

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

For

Privately-Owned Cervidae (POC) Producers

Q: If I want to be a registered facility, what type of registration do I get?

A: There are currently three (3) registration classes available: Exhibition, Ranch, and Full registration.

Exhibition facilities (Class II) are those facilities that exhibit their animals on a daily basis for public viewing or who take their animals to shows, schools, parades, or other events throughout the year. All animals must be tagged with two (2) forms of identification.

Ranch facilities (Class III) are those facilities known as “hunting preserves/ranches” where individuals can purchase hunts. These facilities often have lodges for hunters to stay overnight and hunting guides for increased hunter success. They usually grow large trophy animals. All animals purchased and placed in the facility must be tagged with two (2) forms of identification. Animals born in the pen do not need to be tagged.

Full registration facilities (Class IV) are those facilities that can buy, sell, and trade animals, sell antlers, velvet, urine, semen, etc. All animals must be tagged with two (2) forms of identification.

Q: What required height does my fence have to be for my POC facility?

A: Ten (10) feet for all species of cervids (whitetail deer, elk, red deer, fallow deer, sika deer, muntjac, etc.), EXCEPT reindeer. They only require 4 ½ feet fence.

Q: What type of fence material do I use to build my facility/pen?

A: Fences must be continuous ten (10) feet of woven wire or stronger equivalent OR eight (8) foot and two (2) foot woven wire (or stronger) sections spliced together. The industry standard wire is referred to as *fixed-knot 20-96-6-12.5* and is required for the lower eight (8) feet of construction. Sections must be securely connected at three (3) foot intervals. Wire shall not have openings greater than 6”x 6”.

Q: What size poles do I need and how far apart do they need to be?

A: Posts shall be two (2) inch minimum diameter (inside diameter) metal or round wood posts not less than four (4) inches at the smallest end. If square or rectangular posts are used, the dimension shall not be less than 3 ½ inches. Posts shall be at least 14 feet in length with at least 42 inches below the ground. Corner posts shall be 15 feet with 5 feet below ground. All posts shall be placed no greater than 20 feet apart.

Q: How often do I have to do fence inspections?

A: The integrity of all perimeter fencing shall be monitored by the owner, or authorized representative, on a weekly basis and recorded on the Fence Inspection Log Sheet.

Q: How often do I turn in my Inventory Form?

A: Inventory forms are turned in once per year. Forms are due by January 15th each year for the previous calendar year (January to December) inventory.

Q: Does my animal need to be tagged?

A: Each animal must be tagged with two (2) forms of identification: one official (state tag) and one visible (at least 1 1/8 inch in diameter). The electronic ID tags provided by USDA-APHIS meet the visible requirement. State issued tuberculosis (TB) tags and electronic ID tags are both official tags.

***NOTE:** Ranch facilities that cannot tag all their animals due to natural reproduction in the facility must have additional biosecurity measures in place (electronic gate or double gate system) and have a disease testing plan on file with the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA).

Q: Do I have to keep records for my facility?

A: Facility records must be kept on site for all cervidae included in the herd, regardless of species. Availability of a record-keeping system must be demonstrated during a preregistration inspection prior to approval of a registration. See “Operational Standards for Privately-Owned Cervidae Producers” for what must be included in facility records regarding each animal.

Q: What do I do if one of my animals escape?

A: You must contact DNR at 1-800-292-7800 (or 517-241-2733) and MDA at 1-800-292-3939 within 24 hours of discovery of release. The DNR will evaluate the cause of release and help determine a recovery plan. If the animal is recovered in less than 48 hours, it must be placed in an isolation facility away from all other animals and MDA must be consulted. If the animal is out for more than 48 hours, it must be culled and submitted for testing.

Q: How often will my facility be audited?

A: DNR will do an audit of your facility every three (3) years, or whenever your registration is up for renewal (every three (3) years).

Q: What do I do if I want to go out of business and get rid of my animals?

A: By law, you must notify the DNR and a biologist will work with you to decommission your facility according to the “Operational Standards for Privately-Owned Cervidae”, which includes a walk-through of the facility to determine that there are no cervids remaining and taking down the fence (or putting breaks in it) if it is longer than a quarter mile in length.
