

BIOSECURITY MEASURES FOR FARMED CERVIDAE FACILITIES

The following list of biosecurity measures is intended to help you do everything possible to protect your herd from infectious diseases like Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) Blue Tongue, Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, Anthrax and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Because CWD is a silent disease early on, it is impossible to identify animals that are shedding the prion before they become symptomatic. The following important biosecurity measures reduce potential exposure of captive cervids to CWD and other infectious diseases. The goal is to minimize exposure potential and to contain any outbreaks if they occur.

1. Assure that all perimeter fences are free of holes and washouts to prevent entry of wildlife or nose- to – nose contact of captive and wild cervids.
2. Place feeders away from perimeter fences and reduce or eliminate any forage around the perimeter fence so that wild cervids are not attracted to the area.
3. Consider installing an electric fence to deter wild cervids and other animals that could compromise the perimeter fence.
4. Consult State wildlife agencies for tips on reducing wild bird incursion at feeders and watering stations.
5. Remove deceased animals from the area as soon as they are discovered to deter scavengers that can translocate infectious agents.
6. Store feed and hay so that it is inaccessible to wild cervids.
7. All personnel and guests coming onto your premises should have designated boots and outerwear that are not worn anywhere else.
8. All delivery vehicles, transport vehicles, producer vehicles, tractors, skid loaders, ATV's etc. should be cleaned **prior to and after** use on other sites.
9. Ideally, all medical equipment and supplies should be disposable. Avoid using the same instruments on multiple animals. Decontaminate instruments between animals and between herds.
10. Equipment such as feeders, water troughs, chutes, buckets, antler removal equipment, bolus guns, multiple-dose syringes etc. should never be shared between herds.
11. Do not bring cervid carcasses, tissues, or byproducts onto sites where direct or indirect contact with the herd or associated equipment could occur.
12. Minimize accumulation of organic material in congregation areas (bedding, feed and manure) that could harbor infectious agents. Composting in an area that is not accessible to captive or wild cervids, may be used to dispose of organic material.
13. Closely monitor herd health and report illness or death loss to your veterinarian.
14. Make sure all animals are individually identified.
15. Establish a Veterinarian-Client-Patient- Relationship (VCPR) with a USDA accredited veterinarian who is familiar with standard husbandry and production practices for farmed cervidae.
16. Consider participation in herd health monitoring programs applicable to the type of cervidae you are keeping. The CWD Herd Certification Program is for Whitetail, Blacktail and Mule Deer, Elk, Moose, Red Deer, Reindeer/Caribou and Sika Deer. All herds can participate in the Tuberculosis Accredited Herd program and the Brucellosis Certified Herd program.