in serving the Wisconsin Commercial Deer & Elk Farmer's Association on the following committees:

- Auction  Convention  Education
- Jr. Member  Ethics  Velveting
- Health/Legislative  Farm Progress
- Days and Farm Tours  Newsletter, Advertising & Publicity  Other

### 11. What has been done to eliminate CWD?

While animal diseases are fairly prevalent in wild populations, the farmed elk and deer industry has taken a leadership role in eliminating these diseases. To date, tuberculosis and brucellosis have been eliminated from the domestic cervidae industry. Out of compassion for their elk and deer and in response to consumers' health concerns, the North American Elk Breeders Association (NAEBA) has taken a leading role in developing a comprehensive and aggressive CWD control and eradication program.

Based on NAEBA's recommendations to the United States Animal Health Association, many states in the U.S. and provinces in Canada have instituted mandatory and voluntary testing and monitoring programs. With input from the elk farming industry, both the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) have developed comprehensive programs for the control and eventual eradication of chronic wasting disease that include surveillance, monitoring, and indemnification.

The first step in eliminating any disease, no matter how rare, is to contain it. Since 1997, United States feed companies have been prohibited from feeding ruminant-derived meat and bone meal back to ruminants, including deer and elk. This stands in stark contrast to the practices in Europe and elsewhere where infected animal protein was continually fed to cattle, which some scientists claim as the cause of BSE in cattle. It is widely thought that this simple action in itself is significantly responsible for the extremely low incidence and slow spread of CWD in North America and will make the rapid elimination of this disease probable.

States located in the geographic areas that have had reported incidences of CWD in elk and deer have instituted mandatory CWD "surveillance" of herds. This mandate requires each and every brain of a farmed elk or deer that perishes for any reason to be submitted to the USDAs National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa for examination. In this manner, any animal that may have died from CWD can be positively identified. Since the three years of surveillance exceed the incubation and symptom display period for CWD, these states are confident that they can state they are CWD free. This same effective policy has been used to eliminate TB and other livestock diseases. Further, it is prohibited to move ANY animal off of a farm where any CWD case has been diagnosed. Herds identified with CWD are being depopulated.

In addition, the Elk Research Council and others in the elk industry are funding research to develop a live-animal test for CWD and to increase knowledge of the disease. The study will cost \$250,000 over a four-year period.

Unfortunately, efforts to contain, control and eradicate CWD are compromised by the lack of a coordinated CWD containment program by state wildlife divisions. While great efforts have been made to contain brucellosis in cattle in Montana and Wyoming, brucellosis in free-ranging bison have been a threat to these states' cattle industry. Similarly, uncontrolled CWD-infected wild elk and deer could undermine the efforts of elk and deer farmers to eradicate the disease.

### 12. Is CWD transmissible to humans?

According to public health officials and wildlife experts, there is no scientific evidence indicating that CWD can be transmitted to humans. In fact, research conducted at the Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Montana, a National Institutes for Health center, has determined that a molecular barrier significantly limits the susceptibility of humans, cattle and sheep.

Although scrapie in sheep has been studied and consumed by humans for more than 200 years, it has never crossed the species barrier to humans.

In addition, there is no real-life evidence that CWD can be transmitted from deer and elk to cattle.

According to John Pape, an epidemiologist with the Colorado Department of Health, "There is no indication that chronic wasting disease is a threat to human health."

### 13. What unique benefits do deer and elk products offer?

Elk are raised as livestock for medicinal use, meat, breeding stock and trophy bulls. Velvet antler has been used for more than 2,000 years in Asia and Europe and is gaining popularity in the United States. Velvet antler has been shown to improve joint health, increase muscular strength, accelerate muscle recovery, support the immune system and improve energy and stamina. In Asia, velvet antler has been traditionally used to increase libido. Olympic athletes, bodybuilders and active people of all ages use velvet antler. In addition, elk meat is a high-protein, low-fat food source. Lastly, elk and deer ranches have provided a viable option for the family farmer and rancher, who have suffered from reduced incomes from grain crops, cattle, hogs and chickens.

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# Answers to

## Frequently

## Asked

## Questions



regarding

# Chronic Wasting Disease

Recently, there has been an increase in press reports about the BSE problem in Europe. While the Europeans struggle with this problem, it is reassuring to know that the United States and Canada have taken a leading role in ensuring the health and well being of consumers and animals.

The European BSE issue has brought increased attention to the rare class of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). One of the rarest forms of TSE is a disease that affects the deer and elk family known as chronic wasting disease (CWD). The alarm regarding BSE in Europe has raised concerns regarding the impact of CWD on humans. This FAQ pamphlet, prepared by the North American Elk Breeders Association (NAEBA), is intended to offer information on some of the most commonly asked questions regarding CWD and to help allay the concerns of consumers.

## 1. What is CWD?

Chronic wasting disease (CWD), a part of a family of diseases referred to as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs), is a disease of the brain and central nervous system of cervids such as mule deer, white-tailed deer and elk. A World Health Organization report indicates that there is some evidence of genetic resistance to CWD among elk/wapiti, but not among the other deer species. Other forms of TSE include scrapie, which is widely found in sheep, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), which affects cattle, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans (CJD). Other animals that contract TSEs include cats, mice and squirrels.

Scientists have studied scrapie in sheep for more than 200 years. Despite the consumption of scrapie-infected sheep for hundreds of years, no case of scrapie or variant CJD has ever occurred, or has even been suggested to have occurred in humans.

