



Minnesota Farmed Cervidae Handbook

Second Edition
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MINNESOTA

BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

Glossary of Terms

Cervid/Cervidae: Animals in the deer, elk or moose family.

CVI: Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. An official form used by accredited veterinarians.

CWD: Chronic Wasting Disease. A disease that damages the nervous system of deer and elk, eventually killing the animal.

Endemic: When a disease is regularly found in an area or a population of animals.

Official ID: An ear tag that is a nationally unique number permanently associated with one animal.

Premises: The ground, area, buildings, water sources, and equipment commonly shared by a herd of animals.

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Farmed Cervidae in Minnesota

A person who raises farmed cervidae (deer or elk) in Minnesota must be registered with the Board of Animal Health and meet all requirements in Minnesota Statutes 35.153, 35.155 and Rules 1721.0370 to 1721.0420. These include enrollment in the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) herd certification program, officially identifying animals in the herd, and meeting other program requirements each year to maintain registration.

New Herd

- The Board will conduct an initial prestocking inspection before a new herd is placed on the site. This ensures Board requirements for a farmed cervid herd are understood by the producer:
 - Fencing requirements and elimination of any wild cervidae inside the confinement area.
 - Record keeping and animal identification.
 - CWD sample collection and submission.
- Upon passing this inspection, the producer can add animals and then submit a registration application, inventory report, and payment for the annual inspection fee of \$10 per animal in the herd up to a \$100 maximum.
- If you know of anyone in Minnesota interested in establishing a herd, please tell them to contact us at farmed.cervidae@state.mn.us or call 651-201-6804.

Fencing Requirements

- Farmed cervids must be confined to prevent escape.
- Perimeter fences must be at least 96 inches in height.
- Fences must be maintained to prevent farmed animals from escaping and wild cervids from entering.

Animal Identification

- **Official Identification (tags):** Farmed cervidae must be identified by Board approved methods and are required to have official ID for the CWD Herd Certification program:
 - The identification must be visible to the naked eye at a distance of 50 yards during daylight hours.
 - Newborn animals must be identified before December 31 of the year they were born, or before movement off of the premises, whichever occurs first.
 - As of January 1, 2018, the only official ID approved by the Board for tagging animals are the NUES 9 tag and AIN tag. See picture examples of these tags below.

National Uniform Ear Tagging System Tags (NUES)



Animal Identification Number (AIN)



- A premises ID tag placed in deer prior to January 1, 2018, is still considered official identification in Minnesota but is not official ID for interstate movement. If an animal loses a premises ID tag after January 1, 2018, they must be replaced with official ID as outlined above.
 - Official ID cannot be reused.
- *Please call 651-201-6804 for information on tag resources.
- Herd owners that want to move animals interstate must identify all animals in the herd with two forms of ID, with at least one being official ID.

Annual Requirements

- **Registration and Inventory:**
 - An animal inventory must be submitted annually (every 12 months) for each farmed cervidae herd and include all identification, the age, sex, and type of animal. All tag numbers, letters and colors must be included as they appear on each tag.
 - All animals born before December 31 of the previous year must be identified with official ID and be included on the inventory. If there is no official ID ear tag in herd animals meeting this criteria, then ID must be applied to the animal and included on the written inventory before it is submitted to the Board.
 - The accuracy of the inventory must be verified by the owner and an accredited veterinarian. If any animals requiring ID are not identified, ID must be applied to the animal before the inventory can be verified. The verified inventory must be signed by both the producer and official veterinarian and submitted to the Board.
- **Fees:** All cervidae producers are required to pay an annual inspection fee of \$10 per animal in the herd, up to a \$100 maximum by January 1. The annual fee can be paid by check, money order or online.
- **Inspection:** Each farmed cervidae facility must be inspected by an agent of the Board of Animal Health at least once each year to verify compliance with Minnesota statutes and rules. This inspection will include visualizing and counting the animals in the herd, inspection of fences, and a review of records, including individual animal information, movement reports, death reports, and CWD testing.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Herd Certification Program

All farmed cervid herds must be enrolled in the program and requirements include:

- Signing a CWD Herd Certification Program herd agreement.
- Reporting all dead or slaughtered animals in the herd within 14 days providing the age, sex, and official ID for each animal (see record keeping requirements).
- CWD testing of all animals 12 months of age and older that die, are killed or slaughtered. If samples are not submitted or samples on any animal over 12 months are unsuitable for testing, the status of the herd will be impacted.

