



GAE MAGNAFICI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 28th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Chair Pronschinske and esteemed members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to address you today regarding Assembly Bill 34 and its significance for wildlife management and the rights of our citizens. My testimony aims to emphasize the need for legislative refinement, particularly concerning the regulations that pertain to deer baiting and feeding.

The initial bill from the 2017/2018 session regarding the feeding and baiting of deer was well-intentioned but unfortunately did not clearly differentiate between captive deer operations and wild deer populations. This has resulted in regulations that apply uniformly without consideration for the differing circumstances and risks each group presents. For example, deer farms, where animals are maintained in controlled conditions, are facing the same constraints designed to address disease spread in wild deer, such as Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and Tuberculosis.

In response to this situation, the DNR has been diligent in implementing state regulations, which include extensive testing for CWD on deer farms. When CWD is detected, regulations necessitate a county-wide baiting ban for a set period. This is in line with the department's commitment to disease management; however, the measures have also affected deer hunting practices and those citizens who engage in recreational feeding of deer, highlighting a need for a more nuanced approach.

The bill I support seeks to refine the scope of the DNR's enforcement by focusing baiting bans specifically where CWD is found in wild deer populations. This bill is designed to allow for a more precise and scientific response. Importantly, this proposal maintains the DNR's ability to regulate effectively in response to CWD in wild populations.

I would like to underscore the essential role of the DNR in safeguarding our wildlife resources. The adjustments proposed by this bill are meant to enhance, not hinder, the department's capacity to fulfill its mission by ensuring that regulations are as effective and fair as possible.

I urge the committee to support clear distinctions between captive and wild deer in our legislation and to recognize the bill as a step toward rectifying the unintended impacts of prior laws. I am grateful for your time and your consideration of my views on this vital issue. Thank you.

Support for Assembly Bill 34

First	Last	Address	City	State	Zip
John	Allie	260 W. Broadway Ave	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Ruth	Andersen	22918 Wood Lake Dr	Gratsburg	WI	54840
Toni	Anderson	24636 State Rd 48-87	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Douglas	Bistram	25196 Soderbeck Rd	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Dale	Bistrom	23439 Emil Fink Rd	Siren	WI	54872
Steve	Brenizer	11512 North Shore Dr	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Van	Brock	12081 Sandy Lane	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Kenneth	Burkhardt	26139 County Road F	Grantsburg	WI	54840
April	Campana	23837 N Alpha Dr	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Michael	Cole	12865 North Road	Grantsburg	WI	54840
David	Corty	23057 Hickerson Road	Grantsburg	WI	54840
John	Dalsveen	7671 Johnson St	Siren	WI	54872
Ricky	Danielson	11656 County Rd D	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Scott	DeRocker	14212 Fish Lake Rd	Gratsburg	WI	54084
Devin	Douglas	22228 Cty Rd Y	Grantsburg	WI	54840
John	Downing	PO Box 476	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Elisa	Efterfield	21170 E. River Rd	Grantsburg	WI	54840
William	Erickson	23444 Stolz Rd	Grantsburh	WI	54840
Jeff	Finch	1174 Assembly Rd	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Scott	Finch	24158 Soderbeck Road	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Joel	Finch	15036 Skog Road	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Kristin	Finch	15036 Skog Road	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Jonathan	Gardner	2380 295th Ave	Cushing	WI	54006
Tiffany	Gardner	12135 Cty Rd F	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Josh	Glover	14521 State Rd 70	Grantsburg	WI	14521
Joel	Glover	21609 N Bass Lake Rd	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Brady	Gross	2862 230th St	Cushing	WI	54006
Tavia	Harter	14215 Pete Nelson Rd	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Scott	Harter	14215 Pete Nelson Rd	Gransburg	WI	54840
Shari	Harter	14215 Pete Nelson Rd	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Terry	Hedberg	11512 North Dr	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Holly	Hinrichs	14686 State Rd 70	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Brian	Hinrichs	14686 State Rd 70	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Jerry	Jackson	20965 W River Rd	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Justin	Jensen	12590 Cty Rd D	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Sam	Johnson	23837 N Alpha Dr	Grantsburg	WI	54840
James	Johnson	213 W Burnett Ave Apt. 230	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Roger	Karjalahti	28008 Highland Road	Danbury	WI	54380
Stephen	Koon	17498 Ferry Rd	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Robert	Koste	12163 Conty Rd F	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Robert	Koster	12163 County Road F	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Jerry	Kozak	12301 North Fork Dr	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Chad	Louis	23105 Hickorson Rd	Grantsburg	WI	54840