## 2. What are CWD's symptoms?

Animals may show a number of different signs as the disease slowly damages their brain. Affected deer and elk become listless, lack coordination, lose significant weight, suffer from depression, exhibit unusual behavior, become paralyzed, show an increased thirst and urination and eventually die.

## 3. What are the causes of CWD?

A poorly understood agent called proteinaceous infection particles or prions causes CWD. Prions are destructive brain proteins that can damage healthy brain proteins. It is not yet known if prions are capable of damage on their own or if they act in concert with or are the result of another infectious agent. Diseases caused by prions are called spongiform encephalopathies because they cause cavities and holes in the brain, causing the brain to visually resemble a sponge.

## 4. How is it transmitted?

How CWD is transmitted from one animal to another is not yet completely understood. In the cases of CWD in wild deer in Colorado and Wyoming, both maternal and lateral transmission appeared likely. Transmission of the disease appeared to occur between deer that were in close proximity to each other. A close study of the disease indicates that lateral transmission is the major means of transmission, because most affected animals in Colorado and Wyoming were not related to each other. It is thought that CWD is transmitted through the saliva, feces or urine. Once ingested, the disease has an incubation period of 16-30 months before the onset of clinically observed symptoms.

The BSE outbreak in Europe in cattle is believed to have been caused by the unwise and continual feeding of cattle with scrapie-infected animal products. This feeding of slaughterhouse remains of sheep and cattle, some of which were infected with BSE and scrapies, to the next generation of cattle is thought to have caused the vertical transmission of the disease.

In contrast, farmed deer and elk are fed a grain-based diet and are prohibited from being fed animal products. NAEBA and AEPB

(American Elk Products Board) industry regulations prohibit the feeding of mammalian tissue<sup>6</sup> back to the farmed elk and deer. This responsible position is a function of the leadership role that the farmed elk and deer industry has taken with regard to the eradication of CWD in deer and elk.

## 5. How is it diagnosed?

The current method of testing for CWD is through a brain examination of a deceased animal. World scientists are working diligently on developing a live animal test for the entire class of TSE diseases, and an accurate test is generally thought to be close at hand.

## 6. What is the origin of CWD?

Like the entire class of TSE diseases, CWD in all likelihood has existed in wild animals for hundreds of years. Most of the CWD in farmed elk appears to trace back to the Colorado Division of Wildlife research pens where CWD first appeared in 1967. Mule deer from this facility were given to the Denver Zoo. The Denver Zoo gave some mule deer to the Toronto Zoo and also sold some animals, which eventually arrived at an elk ranch in South Dakota. It is widely believed that most of the CWD herds in the United States and Canada can be traced to this South Dakota herd.

State wildlife agencies understand their role and responsibility to control CWD in the wild deer and elk populations. The Colorado Division of Wildlife plans to reduce CWD deer by 50% includes issuing large numbers of hunting licenses to landowners in the area.

State wildlife agencies have reiterated common sense precautions against handling or consuming meat from elk or deer that appear to be diseased. Offal, brain, and spinal cord tissue, as well as all meat from affected animals, should not be used as food or as a protein source in animal food. Colorado DOW has dropped its required testing of hunted deer and elk for CWD.

## 7. How many elk have been affected by CWD in North America?

Chronic wasting disease primarily affects wild deer and elk, appears to be rare and spreads very slowly. The USDA reports that, of the more than 5,000 wild deer and elk that have been tested since 1990, only 110 clinically affected animals had been identified with CWD. Generally, less than 1% of the wild elk and 5% of wild mule deer in the affected areas are believed to be CWD-positive.

The incidences of CWD in farm elk and deer are even more rare. Those that have been identified are being eradicated. A total of 16 herds in the United States had at least one animal diagnosed with CWD: five in Colorado, one in Montana, two in Nebraska, one in Oklahoma and seven in South Dakota. All of the herds in Canada that have been identified as having at least one infected elk have been, or are in the process of being, depopulated.

## 8. Can CWD affect antlers or meat products?

CWD disease affects the brain and central nervous system of deer and elk. There is no scientific evidence that antler, muscle tissue or other parts of the animal contain CWD prions. Furthermore, there are no federal or state restrictions against the consumption of meat or antler products from wild or domestic elk or deer. Some states have recommended against consuming deer or elk that appear to be diseased as well as consuming the brain or spinal cord of any cervid. Other states have recommended care when dressing carcasses and minimal handling of the spine or brain, especially in animals from areas where CWD has occurred.

However, in response to consumers' concerns, elk ranchers have voluntarily banned the sale of antler or meat products from infected herds.

## 9. Have products from CWD-infected elk and deer been sold from the U.S. or Canada?

Although no evidence exists that CWD is a threat to humans and no evidence exists that CWD can even infect antlers, elk and deer ranchers have acted compassionately, responsibly and proactively with respect to consumers' concerns and animal health.

The Canadian Cervid Council has reported that no velvet antler products from herds known to have at least one CWD case have been sold in Canada or elsewhere. Elk breeders in the U.S. have agreed that no antler from CWD-infected herds is to be sold. In addition, elk ranchers from infected herds in South Dakota, out of respect to consumers' concerns, did not sell antler from CWD present herds and instead, voluntarily eradicated their herds.

A ban on selling meat or velvet products from infected herds is part of the CWD eradication and control program developed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

## 10. Can an animal with CWD be treated?

There is no known treatment for an animal with CWD.

