WISCONSIN
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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March 17, 2003

Rod Nilsestuen,
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Dear Secretary Nilsestuen:

As you are aware, for the past five months, the Department of Natural Resources DNR staff has diligently worked on issues involving chronic wasting disease (CWD) and deer farms. CWD is a monumental concern for Wisconsin – for recreation, for agriculture, and for quality of life. To better understand how captive whitetail deer populations fit into the state strategies for wildlife disease control, we committed ourselves to doing in-depth audits of state deer farms.

The enclosed Department of Natural Resources' Statewide Audit and Inspection Summary is intended to provide DATCP officials with a clear picture of the condition of Wisconsin deer farms at the time of transferring administrative authority to DATCP.

DNR wardens visited 550 whitetail deer farms to:

- collect information about whitetail deer farming,
- determine the origin of CWD-positive captive deer to identify other deer that had been exposed to CWD infected deer,
- protect Wisconsin's wild deer herd by inspecting the exterior fences on all deer farms.

During the process, conservation wardens identified deer farm fences that did not meet the state's minimum standards. Wardens then directed those farmers with fences not meeting the minimum standards to make the required repairs.

With the assistance of the deer farmers, DNR wardens attempted to inventory the number of deer held in captivity. This information helps define the magnitude of the captive deer farm industry in Wisconsin and is contained in worksheets that are provided as an appendix to the summary.

The audit process revealed that the majority of deer farms were in compliance with the requirements while under DNR control. However, several areas of concern were revealed. These areas of concern are identified in the summary report and are part of discussions between DNR and DATCP to formalize a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between our two agencies. We believe that the MOU will provide mutual support for addressing disease issues and protection of not only wild deer herds, but captive deer as well.

The strongest solutions to managing and controlling CWD in Wisconsin will result from the cooperation and coordination of government agencies, the captive wildlife industry and the public. As CWD and other disease issues present challenges to our hunting and business heritage, our mutual interests involving deer farms and wild deer will continue. We believe the best use of personnel resources and expertise occurs when both of our agencies can work together as closely as possible, exchange vital information, and find solutions that will be in the best interests of everyone.

Sincerely,

Scott Hassett
Secretary

Summary of a Statewide Audit and Inspection of Wisconsin's Captive Whitetail Deer Farms

Conducted September-December, 2002

A Report to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Department of Natural Resources
Enforcement

Bureau of Law

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report was prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). On January 1, 2003, as part of the state's new Captive Wildlife Law, regulatory authority over whitetail deer farms was transferred from DNR to DATCP. The authority change for the administration of deer farms occurred shortly after the discovery of CWD and resulted after more than 14 years of cooperative work between the DNR, DATCP, the Legislature and the captive wildlife industry. In order to provide a solid baseline of information to the new responsible agency, DNR attempted to conduct on-site inspections of deer farm fences and deer farm records (audits) for all 639 whitetail deer farm licenses. Each audit procedure included an inventory of captive deer, fence inspections, annual reports, receipts and records of sales, purchases and transfers of deer.

The United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Health Lab in Iowa notified DNR on February 28, 2002 that three deer in western Dane County and eastern Iowa County tested positive for CWD. In September, DATCP announced that a deer harvested from a deer farm in central Wisconsin also tested positive for CWD. These two events reinforced the need for a comprehensive review and inventory of Wisconsin's whitetail deer farms.

The following report provides a glimpse into the findings of these audits and inspections. It is important to note the examples provided are not representative of the industry as a whole. Rather they demonstrate the practices, strengths and problems encountered that are of concern in the management and control of disease in the captive and wild herds. Specific examples drawn from warden reports (marked with an arrow) have been included to aid in understanding some of the more serious problems uncovered.

The goals of these audits were to:

- Provide DATCP with a clear picture of the condition of Wisconsin deer farms as regulated under state laws prior to the transfer of regulatory authority on January 1, 2003.
- Inventory and define the status of the captive whitetail deer industry in Wisconsin.
- Protect Wisconsin's wild deer herd by inspecting all exterior fences on deer farms. Identify fencing that did not meet the state's minimum standards and work with farmers to make the required repairs.
- Identify minimum fence standards that would prevent captive deer escaping from pens or wild deer entering pens.
- Determine the origin of the CWD-positive captive deer in an effort to identify other farms that may have come into contact with it and had been exposed to the disease.
- Identify other deer that may have come into contact with infected deer and determine their current location.

In brief, the audits revealed:

- The majority of whitetail deer farm fences were in compliance with state laws; however, 77 farms were found to be in violation of fence specifications. As with any other problem, violations were handled on a case by case basis taking into account all of the circumstances. 15%
- Deer farms contained at least 16,070 deer.
- Most deer farmers reported they have not experienced problems with escapes; however, 182 deer farmers reported escapes or intentional releases into the wild.
- Deer farmers reported at least 436 escaped deer that had not been recovered or returned to farms.
- Twenty-four deer farms were unlicensed.
- Records maintained by deer farm operators ranged from meticulous documentation to relying on memory.
- Wardens discovered a variety of law violations during the course of the audit and inspection process, some of which they did not have jurisdiction to pursue.
- Tracking of individual deer without individual identification was almost impossible.
- Over the past three years at least 1,222 deer died on deer farms due to various reasons. Disease testing was not performed nor required on the majority of deer.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

1940

- Wisconsin issued its first license to a deer farm.