Updated Procedures for Submitting Samples for CWD Testing

The procedures for submitting samples from farmed cervidae to the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for chronic wasting disease testing include:

- Complete an updated submission form to include with the sample. This provides all the information the Board requires for a death report. The Board will receive this submission form with the test results, so a separate death report is not required.
- Submit all identification tags for the animal, along with tissue attached to the tags from the ear. The tags should be bagged separately from the formalin fixed tissue and kept chilled or frozen when submitting samples to the lab.
- All farmed cervid herds at a Level 6 Certified status must now submit both obex and lymph node tissues for testing. If both samples are not submitted, the herd CWD status will be impacted. It is a good idea to always submit both samples, as they increase successful testing.
- Test results of “Location, Unsuitable or Unacceptable” are not successful CWD test results and are related to poor samples submitted to the lab. These results impact a herd’s CWD status. Check with your Board area animal health contact to review sample collection procedures to get successful test results.
- Please call the Board at 651-201-6804 with any questions about this information.

Record Keeping

- **The herd owner must maintain all animal records for 10 years:**
 - The type, age, and sex of each animal.
 - The date the animal was born on the farm or acquired, including the name, address and phone number of the source of the animal.
 - The date of disposal and/or destination of an animal removed from the herd, including the name, address and phone number of the destination herd.
 - All individual ID associated with each animal (including re-tag information).
- **Movements: Notification of farmed cervidae moved off of a herd must be reported to the Board office within 14 days of the movement on approved forms.**
 - **Interstate movement:** A movement report must be submitted to the Board in addition to a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) issued for interstate movement.

- **Deceased Animals: Notification of farmed Cervidae (tagged animals) that are deceased (died, killed, or slaughtered) must be reported to the Board office within 14 days of death on approved forms.**
 - All cervidae 12 months of age or older that die for any reason (died, killed or slaughtered) must be sampled and tested for chronic wasting disease (CWD). Samples must be collected and submitted to the lab within 14 days of death. All ID, including a piece of ear tissue, must be submitted.
 - Use the updated CWD submission form when you send samples to the lab. This will serve as a death report to the Board, as the Board receives a copy of the submission form with the lab's test results.

Farmed Cervidae Escape Policy

- Any escape must be reported to the Board within 24 hours.
- The Board reports escapes to the Department of Natural Resources.
- The cervidae owner must work with Board staff to develop and approve a written recovery plan.
 - The cervidae owner has three days to recover or kill the escaped animal before a notice of violation is issued.
 - If the owner fails to recover or kill the animal by the date specified in the notice of violation, a fine is issued.

CWD Endemic Areas

All farmed cervidae herds within a minimum of 10 miles of a confirmed case of CWD in wild cervidae must be designated as in the endemic area. The Board may designate larger areas as needed to prevent the spread of CWD.

All farmed cervid herds in a CWD endemic area:

- Will be restricted from moving cervidae into and out of their herd when CWD infected wild cervidae are first identified. Carcasses from these herds are also restricted. Animals can move direct to slaughter with a permit from the Board.
- If the herd has maintained approved exclusionary fencing to prevent commingling between farmed and wild cervidae for at least 36 months, the herd will not be restricted.
- Herds have 180 days from the initial designation of an endemic area to prevent further commingling of farmed and wild cervidae to be considered for release from movement restrictions. After 180 days, exclusionary fencing must be in place for 36 months before movement restrictions are lifted.

Cervidae forms: All forms are available online at www.mn.gov/bah or by calling our St. Paul office at 651-201-6804. You can also contact one of our field staff if you have questions.



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Healthy Animals for Healthy People and Communities

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