Stoney	Marek	317 W Wisconsin Ave	Grantsburg	WI	54840
John	McNally	379 West State Rd 70	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Michael	Meyer	23019 Cty Rd M	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Daisy	Mott	22918 Wood Lake Dr	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Joseph	Moyer	15170 Fish Lake Rd	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Doug	Murphy	23823 North Alphe Rd	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Doug	Murphy	23823 N Alphy Dr	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Alex	Nelson	25060 Soderbeck Rd	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Max	Norman	12588 Big Trade Road	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Seth	Pardun	23376 Nyberg Road	Siren	WI	54872
Josh	Pardun	28480 French Rd	Danbury	WI	54830
Jennifer	Parent	8078 Waldora Rd	Siren	WI	54872
Timothy	Peck	24780 Borg Rd	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Brad	Pfuhl	24602 Borg Rd	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Michael	Plasch	313 Violet Circle	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Brooke	Quimby	12846 Carlberg Rd	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Mitch	Ryan	14376 State Road 70	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Joe	Schartzbauer	25573 Gile Rd	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Corinne	Scheele	25196 Soderbeck Rd	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Erin	Thill	23120 Cty Rd M	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Kurt	Tyberg	11239 Lundquist Rd	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Duane	Valencour	24620 Soderbeck Rd	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Toni	Wahlen	14519 Skog Rd	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Vanessa	Weekstrom	22134 Maplewood Dr	Grantsburg	WI	54840
Chandler	Witzany	12795 North Road	Grantsburg	WI	54848
Nicole	Wundrow	21449 Spok Drive	Grantsburg	WI	54840



Assembly Committee on Sporting Heritage

2023 Assembly Bill 34

Restrictions on Baiting Deer in Counties Based on Chronic Wasting Disease or Bovine Tuberculosis

November 8 2023

Good morning, Chair Pronschinske and members of the Committee. My name is Erin Larson, and I am the Deer Herd Specialist for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, for informational purposes, on Assembly Bill 34, related to restrictions on baiting deer in counties based on chronic wasting disease or bovine tuberculosis.

Assembly Bill 34 would remove the requirement that DNR promulgate rules prohibiting the baiting and recreational feeding of deer in counties within 10 miles of a confirmed positive chronic wasting disease (CWD) or bovine tuberculosis (TB) test result from an animal at a captive facility.

Baiting and feeding is a known risk factor for establishment and spread of CWD and bovine TB, as it facilitates increased transmission of these diseases, both directly by deer-to-deer contact and indirectly by contaminated environment-to-deer contact. Although deer naturally come into contact and congregate due to a range of behavioral, seasonal and resource factors, research has shown that human-associated concentrations, such as those created through baiting and feeding practices, can significantly increase both direct and indirect disease transmission. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) further identifies the unnatural concentration of cervids as one of four priority risks to address for the prevention of, introduction, and establishment of CWD, and one of the key best management practices they identify is to prohibit baiting and feeding of wild cervids.

