



Michigan Chronic Wasting Disease Certification Program (Updated July 2013)

Section No. 1 -- Definitions

“Administrator” is the administrator of USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) or any employee of APHIS who is authorized to act for the administrator.

“Certification program” is the CWD certification program created in sections 3 and 4 of this policy, which has been approved and reviewed by USDA as stated in 9 CFR part 55 subpart B, Control of Chronic Wasting Disease. Herds that successfully complete five years of the program with no evidence of disease will be designated as certified and will be allowed to move interstate.

“Cervidae” or **“cervid”** refers to all members of the cervidae family including deer, elk, moose, caribou, reindeer, and related species and hybrids thereof.

“Chronic Wasting Disease” (CWD) - A transmissible spongiform encephalopathy of cervids.

“Commingle” - Animals that have had direct contact with each other or have less than 30 feet of physical separation, or share management equipment, pasture, or water resources/watershed.

“CWD Exposed Herd” - A herd in which a CWD positive animal has resided within five years before that animal's diagnosis as CWD positive, as determined by APHIS or the state veterinarian.

“CWD Positive Cervid” - An animal that has had a diagnosis of CWD established through official confirmatory testing conducted by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL).

“CWD Positive Herd” - A herd in which a CWD positive animal resided at the time it was diagnosed.

“CWD Suspect Animal” - An animal for which the state veterinarian or APHIS employee has determined that a preliminary laboratory test from an approved lab or clinical signs suggest a diagnosis of CWD, but for which official confirmatory laboratory results have been inconclusive, or not yet conducted.

“Herd” - A group of animals that are under common ownership or supervision and are grouped on one or more premises. A group of animals that are under common ownership or supervision which have been geographically separated but which animals have been interchanged or had direct or indirect contact with each other. A group of animals that have been comingled.

“Herd Inventory” A record of all animals in the herd, which must include all identification, birth date, species, sex, date of acquisition, date of removal, date and cause of death, and CWD sample submission (and results) for each animal in the herd.

“High Risk Animal” - A cervid that may have been exposed to CWD. The state veterinarian shall determine which animals are high risk animals based on an epidemiological investigation that includes evaluation of animal movements, housing, location, and probable contacts with CWD positive privately owned cervidae, or CWD positive wild cervidae.

“Identification” A device or means of animal identification approved by APHIS for use in the Certification Program to uniquely identify individual animals.

“Non-natural addition” An animal that was not born into a herd, but purchased or otherwise acquired from a different herd.

“Official Laboratory” - A laboratory approved by USDA APHIS to test samples for CWD. The state veterinarian will designate the laboratory to which samples for the Michigan CWD Certification Program shall be directed for testing.

“Physical Herd Inventory” All animals in the herd must be restrained and individual identification is recorded for each animal.

Michigan Chronic Wasting Disease Certification Program

July 1, 2013

“Presumptive Positive Test” - The result of a CWD laboratory test conducted at an approved laboratory that may be interpreted as positive but that must be confirmed positive by NVSL.

“Privately Owned Cervidae” - Members of the cervid family that are privately or publicly maintained or held for economic or other purposes within a perimeter fence or confined area.

“Quarantine” - means enforced isolation of any animal or groups of animals or restriction of movement of an animal, group of animals, equipment, or vehicles to or from any structure, premises, or area of this state including the entirety of the state.

“State Veterinarian” - means the chief animal health official of the state as appointed by the director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), or his or her authorized representative.

“Trace-back Herd” – A herd in which a CWD-positive animal has resided in any of the 60 months before diagnosis of CWD in the positive herd.

“Trace-Forward Herd” – A herd that has received exposed animals from a CWD-positive herd within 60 months before the diagnosis of CWD in the positive herd or from the identified point of entry of CWD into the positive herd.

