

Title: Ban Captive Cervid Fenced Animal Operations

The Problem:

Chronic Wasting Disease is one of the greatest threats to Wisconsin's deer herd. It is a 100% fatal disease with a higher occurrence in 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 and 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.

Other states like Montana and Wyoming have taken action to prevent CWD from getting into their wild herds from captive deer, Elk and other cervid animal enclosures by banning these operations.

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 ban all captive deer, Elk, and other cervid animal farms from any and all operations.

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