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Title: The time frame during which Ag Tag Deer are harvested needs to be restructured.

**The Problem:**

The period of time over which Ag Tag Deer are harvested is, for the most part unrestricted. Ag Tag Deer are supposed to be antlerless only. Unfortunately after bucks shed their antlers, starting in late December, they are vulnerable to be killed as antlerless AG Tag Deer. Also deer by nature yard up during periods of stressful or survival challenging winter weather often times near a food source. These yarded up deer represent a population from a large area that when spread out are often times within, or below the carrying capacity of their normal dispersion.

The Ag Tag Program was developed to help spot control deer populations in areas where deer predation to agricultural crops is excessive.

At present, farmers who are experiencing deer damage to their crops may apply for and receive Ag Tag Permits to harvest troublesome antlerless deer. Ag Tag Deer may be taken at anytime of the year. It is a very effective and valuable spot specific deer management tool. However, there needs to be some harvest time limitations.

Unquestionably, one of the best ways to control deer in problem areas is to harvest does, not bucks. A time frame that allows bucks to be harvested as a Ag Tag Deer after they have lost their antlers is doing very little to help control deer density or project a positive image of the Wisconsin deer hunter.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at it's annual meeting held in Jackson County on (April 12, 2010) insists that the Department of Natural Resources correct this problem by restructuring the time frame during which Ag Tag Deer may be taken to July 31<sup>st</sup> to the first weekend following December 31<sup>st</sup> with the exception of service men and women who due to military service commitments miss the deer season of that year. In this instance they would be eligible for special permits to be used, at land owner discretion, on AG Tag eligible properties. This would protect bucks after antler shedding, prevent over harvest at a most stressful time of the year, and still allow ample time to harvest Ag Tag deer.

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