1987

- Wisconsin DNR, DATCP and the industry began working on new captive wildlife law changes.

1995

- Regulatory control over captive elk, red deer, fallow deer, sika deer and reindeer is transferred to DATCP.

1999

- Wisconsin wildlife researchers began random testing for the presence of CWD in wild deer.

2002

- February - First case of CWD reported in wild deer in Wisconsin.

- April - DATCP imposed emergency ban on the import or export of deer and elk.

- April - Passage of new Captive Wildlife Law included transfer of regulatory authority of whitetail deer farms from DNR to DATCP effective January 1, 2003. Fence inspection authority remained with DNR. DNR began planning the process to transfer deer farm responsibility.

- April - DATCP CWD emergency rules became effective. All dead deer must be tested for CWD if the farm is enrolled in the CWD monitoring program.

- September - First case of CWD reported in captive deer in Wisconsin.

- September through December - DNR audited whitetail deer farms.

- October – A conservation warden shot a deer that escaped from a deer farm. The deer was tested for disease and was infected with CWD.

2003

- January 1 - Regulatory authority over deer farms is transferred to DATCP.

THE DEER FARM AUDIT AND INSPECTION PROCESS

The audits began in earnest in September 2002 and lasted until the end of the year. Of the 639 deer farm licenses that were issued to 611 people in Wisconsin, 550 farms were inspected. Sixty-one licenses are not connected to an audit because their owners had gone out of business, farms were sold during the license year, multiple licenses belonged to one name and the inspection covered the entire property or the owners could not be located before regulatory authority passed to DATCP.

The audits primarily focused on deer farm operations during a three-year period from 2000 to 2002. Each audit required several hours to perform for small deer farms, or even days for large operations. Teams of two wardens inspected most farms and teams of up to six wardens were used to expedite the inspection of facilities that covered a large area or consisted of a large population of deer. As much as practical, wardens tried to contact farmers to schedule the audit and inspection.

Upon arriving at the deer farm, wardens would meet with the owner and explain the audit process. Wardens would then ask to inspect records, fill out the audit questionnaire and inspect the exterior fence to ensure its integrity and whether it complied with current pen requirements.

All but a few farmers were cooperative and provided wardens with the information they requested. However, it was necessary for wardens to obtain three search warrants and one inspection warrant in order to complete their work. While most farmers seemed satisfied by the process, DNR did receive a small number of complaints.

Findings

The following information was obtained from the audit questionnaires and interviews with captive whitetail deer farm operators.

Deer Held in Captivity

Conservation wardens documented a minimum of 16,070 captive deer during the audit period. Of those, 7,670 were antlered bucks, 8,276 were antlerless and 124 were unspecified with regard to sex. These counts were based on annual reports submitted to the DNR, interviews with deer farmers, record inspections and warden observations.

Based on discussions with deer farmers, there are more deer in captivity in Wisconsin than verifiable through current reporting methods. This is due in part because the owners of a number of large deer farm operations were unable to accurately count the number of deer within their fences. Some farmers and wardens reported that efforts to count deer were hampered by poor visibility in swamps and densely wooded areas. Therefore the total number of deer held in captivity is an estimate and shows the difficulty to keep accurate counts. The difficulty to maintain an accurate count of captive deer ultimately undermines the ability to document escapes which may have disease management implications.

- Wardens conducting an audit attempted to get an accurate count of the deer within the pen. Because of the size of the pen and heavy cover, wardens had to rely on the farmer's estimate. The farmer estimated that he had about 70 bucks 'from spike to 220 class' and approximately 15 does.

- A deer farmer who began his 33-acre farm in 2002 with the purchase of six deer told wardens that he didn't know how many bucks and does he had on his farm. The farmer told the wardens that he would try to get an accurate count by driving deer in the fall after the leaves had fallen from the trees on his property.

Captive Deer Escapes

3 0% REPORTED ESCAPED DEER

Most deer farm owners did not report having problems with escaping deer. In the course of the audits, the operators of 182 of the 550 farms (fig. 1) indicated that they had deer escape from their pens into the wild at some time during the lifetime of the operation. Several farmers reported the escape of elk and other non-whitetail deer. The minimum number of whitetail deer involved in these escapes based on the audit worksheets was 671; 436 deer were never recovered. Wardens noted the unintentional escapes typically resulted from storm-damaged fences, gates left open and dogs chasing deer through fences.

- During an audit in October, wardens observed a number of deer outside a deer farmer's fenced pen. The wardens contacted the owner who told them that the fence blew down in a summer storm and that all ten of his deer escaped at that time and that he had no intention of trying to reclaim them. Wardens cited the deer farmer for a pen specification violation. Wardens killed five of what they believed to be the escaped deer outside of the fence and submitted them for testing. Some of the escaped deer remain unaccounted for. Test results are pending.

