



DNR-BAH WTD Co-Authority Update

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DNR Concurrent Authority Project Plan: Implementation

- DNR creates a Project plan to analyze the deer farming industry.
- As of July 1st, 2021, there was a total of approximately 176 WTD farms across the state. **Less than 150 WTD farms currently in the state.*
- DNR Identifies a 6-month goal to inspect a minimum of 40 WTD farms.
- Numerous meetings between DNR-BAH coordinators to establish how concurrent authority will work,
- Biosecurity PPE and other needed equipment purchased.
- Identify how DNR staff will attend WTD farm inspections with BAH staff to learn in the field.



This is a picture of the fence the DNR put up around the CWD contaminated area in Beltrami County.

DNR Concurrent Authority Process to date

- Created DNR Deer farm Inspection form to capture data.
- Worked with TraceFirst to develop viable option for DNR to have access to CoreOne RMS WTD data. Purchased CoreOne System.
- Trained additional Wildlife and Enforcement staff to assist in doing WTD farm inspections.
- Participating in the indemnification and depopulation process for WTD farms with CWD exposures or confirmations.



DNR Concurrent Authority Process to Date- (Future Planning)

- Get DNR staff trained and learning the CoreOne system.
- Continue doing WTD Farm Inspections until new direction is given by Legislature after report
- Train additional DNR staff to assist in future WTD Farm Program. (data entry staff, inspection staff, MNIT staff, etc.)



Picture of WTD carcass from deer farm as found by producer after potential depredation by coyote.

New CWD Incident During Co-Authority Management

- On 09/26/2021, MN DNR was made aware of potentially CWD exposed deer that were imported from a CWD positive herd in Wisconsin.
- BAH confirmed that 3 MN deer farms have received deer directly from the WI farm.
- Risks of the 380+ remaining deer shipped to other state's unknown if they had entered or passed through Minnesota deer farms.



The screenshot shows a news article on the Minnesota DNR website. The navigation bar includes links for HOME, TRADE ASSOCIATION, CONSUMER RESOURCES, TRADE SCHOOL, and TRADE IN. The article title is "Maple Hill Farms has sold at least 387 deer to 40 facilities in seven states" by Christina S. Austin, dated September 26, 2021. Below the title are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest. The main image shows a group of deer with large antlers in a grassy field enclosed by a wire fence.

Temporary Movement Restriction-Series of Events

- MN DNR was made aware of the positive CWD deer farm on September 26th, 2021. 4 deer tested positive on the Infected Farm.
- MN BAH confirmed the location/disposition of the 5 deer imported directly to MN. 1 deer was still alive, and that farm was quarantined after DNR inquiry into the news article. ***MN BAH did not know the CWD status of the live deer until 11/04/2021.
- DNR Places stop movement order on 10/11/2021 in order to Investigate disposition of the remaining 382 deer sold from the positive CWD farm.
- WI sends a complete list of the deer from the positive CWD Deer Farm on 10/28/2021 to BOTH MN DNR and BAH.
 - 174 deer who were sold within Wisconsin. 94 of the deer were not tested, 3 tested were confirmed "Positive CWD"
 - 20 WTD were sold to Illinois, no deer had been tested (according to WI records).
 - 44 WTD were sold to Kansas, no deer had been tested (according to WI records). Discrepancies on some deer if sold to KS or still on original farm.
 - 5 WTD were sold to Minnesota, 4 dead, 1 alive. Quarantined and tested after Indemnity. All tested negative.
 - 9 WTD were sold to North Dakota, 6 dead and tested negative, 3 alive and not tested (according to WI records).
 - 146 WTD were sold to Oklahoma, no deer had been tested (according to WI records). Hunt facilities not required to test deer that are killed.
 - 11 WTD were sold to Pennsylvania, all deer dead, none had been tested.
- Total deer sold/exported from CWD Positive Farm: 409 Total deer sold/exported that had not been tested: 318, **77% of total deer sold untested**

