

Wildlife Risk Mitigation Program

Standards & Guidelines

April 2024

Primary Standard 1: Regardless of the specifics of a Wildlife Risk Mitigation (WRM) or Enhanced Wildlife Biosecurity (EWB) Plan if the plan in place to implement a standard is not effective in mitigating a risk, additional actions need to be implemented that are effective in mitigating the risk.

Primary Standard 2: If a plan includes the use of a feed storage, feeding site, or complete cattle enclosure fence or barn, gates and all other access points must be kept closed except when actively in use. Actively in use means a gate is left open for less than 60 consecutive minutes, or the gate is left open for longer than 60 consecutive minutes but someone is actively exiting or entering through the gate at an interval of less than 60 minutes. In no case can a gate at a location that does not have ongoing human presence or activity be left open unless there is active ongoing entering or exiting through the gate.

This standard is intended to apply to exterior fencing intended to contain cattle to the premises or to any fencing intended to exclude deer and elk from access.

Definitions:

Feed includes, but is not limited to, grains, forages, haylage, silage, salt, minerals, fruit, vegetables, and any other items that are or could be fed or presented orally to animals. Feed also includes any items to which animals are or could be orally exposed, regardless of whether the items are intended to be orally ingested by animals (such as straw used for bedding).

Deer Attractants includes any items which could encourage or attract deer onto a farm or onto or near an area where cattle are kept or have access. This includes, but is not limited to fruit trees and orchards, animal feeds, vegetable gardens, and crop fields where forages or grains have recently been harvested.

Spilled grain is considered an attractant and must be immediately and completely cleaned up unless the area is contained within a structure that excludes deer and elk access.

Standard 1: Cattle must be excluded from areas which provide good deer habitat.

Cattle are not permitted to have access at any time to:

1. Areas which provide good deer cover,
2. Pastures with unprotected fruit trees,
3. Areas with gates, fences, or other structures which are inadequate to contain the cattle or to prevent cattle having access to unapproved areas,
4. Areas which contain Deer Attractants,

5. Swamps, wetlands, or other areas which provide conditions for the sustained survival of *M. bovis*.

Areas which are approved for use by cattle will be specified on the WRM or EWB Plan Map.

Standard 2: Frequency of feeding

Feed may only be offered to cattle using one of the following methods:

1. Feeding a volume of feed so that all feed is consumed at one feeding (typically 3-4 hours), or
2. Using a method where cattle are confined to a small area and are continuously in immediate proximity of the feed, or
3. Having feed offered continuously, but in an area where deer are excluded from the feeding location.

In any instance if a feeding site or the presented feed is being accessed by deer or elk the method must be changed so that the feed and feeding area cannot be accessed by deer or elk.

The approved feeding location will be specified on the WRM or EWM Plan Map.

Standard 3: Feeding location

Cattle must be fed within buildings, within fenced feeding enclosures capable of preventing deer intrusions (8-foot fences), or fed at least 100 yards from deer cover.

The approved feeding locations will be specified on the WRM or EWB Plan Map.

Standard 4: Feed must be stored in a way that prevents access by deer.

Farms which have demonstrated moderate or heavy pressure from deer must have their feed stored in a sealed container or in an area which excludes access by deer or elk.

Farms which have demonstrated a low deer pressure may store feed in an area that is at least 100 yards from deer habitat and regularly monitored for deer access. On such farms feed may be protected by physical barriers or by storage in areas of the farm with heavy human traffic and where the exposed portions of the feed are in routine sight of farm staff.

In any instance if a feed storage site is being accessed by deer or elk the method must be changed so that the feed cannot be accessed by deer or elk.

The approved feed storage location(s) and method(s) will be specified on the WRM or EWB Plan map.

Standard 5: Harvested feed must be removed from fields and stored in accordance with feed storage requirements.

All hay must be off the fields by November 15th.

Any harvested hay that is being accessed by deer or elk must be removed into storage immediately, regardless of time of year. In such a case the method and timing of removal and storage of harvested hay to be used in the future to prevent access by deer or elk must be included in the WRM or EWB Plan.

Standard 6: Water must be provided in a way that does not allow convenient access by deer or elk, or allow congregation or co-use by cattle and deer or elk.

Cattle may water from either artificial watering systems or natural watering sources where deer are excluded from consistent or convenient access.

The location and type of approved watering source will be specified on the WRM or EWB Plan Map.

Standard 7: Storage and Disposal of agricultural by-products, waste, cull, or unmarketable commodities

Waste or spoiled commodities must be land applied and well spread to prevent wildlife congregation at a common food source. Waste or spoiled commodities may not be land applied to areas that are accessible to cattle.

In situations where a producer has agricultural commodities, such as cull potatoes, and raises cattle, spoiled commodities must be spread in a manner which will not attract deer or elk.