- A deer farm owner reported that 'four or five' does escaped after a portion of his fence collapsed. The farmer repaired the fence and left the gate open in an attempt to lure the deer back. The next morning, the farmer saw that 'two or three' of the does had returned along with a wild buck. The deer farmer did not attempt to release this wild buck or notify the DNR of the circumstances surrounding this deer. The remaining does were never recovered.

- One farmer told wardens that an unknown number of deer escaped from his farm. In response to this and based on the presence of CWD within the farmer's captive herd, wardens began efforts to shoot and sample deer in close proximity to the pen. One deer shot by a warden outside the farmer's pen was marked with an ear tag that the farmer identified as one of his own. This deer later tested positive for CWD. This deer is the only known recovery from those that escaped.

- One farmer said he had about fifteen deer escape from a pen after some dogs got into it. He also said he was not able to recover any of the deer but he did shoot one of the bucks, marked with an ear tag, the next fall. He said he knew of another ear-tagged deer that was shot two years later about three miles from his farm.

Intentional Release of Captive Deer

During the audit process, two deer farm operators told to wardens that they intentionally released their captive deer into the wild.

- A deer farmer, believing that the market for captive deer was going to be adversely impacted by the discovery of CWD in Wisconsin, released all nine of his whitetail deer into the wild. Of those, three were ear-tagged. In August 2002, approximately three months after the deer had been released, conservation wardens shot five deer near the farmer's fence and submitted them for CWD sampling. The remaining deer, including the three ear-tagged deer, have not been located.

Captive Deer Health and Mortality

Deer farmers reported a total of 1,222 deer died in captivity during the last several years. Some of these deer died of complications during immobilization and transport; others died of unknown causes. Most deer were not tested for any disease. Instances of sick deer found in captivity were referred to DATCP.

- Wardens responded to a complaint of a foul odor coming from a deer farm and discovered the decomposing carcasses of five deer. They were able to recover several official identification tags from the carcasses and were able to link one of them to a neighboring state. No postmortem disease testing could be performed on these deer due to decomposition of vital tissues. Wardens attempted to audit the farmer several times but were unsuccessful.

- Wardens conducted an audit and learned that the owner depopulated his entire herd shortly after the DATCP freeze on captive deer movement within the state. The farmer stated that he shot and killed all 34 deer and buried them on his property.

