

Title: Require Double Fencing for all Captive Cervid Operations

The Problem:

Chronic Wasting Disease is one of the greatest threats to Wisconsin's deer herd. It is a 100% fatal disease that most often impacts males. The infection rate of adult bucks in Iowa County is about 45%. Currently about 24 of our 72 counties have CWD, and it is expanding.

Fenced deer enclosures "captive cervid operations" are a major threat to Wisconsin's wild deer herd because deer escape these fenced enclosures which can expose wild deer to chronic wasting disease (CWD). These deer fences can fail when trees fall on them, gates are left open, or openings occur in & under fences. They can also permit nose to nose contact between captive and wild deer.

At present the DNR & Legislature have not taken adequate action to prevent these reoccurring escapes that are known to expose Wisconsin's wild deer to contaminated CWD captive deer.

Be It Resolved, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Douglas County on April 11, 2016 recommends that the Department take action to correct this critical situation by working with the Legislature to require all "captive deer, Elk & other cervid operations" to install adequate DOUBLE fencing to prevent deer escapes & to also establish a substantial penalty fine for each deer (cervid) fence escape occurrence.

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