There is no evidence to suggest that CWD behind a fence is not a risk to wild deer outside the fence. Annually, escapes are routinely reported, even when adequate precautions are taken. Fences are damaged after weather events, gates are left open, and deer have been documented to clear 8-foot fences. Further, escapes sometimes go unreported, as evidenced by occasional public observations of farm-raised deer free-ranging on the landscape. Additionally, prions which cause CWD are known to persist in the environment and remain infectious for many years. Since 2001, DATCP has reported 44 deer farms with a CWD positive test in Wisconsin, but only 22 of those have been depopulated. Positive farms may become environmental "hot spots," as transmission dynamics likely perform differently in a confined setting. The highest rate of CWD prevalence ever reported, over 80 percent, has come from a deer farm. Finally, research has shown that transmission may occur at facilities with a single fence through nose-to-nose contact between farm-raised and wild deer. The only requirement for double-fencing currently in Wisconsin is for farms that are enrolled in the CWD Herd Status program and are located within 5-miles of at least two CWD detections in wild deer. DATCP reports that 98 of 243 premises are currently enrolled in the CWD Herd Status program, resulting in CWD-positive premises with single fences on the landscape today.

Also of concern is the increased risk for the establishment of bovine tuberculosis in wildlife. Assembly Bill 34 removes the requirement to institute a baiting and feeding ban in response to a finding of bovine tuberculosis within a captive facility. All mammals are susceptible to infection with the bacterium that cause bovine TB, and white-tailed deer have demonstrated the ability to act as a reservoir for the disease. Fortunately, to date, bovine TB has not been detected in wild deer in our state. The impacts on wildlife and the cattle and cervid industries would be extremely serious should bovine tuberculosis become established in the state. Bovine TB spreads through oral and nasal secretions, and removing the artificial congregation of animals at baiting and feeding sites, where bovine TB can spread through oral and nasal secretions, is one small but important measure available to states in attempts to prevent the establishment and spread of this disease to free-ranging wildlife. Once established in wildlife populations, this disease has significant regulatory impacts on the agricultural industry, and it is extremely difficult and expensive to control in wild animals. In addition, as a zoonotic disease, the establishment of bovine tuberculosis would require additional biosecurity measures be established for the handling and testing of white-tailed deer for CWD and other diseases.

While to date bovine TB has not been found in wild deer, CWD has spread significantly since its initial detection in 2001, although there are still significant portions of our deer herd that are not yet impacted. This bill would increase the likelihood of expansion of CWD into new areas of the state as well as increase the risks that bovine tuberculosis becomes endemic in wild deer in the future.

On behalf of the Department of Natural Resources, we would like to thank you for your time today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

My Name is Michael Janke. I'm 52 years old. I've lived in Burnett County Wisconsin my entire life except for 2 years I spent in Detroit Michigan.

I have owned a Tavern in Burnett County for 17 years.

I have hunted deer for 40 years In Burnett County.

We are here today to ask that the baiting and feeding ban law be changed to only include Wild Deer.

Burnett County which is on the farthest west side of the state, it borders Minnesota, it is 80 miles north Minneapolis. The county has collectively been in a baiting ban for 14 years, yet there has never been a confirmed case of CWD in a wild deer ever in Burnett County.

Every feeding ban has been initiated because someone's pet deer in a game farm. When such a deer is discovered, it triggers the ban for that county and any county within 10 miles of the infected deer.

We are told the hypothesis is that deer pass CWD from saliva to each other. If this is the case, the entire farm of pet deer should be infected, yet they are not euthanized.

I am not here to debate deer farms, but if these farms are secure enough that we feel the infected deer in them pose no risk to the wild deer population and there is no need to euthanize them, then why in the world would there need to be a feeding ban around them.

We live in the north woods for a reason. We love our wildlife and watching them in our yards and on our property. To have a feeding ban with a minimum penalty of \$100.00 and a maximum Of \$343.50 for putting out sunflower seeds so we can look out our windows and see the wildlife, defeats the purpose of why we live here.

There has never been a wild deer north of highway 8 found with CWD. Every ban in the north has been initiated from Pets on Game Farms.

I have watched the non-resident and younger hunters decline in great numbers. Are they not hunting because of baiting bans? There is no way to prove it, but the vast majority of counties bordering Minnesota have been and are now in baiting bans. According to a report by the Milwaukee Journal 2016 was the worst deer hunting license sales in 30 years, in the same time period we also saw the number of feeding ban counties jump to the highest in the history of the state.