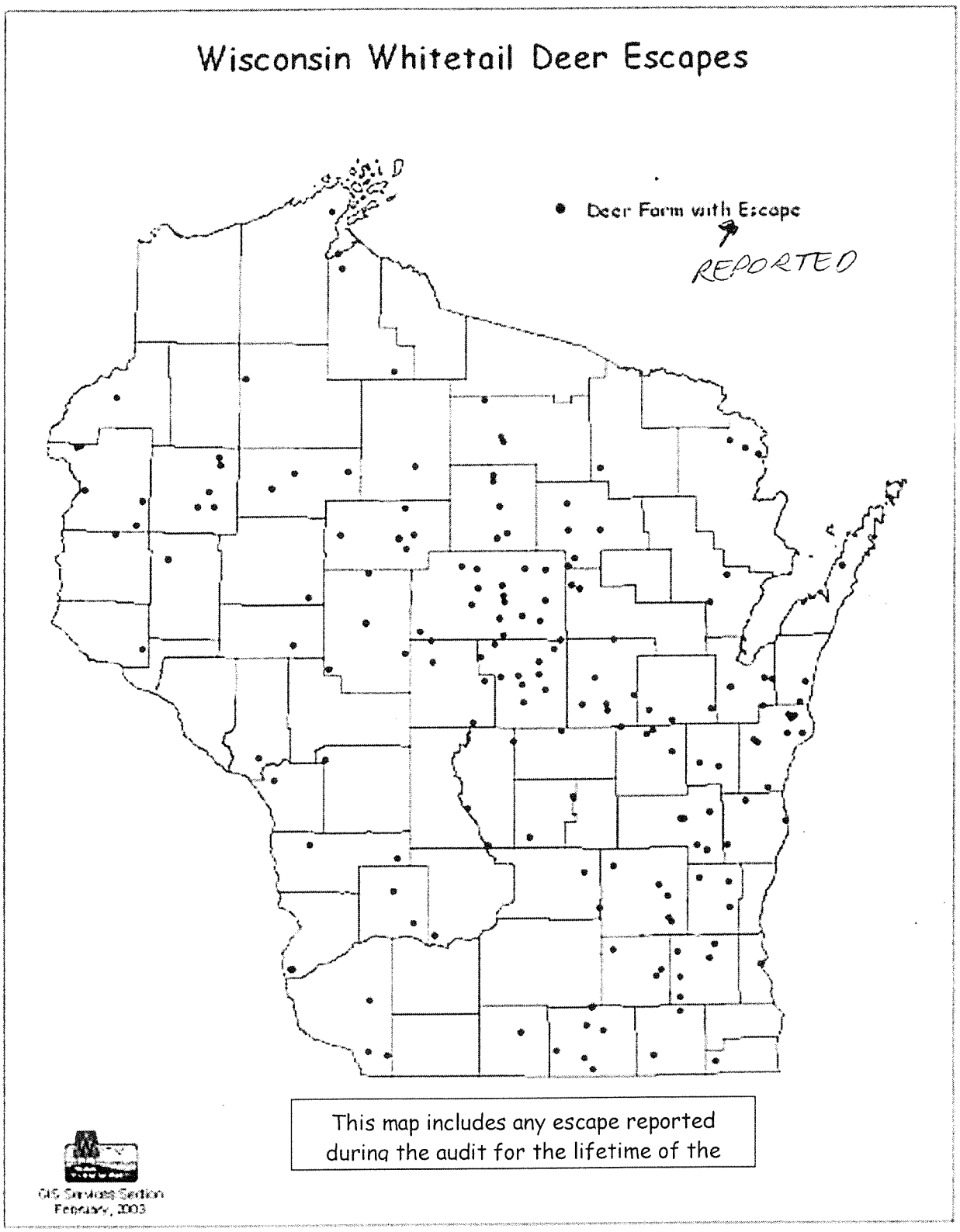

Wisconsin Whitetail Deer Escapes
Deer Farm with Escape
REPORTED
This map includes any escape reported
during the audit for the lifetime of the
GIS Services Section
February, 2003

Fig. 1

Sales and Purchases

Tracking deer movements is essential to the management and control of disease. Because there is no permanent identification for deer, providing accurate records were found to be critical. Then, when disease has been discovered and deer may have been exposed, the potentially infected deer can be more easily located.

During the audits there were cases where no farm records were kept, other records – including financial records and receipts – were requested to aid in the tracking of deer movement. In instances where no records of any kind were kept and deer transactions were in cash, wardens were unable to follow the exact movements of deer. During the audit process, wardens discovered that the owners of at least 227 farms conducted various portions of their deer farm business with cash.

40% CASH

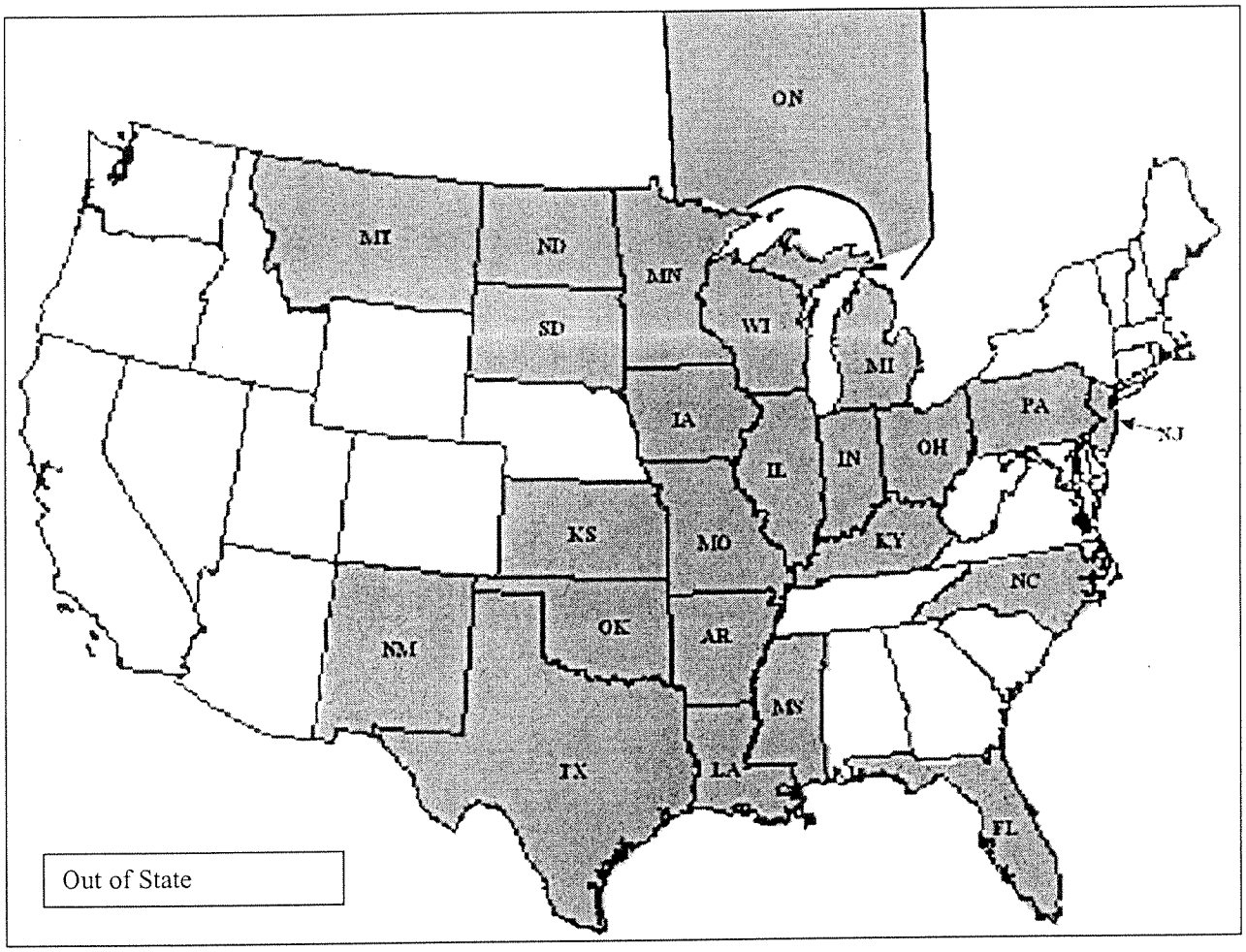
- Wardens audited a deer farm and discovered that a deer farm owner in Minnesota paid a Wisconsin deer farmer $45,000 in cash for six very large (between 170 and 190 points in the Boone and Crockett scoring system) bucks. No live deer shipping tags were issued.