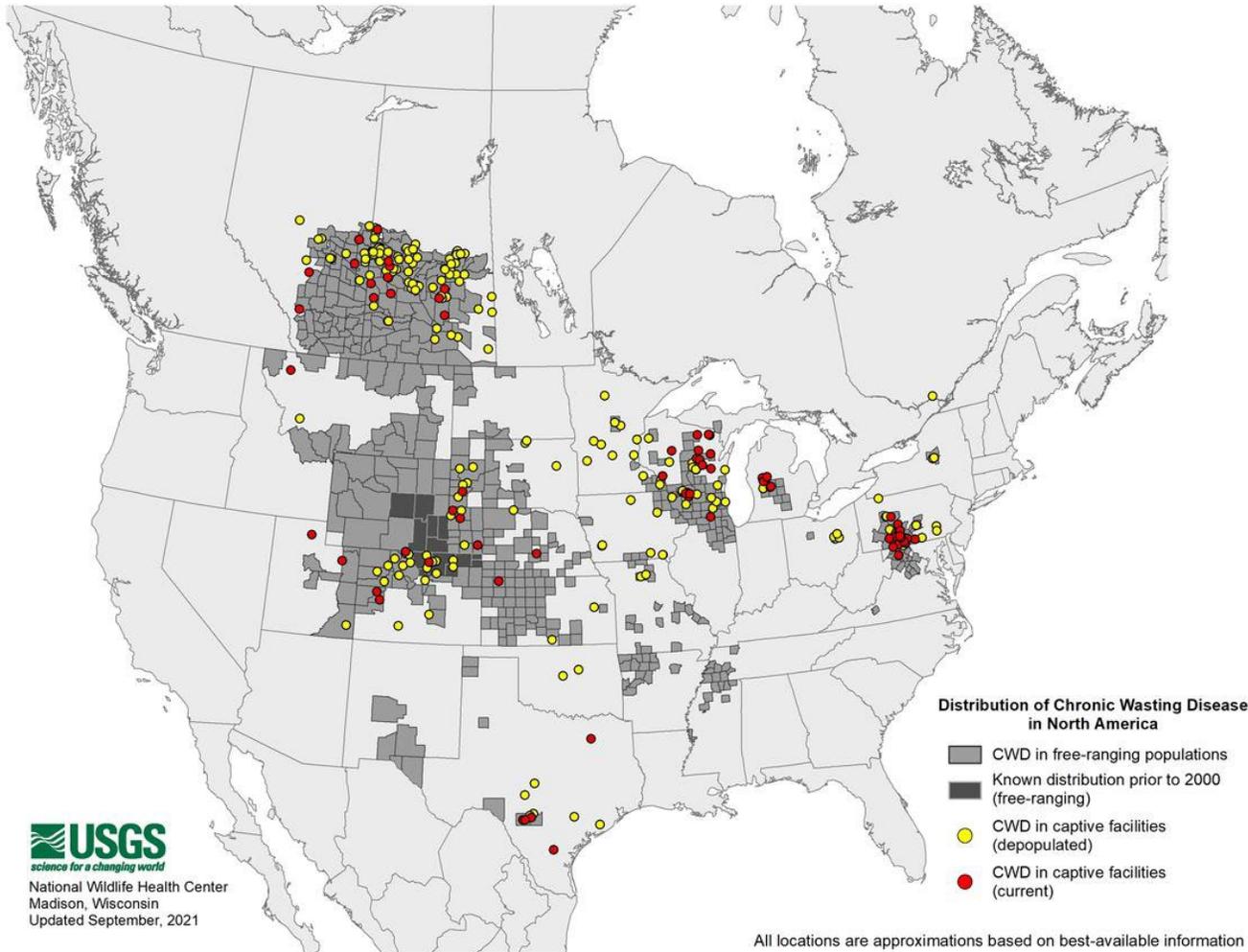
Temporary Movement Restriction-Continued

- After DNR reached out to states and other government agencies, it was determined we would not be finding out if many of these deer were positive, or what other deer these deer were exposed to/penned with. (Some states do not require testing, such as OK)
- These other potentially exposed deer, if imported into the state, would not have any “official Identification” to indicate that they had been exposed to deer from the WI CWD positive farm.
- In the past 2.5 years (up to Temporary movement ban DNR placed on October 11th, 2021, MN had imported 220 CERVIDS from other states. (See MN BAH table on imports)
- Unknown if any of these deer had been exposed to deer from the WI CWD Positive Farm. This was one of the most significant reasons why a movement ban was implemented. The risk from these deer is still real, and not closed.
- DNR lifts temporary movement ban on 12/06/2021.

