

MDARD and DNR Roles

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) work together to manage Michigan's privately owned cervid (POC) program and assist Michigan cervid producers.

MDARD

MDARD manages the disease programs for the state's POC facilities. Participation in the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Programs ensures the ability to market cervids within the state and over state borders - making for a more robust cervid industry.

Importations of cervids into Michigan is allowed by permit on a case-by-case basis and only permitted between herds enrolled in the CWD and TB programs.

DNR

The DNR oversees POC registration and performs inspections of POC facilities. Proper maintenance of POC facilities is critical to protecting Michigan's free-ranging and privately owned cervid herds.

Any new or modified POC facility requires inspection, and POC facilities are inspected every three years after initial registration. Facilities are inspected to ensure they are observing good biosecurity, keeping proper records, and meeting disease testing requirements.

5 Steps to Becoming a Registered POC Facility in Michigan

1. Request a new applicant packet from the DNR. Review all materials and contact the DNR POC representative with any questions prior to mailing.
2. Consider contacting your township office to determine if any local criteria need to be met.
3. Submit your packet, along with any fees, to the address provided on the forms, and the DNR will contact you for a pre-construction site visit after your packet arrives. Once the site visit is completed and the DNR approves, you will be given permission to begin construction of your fencing.
4. Once your facility is complete, notify the DNR, and a representative will return to your farm to verify the fencing is built to the proper standards, and that no wild deer remain inside the enclosure.
5. Once these steps are completed, you will become registered as a POC facility.

MDNR will notify MDARD, and program information will be sent to you. Contact MDARD for a movement permit to assemble your herd!



All applications and materials related to POC licensing are available online at www.michigan.gov/wildlifepermits.

Disease Testing Programs

Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a transmissible neurological disease found in deer, moose, reindeer/caribou, and elk populations. The disease is progressive and fatal. CWD causes weight loss and a decline in body control. To date, there are no reported cases of CWD in humans, cattle, or other domestic livestock.

Currently, after an animal dies, brain and lymph node samples are submitted for testing. All POC facilities are required to submit samples. The number of samples submitted depends on the registration type and location of the facility. For more information, please visit www.michigan.gov/animaldiseases.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Bovine tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by bacteria. The disease primarily occurs in cattle, but it can also infect other animals and humans. Bovine TB mainly affects the lungs and is transmitted through respiratory secretions between infected and healthy animals. Bovine TB exists in certain areas of Michigan in the free-ranging deer herd.

All POC facilities are required to test cervids for bovine TB prior to movement. Please refer to the USDA APHIS website and Michigan Public Act 466 for testing requirements. Contact MDARD with any questions.

Registration and Fees

In order to register your cervid herd in Michigan, you have to pay a \$250 non-refundable application fee and either a \$250 inspection fee (40 acres or less) or a \$500 inspection fee (if over 40 acres).

When you register, you will also have to pay a registration fee based on “class type.” Each class type has varying restrictions, and it is important to decide on the class type when planning for your facility. You can register your herd as Exhibition, Ranch, or Full - depending on what you would like to do with your cervids.

Facilities must renew their registration every three years.

Type	Cost	Restrictions
Exhibition (Class II)	\$450	No live animals can be sold and all animals older than 12 mos. need tags.
Ranch (Class III)	\$750	No live animals leave; purchased animals must meet animal health requirement.
Full Registration (Class IV)	\$750	All animals older than 12 mos. need tags. Class IV can breed, buy, and sell animals.



For more information on POC facilities in Michigan, please contact:

Ryan Soulard (DNR)

Privately Owned Cervid Program Coordinator

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MDARD Cervid Program

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*For more cervid resources, please visit:
www.michigan.gov/mdard/animals/cervids*



www.michigan.gov/dnr

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