- Wardens discovered that a Minnesota deer farmer paid $10,000 in a single cash payment for a two-year old whitetail buck. The Minnesota farmer refused to accept the required shipping tags from the seller.

- During an audit, wardens learned from a deer farmer that a previous purchase he had made was not initially reported by the seller as required by state law. The wardens eventually located a receipt for a money order and found that a buck was sold for $5000. The transaction was not reported to DNR as required in the seller's annual report.

Out-of-state Transactions

Over the last three years, Wisconsin deer farmers reported doing business with 22 other states and one Canadian province.



ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Citations and Warnings

During the course of the audit and inspection process wardens discovered a variety of law violations. Some were minor, resulting in warnings while others were more serious, resulting in citations. Investigations into the most serious violations continue and may result in the filing of additional charges. A complete breakdown of the enforcement actions to date included in Appendix B.

Unlicensed Deer Farms

Conservation wardens discovered a total of 24 unlicensed deer farms and issued 19 citations. Enforcement action was taken in the following cases:

- Wardens responding to a deer farmer's request to move deer learned that the farmer did not hold a valid Wisconsin license to possess live deer. When questioned, the farmer told wardens that he held an exhibitor's license from U.S. Department of Agriculture.

- A man was found to be operating a deer farm business unlicensed since 1999. He was denied a license that year because his deer fence did not meet the minimum specifications. The farmer illegally kept and sold deer without the required license.

- While on routine patrol, a warden observed several whitetail deer in a pen. The warden was not aware of any licensed deer farms in the area and talked to the farmer about the deer. The farmer told the warden he had a 'farm-raised deer' license from DATCP and was not aware of any other required license. The farmer did have a number of DATCP-regulated fallow deer on his property, kept in the same pen as the whitetail deer.

- While conducting an audit, wardens discovered discrepancies in some of the farmer's records. The farmer told the wardens that he was holding some deer for a friend. The wardens investigated and found out that the farmer's friend tried to get a deer farm license but was denied the required variance by the town where he intended to keep the deer. The farmer's friend continued to buy deer by using the other man's valid license. When wardens contacted the unlicensed deer farmer he told them that he was trying to get a license, even though no application was on file with the DNR.

- An animal broker traveled to an out-of-state animal auction and bought a whitetail deer. When the person returned to Wisconsin he sold the deer to a licensed deer farmer. Wardens learned that the deer was never inspected for health records and the broker did not have the required deer license.

- An elk farmer had a whitetail deer in his elk pen. The farmer wasn't licensed for deer and claimed that the deer must have 'just wandered in' to the pen on its own. Wardens found a portion of the fence that appeared to have been cut and then repaired with twine and wire. During the course of the follow up investigation the farmer called wardens and told them that deer were going in and out of the pen. The court ordered the DNR to confiscate the deer and submit samples for disease testing.

Deer Tagging Requirements

While under DNR authority, Wisconsin deer farmers were required to issue a deer tag with every deer that left their property regardless of whether the deer was alive or dead. This was another way of tracking deer movement, purchases and sales. Wardens found that in a number of cases deer tags were not used as required.

- During one audit a Wisconsin deer farm owner told wardens that in November 2000 he sold eight deer to a Minnesota deer farmer and later bartered eight additional deer to the same farmer

in exchange for a breeding stock buck. None of the deer were tested for disease because the Wisconsin farmer was told they were not leaving the state. In a subsequent conversation with the Wisconsin deer farmer, he was told that some of the deer he bartered were sold to a farmer in Florida. No live deer tags were issued for any of these deer.

- The owner of a small deer farm instructed its caretaker to kill some of the captive deer in order to reduce the population. The caretaker and two others shot about a half dozen captive deer. They tagged them with their Wisconsin bonus deer tags, then registered them as wild deer at the local registration station. These deer should have been tagged with deer farm dead deer tags available from the DNR.