Movement - all cervids			
<u>Year</u>	<u>Intrastate</u>	<u>Import</u>	<u>Export</u>
2021	358	45	548
2020	985	85	1077
2019	926	90	1289

Cervid Movement in past 3 years (Up to movement restrictions) in Minnesota

Why is Interstate Movement of Farm Cervids Risky?



- CWD is currently known to exist in 28 US states and 4 Canadian provinces in North America
- Many states/provinces lack the financial resources to adequately conduct CWD surveillance of wild cervids in every county
- USDA herd certification program does not guarantee freedom from disease in a herd, only participation in CWD surveillance
 - More than half of CWD-infected herds in the US over the past 5 years had achieved the highest level in USDA's CWD Certification Program at the time of disease discovery
- Due to lack of valid ante-mortem testing, we are often behind the disease 1-2 years from exposure to detection within in a herd. Thus, exposed animals may move multiple times before CWD discovery.

Proposed changes to Farmed Cervid Importation Statute

- Temporary rule to stop movement was rescinded to allow for a permanent rule-making process to follow
- Broaden the language to disallow importation from ANY state or province where CWD has been found in either wild or farmed cervids
 - Currently, BAH only prevents importation from herds with known CWD infection or are CWD-exposed herds, as well as counties where CWD has been discovered in wild populations
- Restrict intrastate movements of deer from all herds within a CWD Management Zone, as defined by DNR, unless going direct to slaughter
 - BAH's more recent proposed rule changes allowed for certain movement of live cervids out of a CWD Management Zone to another farm outside the zone, with their approval

DNR Concurrent Authority Process to Date: Run (Future Planning)

Run Phase: Current & Future Planning:

- Submitted Legislative report by February 1st, 2022, as required.
- Identify and develop statutory and rule changes to better manage CWD.
- Continue to operate under current legislation until directed otherwise in coordination with the BAH.
- Continue to work with the BAH in coordinating Co-Authority efforts to maximize efficiency and lean into the strengths of both agencies.



Report: Concurrent Authority Regulating Farmed White-tailed Deer

As required by Minnesota Session Law 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6

02/01/2022

Legislative Audit Report-Summary

- **Inspections Compliance Findings:**

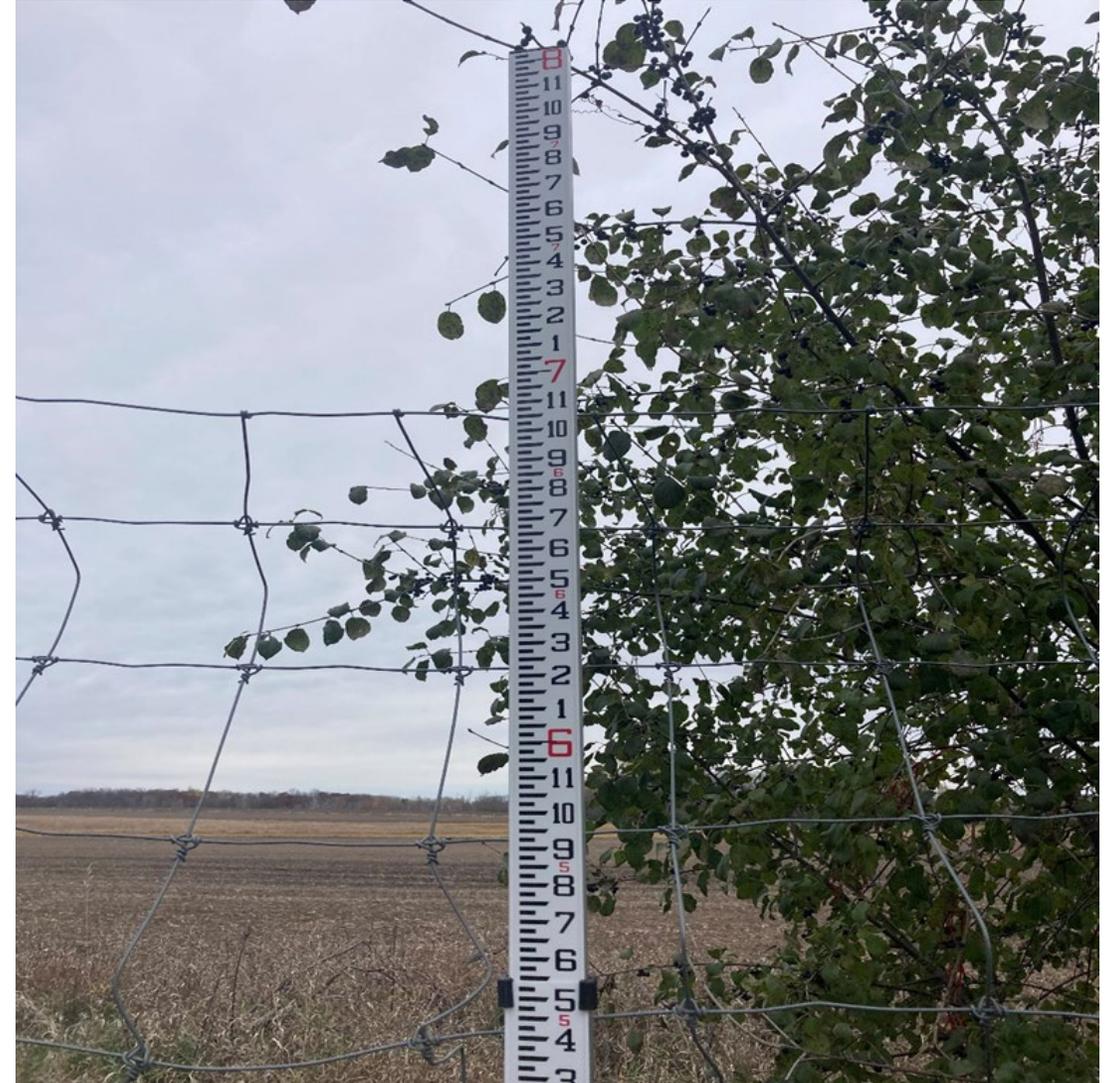
- DNR inspected 50 WTD farms with BAH. Technical violations found by agencies include:
 - 10 farms with fencing violations
 - 2 farms with gating violations
 - 2 farms with deer tagging violations
 - 2 farms with deer reporting violations
 - 1 farm with CWD testing violations
- **17 total violations found at 15 of the 50 farms inspected. 30% violation rate**