Collectively now 80 % of the counties in Wisconsin are in feeding bans. The majority of them are due to game farm infections.

I have personally talked with hundreds of non-resident hunters that stopped coming over to hunt because sitting in a tree stand for 6 or 8 hours a day and not seeing even a squirrel doesn't sound like much fun.

I have seen countless Deer Camps close and sell their land, to go back to Minnesota and purchase land there. If they can't see anything in Wisconsin they might as well not see anything from home.

Kids these days have the attention span of 25 minutes. Do you think they will continue to hunt in a tree stand when don't see anything? They are deciding the call of duty in the basement is more fun than being alone in the woods. The food placed on the ground brings more than deer in, it occupies your time with the other creatures of the forest as they too reap the benefits.

These Bans have huge economic impacts on tourism, which we all depend on to keep our businesses going.

We are not asking to get rid of the bans, we are asking to change the wording of the law so it only includes wild free roaming deer. This will make the law work as it was originally intended, and protect the wild deer population.

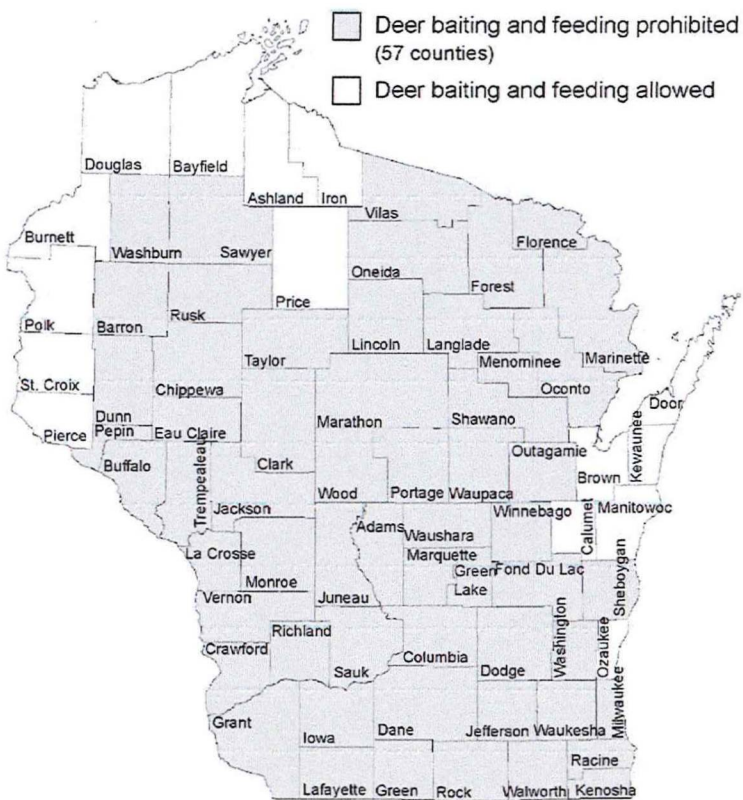
I have attached some maps and information from the department's web site.

Thank you for your time



Polk County is now included in the Ban.

11-1-2023



Please check for any county or local baiting and feeding ordinances in unshaded counties.