Deer Farm Records

Records maintained by deer farm operators ranged from meticulous documentation to simply relying on memory. When deer farm records were not available or were only partially complete, tracking deer movement became very difficult.

- During the course of a deer farm audit, the owner was able to provide limited information and records about his operation. During the audit, the farmer gave wardens permission to conduct a thorough inspection of the property. A warden observed and retrieved partially burned deer farm records from a burn barrel. The partially burned records provided additional information on the deer farmer's business transactions.

- While examining and comparing deer farm records from various sources, wardens discovered that one deer farmer failed to report the sale of 24 deer in seven transactions over a 19 month period.

- One deer farm operator said during an audit that he killed and butchered a large buck from his deer farm. Further investigation revealed that the buck was actually taken to another deer farm where it was being used for breeding purposes.

- During an audit, wardens uncovered records showing a 1998 sale of two bucks for $1,800. After more investigation it was learned that this transaction was actually payment for an illegal hunt that took place in a pen less than one acre in size. The farmer responsible for this illegal hunt was issued a citation. Under DNR laws regulating hunting on deer farms, the minimum pen size to hunt deer was 10 acres.

Deer Pen Problems

Identifying deer farms that had problems with fences and deer, wild or captive, moving freely over or through them was a high priority. Conservation wardens discovered 77 farms that had violations of the state's captive deer fence laws. Fences that were in good condition and met the minimum pen specifications provided better containment and minimized the potential for deer – captive or wild – to move through fences unchecked, reducing the possibility of diseases spreading among separate deer populations.

- One elk farmer called wardens to complain about whitetail deer in his elk pen. Arrangements were made with the farmer to kill the deer and submit samples for CWD and TB testing. The investigation showed this was the second time that deer had gotten into the farmer's pen.

- Wardens inspecting a deer farm that bordered a neighboring state discovered that a portion of the fenced area extended into the neighboring state. The farmer said he owned the property in the other state and wanted it connected to his primary pen. Conservation wardens warned the farmer of a pen specification violation and ordered him to close the fence up at the state line. The farmer said he was aware of the situation for about six years.

- While conducting a pen specification inspection, wardens discovered that at least three farmers had established deer trails going through gates leading to previously baited areas inside the pens.

Baiting and Feeding Incidents

- Wardens investigating an unlicensed deer farm saw deer feeding outside the farmer's pen in an area that contained shelled corn, salt and a mineral block. Wardens ordered the farmer to clean up the feed or he would be cited for a wildlife feeding violation. When the wardens returned several days later they found that the feed was not cleaned up. They issued the farmer a citation and ordered him to clean up the feed or he would be cited again. The wardens returned several days later and found the feed still there and issued the farmer another citation. This pattern continued until the farmer received five citations for failure to remove the pile of illegal feed.

- At one deer farm, wardens investigated what appeared to be a bait pile just outside the owner's fence. The owner confessed that he placed the bait at that location and shot a deer over the bait. The farmer did not pick up the deer as he thought it looked sick. He said he was concerned about the deer being close to his herd.

Miscellaneous Violations

During the course of these audits Wardens uncovered a number of law violations for which they had no jurisdiction to pursue.

- **Quarantine violation** While investigating a quarantined deer farm, wardens learned that the farm had been quarantined by DATCP on a different occasion some time ago. This quarantine prohibited the movement of any deer, live or dead, from the farm. A check of records submitted by the farmer to the DNR indicated that he continued to move live and dead deer off of his farm while under the first quarantine.

- **Broker domestic animals without the proper license** While investigating the illegal importation of deer, conservation wardens discovered an individual who was acting as a broker. The person was dealing with a wide variety of domestic animals being imported from other states and transported within the state. These imported deer usually lacked the proper DATCP paperwork and the individual was not properly licensed with DATCP.

Cooperative Efforts

- **Out-of-state leads** Wardens conducting audits discovered concerns that might be of interest to other states. The wardens provided 48 informational leads to 11 different states. The concerns ranged from unlicensed out-of-state deer farmers to animals bought and sold without health testing documentation.

- **Leads to DATCP** During some of the audits conservation wardens discovered deer farm problems that involved DATCP laws, rules or procedures. Wardens also had concerns regarding disease issues; the information was passed on to DATCP. As a result, wardens referred 79 investigative leads to DATCP.

NEXT STEPS

The Department of Natural Resources will continue to be an active partner on deer farm management in Wisconsin, specifically:

- Together, DNR and DATCP have developed and enacted a Memorandum of Understanding (cooperative agreement) to establish a framework for both agencies to effectively and cooperatively regulate farm-raised whitetail deer, promote animal health and protect animal resources in Wisconsin.

- DNR wardens and wildlife managers will share recommendations with DATCP that DNR believes the agencies can implement to provide the best level of protection for wild and captive deer herds.

- DNR wardens will continue to monitor, inspect and regulate fences surrounding whitetail deer farms.

- DNR wildlife managers and wardens will continue to monitor disease issues related to both wild and captive deer populations and will work cooperatively with DATCP to address any threats to either herd.

