

19-01-11

Title: **QDM Trial in Florence County**

**The Problem:**

The percentage of yearling bucks killed in Florence County is significantly greater than many other benchmark areas of Wisconsin. The age structure kill has resulted in lackluster enthusiasm for the sport, lower days afield resulting in decreased revenues for conservation efforts, poor economic results in the local area, and hunter exodus from the County.

These results are not surprising since the deer hunting culture is changing. Many hunters currently desire a quality experience which equates to sighting and potentially harvesting a buck of elevated age and size. Talking with many such hunters would indicate they have not harvested a buck for many years locally and they will travel to other states or provinces to have such an experience.

**The Solution:**

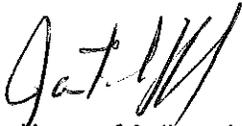
This proposal is to trial an antler point restriction of 3pts. or greater (on one side) for bucks harvested in Florence County for hunters aged 18 and over. Every state that has adopted a QDM program has decided to continue it. Not one has reversed their initial decision, which indicates the satisfaction of the results obtained. Our neighboring state to the north Michigan, which has participated for several years is a perfect example of a successful QDM program.

The Florence County trial would continue for the period of time necessary to determine if the public prefers a predominantly yearling based harvest or a harvest of higher age class animals.

Future overall deer numbers would be managed with the existing doe permit system.

**The Request:**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Florence County on April 11, 2011 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing rule change implementing an antler point restriction trial in Florence County.



Name of Author: James F. Gehlhoff  
Address: 2317 Montgomery Lake Road  
City, State, Zip Code: Florence, WI. 54121  
Name of County Introducing In: Florence

Telephone Number: 715-530-0336