

CWD Program

The CWD Mandatory Surveillance Plan will be revised this summer and in effect by September 1, 2009. The new program will require 25 percent of culled and hunted cervids 12 months of age and older be submitted for testing. This means that in any given year, if you aren't in the Voluntary CWD Certification program, you will no longer have to submit 100 percent of your culled or hunted cervids - only 25 percent. You will still be required to submit 100 percent of samples from any cervids 12 months of age or older that die or are culled because of illness.

CWD Voluntary Certification Program

The comment period for the Federal Rule closed June 1, 2009. Once USDA has reviewed all of the comments, they will be releasing the final program rule. At that time, USDA will begin the process of evaluating each individual state's program criteria and files to determine the credibility of their program. States will be accepted into the program in an "all or none" process. All herds in a particular state will be accepted into the federal program at their current level, or USDA may choose to start all herds in a state at a lower level if they feel the program credibility does not meet their standards.

CWD Sample Drop Off Locations

(Effective February 1, 2009)

Drop off locations will **ONLY** be open from 9 am - 3 pm one day a month. No heads and/or samples will be allowed to be left at the location other than during the designated time. **ALL** heads are required to be frozen and individually bagged. Any heads that are not frozen or individually bagged **WILL NOT** be accepted. The following animal information is needed at the time of drop off: breed, age, sex, date of death, reason of death, and ID if available. Please also have your herd number available. If desired, herd and animal information can be supplied prior to drop off by emailing it to (mda-cwdsamples@michigan.gov).

First Tuesday of the Month

MDA Atlanta Regional Office
16860 M-32 East
Atlanta, MI 49709

Second Tuesday of the Month

DNR Waterloo Wildlife Office
13578 Seymour Rd.
Grass Lake, MI 49240

Third Thursday of the Month

DNR Allegan State Game Area Field Office
4590 118th Ave., R #3
Allegan, MI 49010

First Thursday of the Month

DNR Paris Field Office
22250 Northland Dr.
Paris, MI 49338

Third Tuesday of the Month

DNR Cass City Field Office
4017 E. Caro Rd. (M-81)
Cass City, MI 48726

Fourth Tuesday of the Month

The Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH)
4125 Beaumont Rd.
Lansing, MI 48910-8104

One Saturday Drop Off Location

Available **ONLY** from 9 am to 11 am

Second Saturday of the Month

The Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health
4125 Beaumont Rd.
Lansing, MI 48910-8104

Michigan Cervid Industry

Regulatory Updates

Steven Halstead, DVM, MS, State Veterinarian

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Budget Deficits and Reduced Services

State budget deficits over the last few years have caused the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) to continue to cut programs and services in order to remain within budget. The 2010 fiscal year continues, and in fact increases, this trend.

One of the services that will be discontinued on September 30, will be that of paying for the extraction of chronic wasting disease (CWD) samples from submitted heads and disposal of the heads.

At this time the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) pays for the CWD test itself and MDA pays for the sample extraction and head disposal at a cost of \$25.00 per head.

After September 30, producers will be responsible for paying the \$25.00 laboratory fee for the sample extraction and disposal of the heads they submit. This fee must be paid at the time the producer drops the head(s) off at either MDA's drop off locations or Michigan State University's (MSU) Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH).

Producers will either need to bring a check for the correct amount made out to DCPAH, or call DCPAH ahead of time at (517) 353-3045 and arrange for credit card payment. Producers can avoid this fee by hiring an accredited veterinarian to extract and submit the samples to DCPAH at their own cost. Drop off locations and times will remain the same.

POC Industry Survey Results

On December 18, 2008, MDA's, Animal Industry Division, met with the privately owned cervid (POC) industry to present a summary of POC facility regulatory and budgetary challenges, and to discuss movement of all oversight of the cervid industry to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The following is an executive summary of input received from the industry regarding MDA's concerns.

MDA needed to gauge and identify preference for POC industry oversight, the reasons for this preference, and identify common themes regarding oversight of Michigan's POC industry. MDA contracted with an outside, neutral source for review of the comments.

Eighty-four percent of the respondents to the proposal to transfer oversight of the cervid industry to DNR indicated that MDA is the most appropriate agency to manage Michigan's POC industry. The primary reason stated was the POC industry is a farming industry, like any other livestock operation.

Additionally, since animal health and food safety are MDA issues, MDA is perceived to be the most appropriate agency to oversee the industry in this regard. MDA is considered a promoter of animal agriculture by the respondents. Personal income from POC farming, as well as community and state income related to the industry are considered to be important reasons for having MDA oversee the entire POC industry.