- **Deer Interaction Findings:**

- 70% of deer farms were located in areas of good deer conditions.
- 44% of deer farms had direct evidence of close or direct wild deer/farmed deer contact.
- 46% of deer farms fed and/or watered their deer on or within very close proximity to the fence. (Attract wild deer)

Inspections: Ongoing Challenges

- Clear, consistent, and disciplined inspection process must be adhered to by inspectors.
- Consistent follow through with penalties for violations must be administered.
- New inspection scheduling system must be developed to ensure compliance. (Producers decide when the inspection will take place).
- Review of current fencing, tagging, and inspection requirements. *Are these rules adequate to prevent the spread of CWD?*
- Streamlining and modernization of reporting requirements of producers is needed to keep records accurate.



Ongoing Challenges: Escaped Farmed Cervids

- In last 6 months of 2021: 8 Cervid escape incidents, 7 of which were WTD.
- 4 additional public received farmed deer escapes that couldn't be confirmed.
- In past 5 years, there have been 60 escaped Cervid incidents/reports. (158 total Cervids)
- In past 10 years, there have been 159 escaped Cervid incidents/reports.
- Work on developing a more effective reporting, response, and recovery/dispatching procedure.



Ongoing Challenges: Communication

- Continue and improve education and communication with producers. *2
Producers informed us that they would not allow DNR to inspect their facilities.
- Continue to improve communication between DNR and BAH agencies on all issues relating to CWD, deer farms, and deer farm escapes.
- Continue to educate and inform the public, hunters, user groups, and other government agencies on CWD issues. Work with both agencies to ensure consistent messaging when appropriate.

Statute/Regulations: Ongoing Challenges

- Change amount of time to correct a deficiency from 45 to 14 days.
- Require all WTD to be officially tagged within 14 days after birth. *(Currently not required until after October 31st)*
- Require all WTD facilities to have a physical inspection every 2 years to allow for reading of ear tags to improve accuracy of inventories. *(Currently required every 3 years)*
- Propose importation ban of WTD from any state or province who currently has CWD in farms or the wild. *(Currently only banned from counties with CWD confirmed in the wild)*
- Movement of deer restricted if producer fails to test any deer as required. *(Currently no such automatic restriction)*
- Require testing of all farmed WTD older than 6 months and reporting the death within 7 days. *(Currently its older than 12 months, and report within 14 days)*

Questions?

Thank you!

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