

Resolution: 04-02-2010

Submitted April 12, 2010

Title: Reasonable temporary compromise in baiting and feeding of deer: 1 gal/day.

Problem: Research shows that baiting and feeding conflicts with deer management. The Conservation Congress supports an end to deer baiting and feeding. The NRB voted unanimously to support a statewide prohibition on baiting deer and encouraged the Legislature to take action. In spite of this, the Legislature has not acted to prohibit baiting. **This resolution offers a temporary compromise that can help ease the problems created by baiting until the Legislature chooses to prohibit it completely.** Present law allows 2 gallons per day but this amount is arbitrary and not based on any acceptable scientific study regarding the proper amount of bait that should be allowed.

Rationale:

1. 'Grouping' of deer near feed points results in risk of Tuberculosis, CWD and other disease transmission.
2. Baiting and feeding complicates good deer management and reduces deer populations in areas once abundant with deer.
3. Bucks become 'nocturnal' and only come into feed areas after dark rather than foraging during daylight hours.
4. Congregating of deer and other prey puts them at greater risk of predation by predators.
5. Young hunters no longer learn outdoor skills but now just sit over bait.
6. 'Relocating' deer in small areas results in many other hunters not seeing deer throughout the season.

Rather than 2 gallons per day, allowing 1 gallon per day of bait will attract deer, yet greatly reduce the above 6 negative factors.

26 counties now successfully prohibit deer baiting altogether. Reducing the allowed quantity in the remaining 46 counties would not be a burden.

Whereas, in spite of overwhelming research that shows baiting and feeding conflicts with traditional hunting and good deer management and the WCC supports an end to deer baiting and feeding and whereas the Legislature has not moved to eliminate deer baiting, and, whereas, the present 2 gallons per day could be reduced to 1, thus still allowing hunters to place bait,

Solution: Be it therefore resolved that, until such time as deer baiting and is prohibited by the Wisconsin Legislature, the amount of deer bait presently allowed be reduced by half to 1 gallon/day.

Be it further resolved that, if this compromise is not applied to the counties that now allow baiting, then it, at the very least, should be applied as a research project for Bayfield County.

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