Department of Natural Resources
Appendix A
P. O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Wisconsin Licensed Deer Farm Audit Questionnaire

Date of Audit: [Click here] Time of Audit: [Click here]

Persons present at Audit: [Click here]

Conducted by: [Click here]

License number(s) - list all: [Click here]	
Owner name: [Click here]	Farm name (if different than owner): [Click here]
Owner address: [Click here]	Farm address/location (if different): [Click here]
Phone # : [Click here] cell phone #: Click here]	County: [Click here] town: [Click here] range: [Click here] section: [Click here]
e-mail or other phone numbers: [Click here]	Acres fenced by separate pens: [Click here]
GPS READING: [Click here] (include corner readings if larger than 10 acres)	

Preliminary information	***Comments***
When did you begin your operation? Month: [Click here] Year: [Click here]	
Who else is involved in the operation? [Click here] How are they involved (Partner, financial support, etc.)? [Click here]	
What got you started (i.e., hobby, full-time business, part-time business, profit, friend/family member in business)? [Click here]	
How do you keep your records? [Click here] Where do you keep your records? [Click here] How is payment made & received (cash, credit cards, checks) [Click here]	
Current & Former Employees: [Click here]	
Where did the original deer come from? [Click here]	
How many live/dead deer tags do you possess? Live: [Click here] Dead: [Click here]	
Are you enrolled in the DATCP CWD Program? [Click here]Yes [Click here] No What is your CWD#: [Click here]	

In the table below, list all species on the farm (attach as a separate table sheet if ecessary):			
Species on arm	**Number Male**	Number Female	**Origin (state/country)**
Whitetail deer			
Elk			
Mule deer			
Red deer			
Sika			
Fallow			
Others			
Musk			
Muntjac			

Field inspection: Farm name: [Click here] GPS: [Click here]	Comments
If more than one species on farm, co-mingled? [Click here]Yes [Click here] No If YES, which ones? [Click here] how penned? [Click here] Do species have nose-to-nose contact? [Click here]Yes [Click here] No Which ones are penned together? [Click here] Which ones have adjacent pens? [Click here]	
Number of bucks on farm? [Click here] Scores? [Click here]	
What animal handling facilities are available (i.e., containment areas such as chutes, pens, rates – ask to see) [Click here] Animal handling facilities observed: [Click here]	
What veterinarian(s) treats your animals? Vet name, address, phone: [Click here] How long have they been your vet? [Click here] How often do they visit the farm? [Click here] Do you DNA test animals? If yes, who is the DNA tester? [Click here]	
Do you use chemical immobilization? [Click here]Yes [Click here] No Do you use a dart? [Click here]Yes [Click here] No Who does the darting? [Click here]	
What supplements do you feed? [Click here] View the bags.	

Names of supplements: [Click here] Contents: [Click here] How long have you been feeding these? [Click here]	
How are individual animals identified (colored ear tags, series numbers, tattoo, microchip)? Click here] How old are they when marked? [Click here]	
How were individual animals identified during shipment? [Click here]	
Have any deer or elk escaped and not been recovered? [Click here]Yes [Click here]No When? [Click here] Bucks or does? [Click here] Were they tagged? Describe tags. [Click here]Yes [Click here]No	
Have you ever released an animal into the wild? [Click here]Yes [Click here]No Intentional? [Click here]Yes [Click here]No Do you know of anyone who has released an animal into the wild? [Click here]Yes Click here]No If YES, for what reason? [Click here]	
Interview	***Comments***
How many deer have died on the farm in the past 3 years? [Click here] Unknown dead deer? [Click here]Yes [Click here]No Explainable deaths (i.e., older, injured fighting, known illness)? [Click here] If unexplained, describe condition of animal: [Click here] Any common conditions between the animals? [Click here] Were they necropsied? [Click here]Yes [Click here]No If YES, by whom? [Click here] Result? [Click here] Time of year of majority of unexplained deaths: [Click here]	
How do you normally dispose of carcasses (rendered, buried; list all methods)? [Click here]	
Do you use artificial insemination in your herd? [Click here]Yes [Click here]No **Who do you buy semen from? [Click here]** Who performs the AI? [Click here]	

Do you buy or sell urine from your herd? [Click here]Yes [Click here]No Doe scent? [Click here]Yes [Click here]No	
Do you sell velvet antlers? [Click here]Yes [Click here]No	
Have you ever purchased any animals from out-of-state? [Click here]Yes [Click here]No From what state(s) or Canadian province(s)? [Click here] When? [Click here] What species? [Click here] Do you have a CVI (Certificate of Veterinary Inspection? [Click here] Yes [Click here]No Were the animals TB tested? [Click here] Yes [Click here]No Were the animals shipped? [Click here] Yes [Click here]No If Yes, by whom? [Click here] If not, did you travel to pick them up yourself? [Click here] If not, who transported them for you? [Click here] Did an animal broker arrange the sale? [Click here] Who? [Click here]	
Have you ever shipped animals out-of-state? [Click here]Yes [Click here]No When? [Click here] What species? [Click here] To whom? [Click here] Who actually transports them? [Click here] Do you have a CVI (Certificate of Veterinary Inspection? [Click here] Yes [Click here]No Were the animals TB tested? [Click here] Yes [Click here]No	
Interview	***Comments***
Have you ever shipped animals within the state? [Click here]Yes [Click here]No When? [Click here] What species? [Click here] To whom? [Click here] Who actually transports them? [Click here] Do you have a CVI (Certificate of Veterinary Inspection? [Click here] Yes [Click here]No Were the animals TB tested? [Click here] Yes [Click here]No	
Have you purchased deer under your license for someone else?	