Section No. 2 – Official Test

1. Any official test for Chronic Wasting Disease must be conducted at a laboratory approved by the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service. The state veterinarian will designate the laboratory to which samples shall be directed for the Michigan Certification Program.
2. All tests for CWD required by this program or conducted pursuant to this policy must be official tests. The result of a test for CWD that is not an official test will not be used to determine compliance with this policy.

Records

1. All records required to be kept by this program shall be kept by the owner while the herd is active in the CWD Certification program, and for not less than seven years after.

Section No. 3 – Herd Registration

The owner of any cervid herd located in Michigan must meet the following requirements:

1. Each privately owned cervid herd must be registered with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as required by the *Privately Owned Cervidae Market Producers Act, Act 190 PA 2000, as amended*.
2. Every animal in the herd must be officially identified with an official identification as described in *Operational Standards for Registered Privately Owned Cervid Facilities (OS/POC), as amended*, and also in accordance with *9 CFR Part 55.25*.
3. The owner must keep a record of each animal in a manner prescribed by *OS/POC, as amended*, and also in accordance with *9 CFR Part 55.25*.

Section No. 4 – Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program Participation

A owner of any cervid herd located in Michigan may obtain a chronic wasting disease certification status of the herd from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development by complying with the following requirements:

1. The owner of the herd must submit a request application approved by the state veterinarian for participation in the certification program.
2. Every animal in the herd must be officially identified with two animal identifications for each individual.

Michigan Chronic Wasting Disease Certification Program

July 1, 2013

- a. One of these animal identifications must be a nationally unique official animal identification approved by APHIS, and must be a tamper resistant ear tag (electronic or metal), electronic implant (with a reader available at all times), or a legible ear tattoo (breed registration tattoos only).
- b. The second animal identification must be unique for the individual animal within the herd. Both forms of ID must be reported on the annual inventory.
- c. Each animal in the herd must be identified before reaching 12 months of age. Any animal that leaves a premises must have official identification regardless of age, and all animals included in an inventory report must be identified prior to submission of the inventory report.

For non-natural additions: If an animal added to the herd will have a duplicate management tag, the management tag should be replaced or altered to make it unique to the herd. The owner of the herd will be required to document the previous visible ID along with the new visible ID tag on the initial inventory for that herd addition.

3. The owner must keep a record of each animal that is added to the herd and each animal that is removed from the herd. The owner must provide the state veterinarian a written herd inventory including each animal's identification annually and upon request of the state veterinarian. Included in that inventory must be the origin of all animals added since the last inventory. **Satisfactory inventory is due by the anniversary date of enrollment in the herd certification program to prevent suspension or loss of status.**
 - a. If a complete inventory is not received and satisfactory by the anniversary date, status will be suspended. During this time, animals **cannot** be sold as having a CWD status level.
 - b. After two months of suspension, if satisfactory inventories have not been received, status and participation in the program will be revoked.
 - c. If status is revoked, the herd owner may choose to reapply. If, after review, the application is approved, herd status will begin at Level One Status.
4. The owner must present each animal in the herd to the state veterinarian for inspection and verification of identification upon entry into the certification program.
 - a. A complete **physical herd inventory** must be performed for all enrolled herds every three years. A complete physical inventory must provide verification to reconcile all deer and the two required forms of identification with the records maintained by the owner. An accredited veterinarian, state, or federal personnel can perform the **physical herd** inventory.
 - b. The owner must present the entire herd for inspection where an accredited veterinarian can:
 1. Safely read all ID on each animal in the herd.
 2. Handle an animal for inspection.
 3. Run cervids through a chute when necessary.
 - c. Each producer must make an appointment with an accredited veterinarian or state or federal personnel for a **visual inspection** of the herd each year that a complete physical inventory is NOT completed. The herd will be observed for signs of illness or injury, and the facility will be inspected to ensure that fencing remains adequate to prevent ingress or egress of cervids, and minimize direct contact between privately owned and free ranging cervids. Fencing records and inventory records may be briefly examined at that time. Please note that you will be required to submit your herd inventory to the MDARD office for reconciliation each year.
5. Upon the death of an animal in the herd, 12 months and older, or of an age determined by the state veterinarian, for any reason, the owner shall have the animal tested for CWD. The tissue samples to be collected shall include obex and medial retropharyngeal lymph node. The tissue samples must be collected by one of the following: an accredited veterinarian, an official laboratory, a veterinarian employed by the state or federal government. The owner shall dispose of the remaining carcass according to the Bodies of Dead Animals Act (PA239 of 1982),

Michigan Chronic Wasting Disease Certification Program

July 1, 2013

or as directed by the state veterinarian.