State Furlough Days - Offices Closed

The Michigan Department of Management and Budget announced most Michigan state government offices will be closed for six days this summer to accommodate the temporary, unpaid furlough of state employees. State offices will be closed on:

- Friday, June 19
- Monday, July 6
- Friday, July 24
- Friday, August 7
- Friday, August 21
- Friday, September 4

The closures apply to all general offices and services in state government. Public notice of the closures is being provided well in advance so citizens can plan accordingly and avoid inconvenience.

Some state services, including those vital to public health and safety, are not impacted.

Executive Order 2009-22, issued by the governor and approved by the House and Senate appropriations committees in May, mandates the unpaid furlough days to help eliminate the state's current budget deficit.

The unpaid furlough days will save the state \$21.7 million before September 30, the end of the state's fiscal year. Approximately 37,400 state employees will be furloughed for the six days while another 15,500 are exempt to maintain public health and safety services.

CWD Quarantine Release Update

To date, 228 facilities remain under quarantine - 98 Full, 45 Ranch, 16 Exhibition, and 69 Hobby. MDA appreciates the help United Deer Farmers of Michigan (UDFoM) has done to help producers come into compliance and facilitate their release from quarantine. The partnership between MDA and UDFoM has proven to be a very positive one.

Request for Current Email Addresses

MDA is in the process of gathering current email addresses from producers which will be used to mail out newsletters and inform producers during emerging or urgent situations. If you would like to be on the new email list, please email Dr. Butler at butleran@michigan.gov.

Decommissioning?

Think *inside* the fence!

Are you decommissioning your cervid herd? Ever thought of raising cattle, Alpacas, Llamas, goats, or sheep? Before you remove your fence, you may want to consider raising another form of livestock. Fences can remain intact if you decide to put non-cervid livestock within your fence after the decommissioning process is complete. MDA's Agriculture Development Program is interested in helping you gather information on other livestock enterprises. If you are interested please contact at (517) 241-2178 or visit the Michigan State University (MSU) Extension Website at: <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/aoe>

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Program TB Suspects

Producers will need to plan carefully when scheduling TB testing. State budget cuts and mandated **furlough days** (mandatory temporary lay-off days of state employees) mean both staff shortages and unavailability. This will impact MDA's TB suspect response time. Depending on when your testing is scheduled, we may not be able to get to your facility within the required 10 days. If this happens, your facility will be placed under quarantine for 90 days, after which time testing can be completed by MDA. To help assure that we will be able to schedule your facility within the 10 day period, please be aware of furlough days, weekend days, and State holidays when scheduling your TB testing. From June 1 to October 1, 2009, scheduled mandatory furlough days are: June 19, July 6, July 24, August 7, August 21, and September 4. Also, if you have a TB suspect, please make sure your veterinarian talks to a person in our office and does not leave a voice mail!

Bovine TB Accreditation Program for Cervidae

MDA is now into the second year of performing herd reconciliations with all bovine TB accredited cervid herds and most reconciliations have gone smoothly. Some producers feel they do not need to do the reconciliation process. These producers will not be able to become reaccredited and will no longer be a part of the program. When purchasing from a producer, if they do not have a current accreditation letter and certificate from MDA, please call the Lansing office to confirm the herd status prior to purchasing and moving the animals.

New Bio-Security Regulations Adopted for Taxidermists

In the wake of chronic wasting disease (CWD), the Natural Resources Commission approved new bio-security regulations for Michigan taxidermists.

There is evidence from other states to suggest that carcasses from CWD-infected animals have led to new CWD infections. A case of CWD in New York was linked to a business that had both captive cervids and taxidermy operations.

The new regulations prohibit taxidermists with captive cervids on their premises from allowing live animals to have contact with any taxidermy materials or waste. All animal waste must be disposed of in a type II landfill, which accepts general household waste. Taxidermists may not provide any parts of deer, elk, or moose to be used for the purposes of attracting animals for hunting, trapping, or other recreational pursuits. The new regulations include increased fees and reporting requirements.

It is already illegal for hunters to bring any parts of deer, elk, or moose other than boned meat, antlers, hides, and cleaned skull caps from animals taken in any state or province where CWD is known to exist into Michigan. It is illegal to possess such a carcass that has been illegally imported into Michigan. It is also illegal to possess a carcass from the CWD surveillance zone in Kent County, unless it has tested negative for CWD.

The new regulations were adopted after many months of meetings involving state wildlife officials, members of the Michigan Taxidermy Association, and the public.

For information regarding cervid industry programs please contact:

Dr. Angela Butler, Michigan Department of Agriculture, Animal Industry Division
P.O. Box 30017,
Lansing, MI 48909
517-373-1077
www.michigan.gov/mda



Looking for an organization that educates on current laws? Why not join the United Deer Farmers of Michigan (UDoFM)? For more information go to the following link:
www.cervids.net