[Click here]Yes [Click here]No If Yes, details: [Click here]	
Have you ever been asked to alter records with regard to sale dates, species? [Click here]Yes [Click here]No If YES, when, who asked? [Click here] **What about other alterations to your records? [Click here]**	
Do you visit animal auctions? [Click here] Where? [Click here] Have you ever had someone bring you an animal from an auction? [Click here] Yes [Click here]No	
Do you ever hold deer at your property for other people? [Click here]Yes [Click here]No If yes, why (i.e, other deer farms ran out of room, animals in transit, etc.)? [Click here] Where did they come from? [Click here] How long did you hold them? [Click here]	
Were any of your deer 16 months of age sold or shipped to slaughter? [Click here]Yes [Click here]No If yes, were they tested for CWD? [Click here] What were the results? [Click here]	
Does your farm have breeder bucks? [Click here]Yes [Click here] No	
Do you sell semen from your herd? [Click here]Yes [Click here]No If YES, who has purchased? [Click here] How long have you been selling? [Click here]	
Have you been contacted regarding the purchase of any of your larger bucks? [Click here]Yes [Click here]No By whom? [Click here] How much money would it be worth? [Click here]	
Have you ever loaned a buck for breeding purposes? [Click here] Have you ever borrowed a buck for breeding purposes? [Click here]	

Interview	***Comments***
Who do you consider a top breeder that has large class buck? List all. [Click here]	
Have you heard of anyone releasing bucks into the wild to improve genetics? [Click here]Yes [Click here]No What do you think is their motivation? [Click here]	
Where do you get most of your business and animal health information? [Click here] * Internet (what sites?): [Click here] * trade magazines (which ones?) [Click here] * their vet or other deer farmers (who?) [Click here]	
Warden: List any other possible leads, names to contact developed during audit: [Click here]	

Appendix B

Charge/Violation	Statue/Code	Bond Amt.	Max. Bond	Citations or Pending Charge	Warnings	Total # of violations
Provide incorrect information to the Department (Sales)	SS. 29.961 (2)	$200.50	$494	21*	126	147
Possess live deer without a valid license	SS. 29.853 (2)	$300.00	$2,078	19	5	24
Pen Specification Violations	NR 16.01 (1)(b) or NR 16.01 (2)	$1,096.00	$4,068	1	76	77
Live Deer Tag violations	SS. 29.871(9)	$200.50	$494	4	67	71
Dead Deer Tag violations	SS. 29.871(8)	$200.50	$494	1	47	48
Illegal stocking of deer	SS. 29.745 (2)	$698.00	$2,078	1	1	2
Obstruct a Conservation Warden (Crime)	SS. 29.951	$300-Bail	$10,000 or 9 Mo.	1	1	2
Hunt deer in an enclosure less than 10 acres in size	SS. 29.871 (7)	$200.50	$494	1	1	2
Placement of feed to attract wild animal	NR 19.60 (1) (a)	$200.50	$494	7	2	9
Illegal Baiting of Deer	NR 10.07 (2)(a)	$1,096	$4,068	1	0	1
Fail to submit annual report or submit incomplete annual report	SS. 29.871 (12)	$200.50	$494	2	33	35
OTHER VIOLATIONS NOT LISTED ABOVE						
Possess live game w/o license				1	0	1
TOTALS	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**	**60**	**359**	**419**

* Several citations are waiting final investigative results and have not been served.

OVER
75%

Appendix C

This appendix contains over 600 reports (approximately 3,100 pages) that are available upon request and may be subject to a reproduction fee. To request a copy of these documents contact 608-266-2141.

Access To Public Records

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

It is the policy of the State of Wisconsin that all persons are entitled to the greatest possible information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts of those officers and employees who represent them.

The Department of Natural Resources is the agency of the State of Wisconsin delegated the responsibility of protecting Wisconsin's natural resources - its air, land, water, wildlife, fish and forests. The Department also is responsible for providing a clean environment and a full range of outdoor recreational opportunities.

The records of the Department of Natural Resources are available for inspection and copying during normal business hours. Except for legal holidays, those hours are:

Monday-Friday: 7:45-11:45 a.m. and 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Fees for providing copies of records, not including sales tax, are: 10¢ per page for photocopies (10 copies or over); actual direct cost of any transcription, photographic work or postage; location fee if actual direct cost of locating information exceeds $50.