6. The owner shall pay for any fees associated with testing an animal from his or her herd for chronic wasting disease including any fees necessary for tissue collection and laboratory diagnostic costs. The state veterinarian may allow the owner to utilize state or federal funds, if applicable, to pay for the costs of testing for CWD in lieu of the herd owner paying for testing.
7. The owner must make available each animal in the herd to state or federal personnel as needed for disease investigations or trace back purposes.
8. All handling and feeding equipment and facilities of the certified animals cannot be shared with animals of a lower status. If this occurs, all animals will assume status of the lowest status animal.
9. Exceptions to the testing requirement in section 4(a) (5) may be made by the state veterinarian for extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the owner, and if an epidemiological evaluation of the herd indicates that testing the deceased animal would not further the goal of chronic wasting disease surveillance and control.

The state veterinarian shall consider the length of time the herd has been in the surveillance program, the herd's health history, the potential effects of any additions to the herd, and the potential exposure to the POC herd from wild cervids when considering exceptions under this subsection.

Section No. 5 -- Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program Status

1. A cervid herd owner may receive the following chronic wasting disease herd status while participating in the chronic wasting disease certification program described in this section:
 - a. Level One (First Year) - Status begins when all required paperwork has been received and approved by MDARD - Animal Industry Division
 - b. Level Two (Second Year) - Status is granted after one year of participation, with no positive samples.
 - c. Level Three (Third Year) - Status is granted after two years of participation with no positive samples
 - d. Level Four (Fourth Year) - Status is granted after three years of participation with no positive samples.
 - e. Level Five (Fifth Year) - Status is after four years of participation with no positive samples.
 - f. CWD Certified - Status is granted after five or more years of participation with no positive samples.
 - g. "Pending Status" may be assigned to the herd if the program has not been followed and/or the herd has potentially been exposed to CWD.
2. If an animal is added to a herd in the CWD certification program, the program status of a herd will be altered as follows:
 - a. The CWD program status will not change if the animal that is added to the herd originated from a herd that has a CWD program status equal to or greater than that of the recipient herd.
 - b. If the animal that is added to the herd originated from a herd that has a CWD program status lower than that of the recipient herd, the recipient herd's CWD program status will be lowered to that of the lowest status cervid added.
3. A newly assembled herd shall assume the CWD program status of the herd from which the animals originated. If the new herd is assembled from more than one herd, it shall assume the CWD program status of the old herd with the lowest status if the following criteria are met:

Michigan Chronic Wasting Disease Certification Program

July 1, 2013

- a. The owner applies for the status transfer within 30 days of assembling the herd. Herds are given 18 months from the time the first animal is moved to their facility to assemble the herd.
 - b. If the application is made after 30 days of herd assembly, the herd will be given Level One status (if all requirements for Level One are met).
4. All escapees must be reported to MDARD **immediately**. Reintroducing escapees into your facility will drop your CWD program status to Level One.

The APHIS administrator, or the state veterinarian may suspend, revoke, or lower the CWD program status of a herd if the herd owner does not meet the requirements under this section, violates any provision of this rule, or the herd has exposure to a high risk animal or herd.