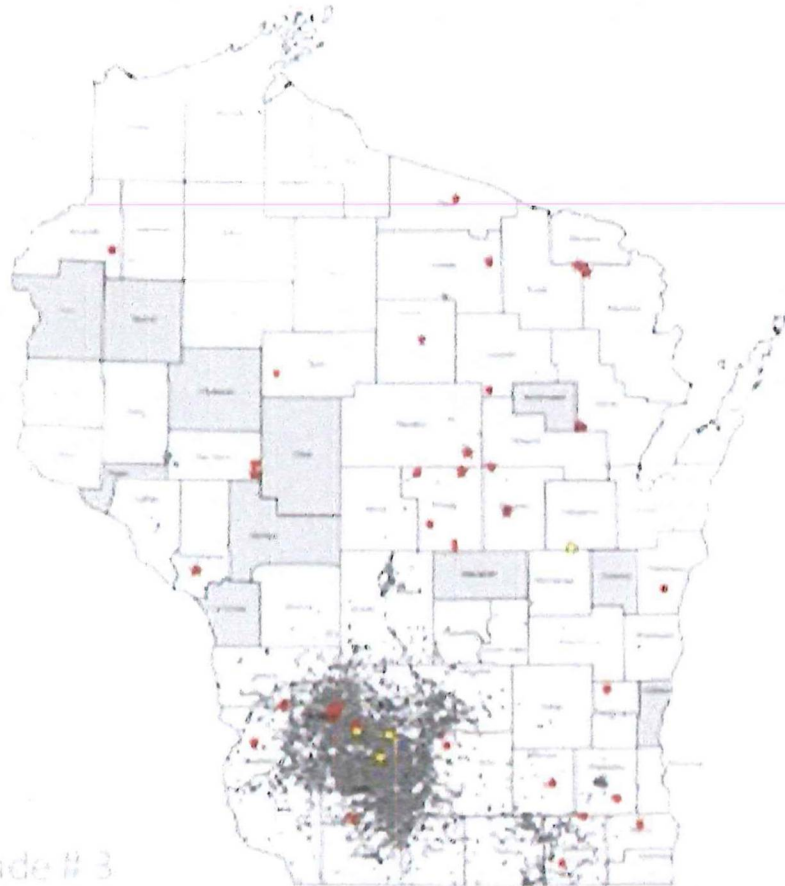
Baiting and feeding bans will renew with each new wild or captive positive CWD/TB result, and the map will be updated with any changes as soon as they are regulatory. Please check this



AGENDA ITEM #6F, Jasmine Batten, Wildlife Health Section Supervisor



Cumulative CWD Detections as of 4/13/2023



- Fast positive CWD farms, depopulated
- ★ Deer farms infected with CWD currently in operation
- ★ Hunting ranches infected with CWD currently in operation
- CWD wild positive location
- County boundary
- CWD affected county per positive(s) detected in the county
- CWD affected county "watch county" per being within 10 miles of a CWD positive detection (i.e. CWD has not been detected in these counties)

Slide # 3





CWD PREVALENCE IN WISCONSIN

Prevalence is the proportion or percentage of a population that tests positive for a disease. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) prevalence depends on the deer's location, sex and age. Since testing is done regionally, results can't be used to estimate the statewide prevalence.

Analyses of the geographic distribution of disease show that the disease is not evenly distributed throughout the affected area. Disease prevalence is much higher near the centers of each infection and declines with increasing distance from the center, as would be expected with this introduced disease which is now endemic in southern Wisconsin.

Adult deer have a higher prevalence than yearlings, and males have a higher prevalence than females.

CWD PREVALENCE TRENDS

Click on the map below to view prevalence graphs by deer sex and age. The prevalence depicted in the graphs are

Wildlife Habitat

- Keep Wildlife Wild
- Rare Species & Natural Communities
- Nuisance Wildlife
- Wildlife Health

Additional Resources

- Chronic Wasting Disease
- CWD Samplings

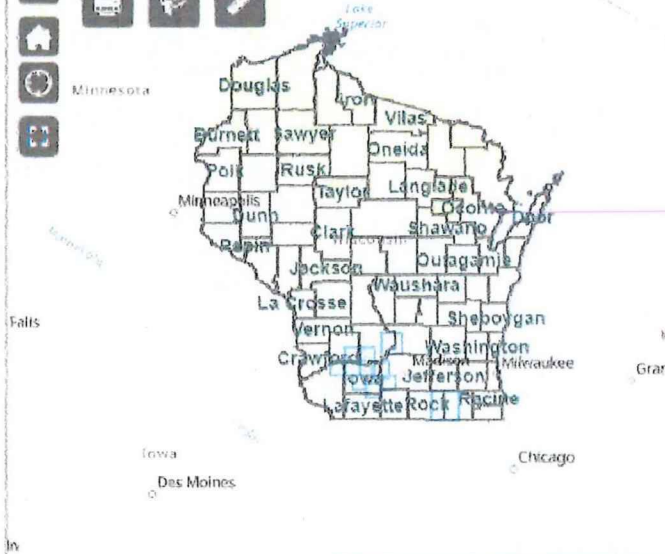


Find address or place

Map navigation controls: +, -, Home, Refresh, Layers, Full Screen

Legend

- County Boundaries
- CWD Prevalence Trend Areas



For more information, contact:

