

Biosecurity Points for Medically Separated Farm-Raised Deer Herds

For maintaining medical separation of your two herds, you need to focus mainly on four things:

1) No contact between the two herds:

Animals from one herd should never enter the pens of the other herd without an official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and a record of the movement in your herd inventories. If animals move between the pens, you must treat it just as if you are selling animals from one herd to the other. All TB testing and health certificate requirements apply.

All animals will also take on the status of the lowest status animal they come in contact with. Higher status animals cannot be hauled with lower status animals. If they are, they will take on the lower status and if put back with the higher status herd will cause the whole herd to lose the higher status. This also means that the only way you can use higher status males to breed your lower status females would be with artificial insemination.

If any higher status animals accidentally enter the lower status pen, they lose their higher status and become part of the lower status herd.

If any lower status animals accidentally enter the higher status pen, the entire herd loses its higher status and reverts to the status of your lowest status herd.

Carcass and carcass remains from lower status herd may not be disposed of in or near the higher status herd pens.

2) No moving disease on equipment or materials. It is best to have separate equipment. If separate dedicated equipment is not possible, then equipment and materials should be cleaned and disinfected before coming in contact with the other or higher status herd. This means that:

a) Each pen should have its own dedicated equipment for feed and water.

b) It would also be best to have separate boots for walking in the new pen. Tires of trucks, ATVs or other equipment should be cleaned and disinfected before going from one pen to the other pen, or you could dedicate one of the ATVs for use in the higher status pen only.

c) No medical equipment, syringes, needles, surgical equipment, antler saws, etc., should be shared between the herds. If some piece of equipment must be shared, it must be cleaned and disinfected.

d) Any trailers used to move animals must be cleaned and disinfected prior to hauling animals from one herd to the other or at least to the higher status herd.

e) No feed materials should move from one pen to the other pen. Any stored feed that will be used in the higher status pen must never enter the lower status pen.

3) No water runoff should be allowed from the lower status pen to the higher status pen. Keep the separation alley and gate area properly graded and planted with grass or ground cover to keep water and soil from washing from the lower status pen into the higher status pen.

4) Maintaining separate herds. See attached USDA VS CWD program standards Part A (2.4) 6 on page 16 for CWD participating herd: maintaining two separate herds and what is commingling.