Section No. 6 - CWD Positive Cervid

1. Whenever an animal is determined to be CWD positive, the state veterinarian and the designated CWD epidemiologist shall conduct a complete epidemiological investigation to determine the specific cause and source of the disease and to determine the population infected with and exposed to the disease.
2. Whenever a cervid is determined to be positive for chronic wasting disease the following apply:
 - a. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources/Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Surveillance and Response Plan for CWD will be activated.
 - b. Whole Herd Depopulation
 - i. Cervid depopulation of the entire premises is the preferred option for response to CWD-positive herds.
 - ii. Designated CWD-positive and exposed animals that are depopulated must be tested and disposed of according to VS guidelines for CWD carcass disposal (Section B 2 and Appendix V of these Program Standards) and all applicable Federal, State, and local regulations.
 - iii. A herd plan will be developed and must also include a premises plan because of possible environmental contamination. Premises plans include cleaning and disinfecting actions, future land use in terms of restocking, maintenance of fencing to prohibit access by wild cervids, and the time period for surveillance of the premises.
 - c. The state veterinarian may consider options other than whole herd depopulation in consultation with the CWD epidemiologist, as noted in the National CWD Program Standards.

Section No. 7 – CWD Exposed Cervid(s)

1. Trace forward herds.
 - a. Removal and testing of the exposed animal(s) with indemnity if available.
 - i. If the exposed animal is positive the entire herd is considered positive.
 - ii. If the exposed animal is negative, routine surveillance would continue.
2. Trace back herds.

Michigan Chronic Wasting Disease Certification Program

July 1, 2013

- i. Monthly inspection by State or Federal personnel with removal and CWD testing of any suspect animals. Disposal of these animals must follow a herd plan approved by the state veterinarian and the designated CWD epidemiologist.
- ii. Quarantine of the herd for 60 months from the last case traced back to the herd.
- iii. Herd surveillance (mandatory death reporting and CWD testing of all age animals) will be conducted during the quarantine and will continue for 60 months from the date the CWD positive animal left the herd.
- iv. If the positive animal in the designated CWD positive herd is a natural addition, the origins of all purchased animals for the previous 60 months will be evaluated to locate a possible source herd for introduction of the CWD infection.

Section No. 8 -- Cervid Importation

A. National CWD Program Requirements Regarding Importation

1. No farmed or captive deer elk, moose, or other *Cervus*, *Odocoileus*, and *Alces* species or their hybrids may move interstate unless the animals meet the following requirements:
 - a. For animals in the national CWD HCP: The animal is enrolled in the national CWD HCP and the herd has achieved Certified status.
 - b. The animal must also be accompanied by a certificate issued in accordance with 9 CFR 81.4 that identifies its herd of origin and states that the animal has achieved Certified status, and that the animal does not show clinical signs associated with CWD.
2. Animals being imported must be accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) or interstate health certificate (HC). The CVI or HC must contain the following information:
 - a. Consignor and herd of origin with complete address and premises identification.
 - b. CWD HCP Status
 - c. Total number of animals being moved
 - d. Purpose of movement
 - e. Consignee and point of destination with complete address.
 - f. Identification for each animal in the shipment.
 - g. A statement that the animals are not known to be from a CWD exposed or CWD suspect herd. The veterinarian must also certify that the animals were not exhibiting clinical signs of disease at the time of examination.

B. Michigan CWD Program Requirements Regarding Importation

1. *Cervids* to be imported into Michigan must also meet the following requirements:
 - a. Must originate from a herd that is bovine Tuberculosis (TB) accredited.
 - b. Must, if 6 months of age or older (per PA 466 of 1988 Animal Industry Act), have a negative brucellosis test within 30 days prior to importation or originate from a certified Brucellosis free herd.
2. *Facilities* requesting importation of animals must meet the following requirements:

Michigan Chronic Wasting Disease Certification Program

July 1, 2013

- a. Herd has attained CWD "Certified" status and the current herd owner must have participated in the program for at least 36 months.
 - b. Herd must be bovine Tuberculosis (TB) accredited.
3. Additional requirements for cervids being imported, and for facilities requesting importation, are available in the importation requirements for privately owned cervids and reindeer.

For Applications and Questions,

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