Timothy Marien
 CWD Wildlife Biologist
 Wildlife Management
 tel: 1-808-264-6046

Northern Forest Zone

[CopyCSV](#)

CWD Year	Period	# Sampled	# Analyzed	Positive for CWD
2023	Hunting Season Surveillance	221	218	0
2023	Out-of-Season Surveillance	25	25	0
2022	Hunting Season Surveillance	2300	2300	2
2022	Out-of-Season Surveillance	79	79	0
2021	Hunting Season Surveillance	2196	2196	1
2021	Out-of-Season Surveillance	54	54	0
2020	Hunting Season Surveillance	2305	2305	0
2020	Out-of-Season Surveillance	29	29	0
2019	Hunting Season Surveillance	2908	2908	2
2019	Out-of-Season Surveillance	192	192	0
2018	Hunting Season Surveillance	2254	2254	1
2018	Out-of-Season Surveillance	106	106	0
2017	Hunting Season Surveillance	796	796	1
2017	Out-of-Season Surveillance	62	62	1
2016	Hunting Season Surveillance	540	540	0
2016	Out-of-Season Surveillance	39	39	0
2015	Hunting Season Surveillance	152	152	0

CWD Year	Period	# Sampled	# Analyzed	Positive for CWD
2015	Out-of-Season Surveillance	19	19	0
2014	Hunting Season Surveillance	343	343	0
2014	Out-of-Season Surveillance	29	29	0
2013	Hunting Season Surveillance	549	549	0
2013	Out-of-Season Surveillance	20	20	0
2012	Hunting Season Surveillance	893	893	0
2012	Out-of-Season Surveillance	111	111	0
2011	Hunting Season Surveillance	18	18	1
2011	Out-of-Season Surveillance	1	1	0
2010	Hunting Season Surveillance	191	191	0
2010	Out-of-Season Surveillance	22	22	0
2009	Hunting Season Surveillance	20	20	0
2009	Out-of-Season Surveillance	6	6	0
2008	Hunting Season Surveillance	4493	4492	0
2008	Out-of-Season Surveillance	738	738	0
2007	Hunting Season Surveillance	508	508	0
2007	Out-of-Season Surveillance	1239	1238	0
2006	Hunting Season Surveillance	204	204	0
2006	Out-of-Season Surveillance	558	558	0
2005	Hunting Season Surveillance	367	367	0

CWD Year	Period	# Sampled	# Analyzed	Positive for CWD
2005	Out-of-Season Surveillance	4	4	0
2004	Hunting Season Surveillance	14	14	0
2003	Hunting Season Surveillance	199	199	0
2003	Out-of-Season Surveillance	4	4	0
2002	Eradication Zone Hunts	1	1	0
2002	Hunting Season Surveillance	7232	7229	0
2002	Ojibway	117	117	0
2002	Out-of-Season Surveillance	2	2	0
1999-2001	Initial CWD Discovery Surveillance	234	234	0
Totals:		32394	32386	9

.0028% out of 32,394 in 23 years have tested positive for CWD

All positive tests were game farm deer

DNR Zone	# Sampled	# Analyzed	Positive for CWD
<u>Central Farmland Zone</u>	62697	62660	170
<u>Central Forest Zone</u>	7748	7746	73
<u>Northern Forest Zone</u>	32394	32386	9
<u>Southern Farmland Zone</u>	196267	196215	10945
<u>Unknown Zone</u>	2974	2966	5
Statewide Totals:	302080	301973	11202