

**6:00 p.m.**

Wednesday November 18, 2015

Deer farm fence regulations meeting

Comfort Suites

N5780 Kinney Rd, Portage, WI 53901

**Contact:** Scott Loomans (608) 267-2452 or Matt O'Brien (608) 264-9230

**Detailed information:** The department is developing rule changes to deer farm fence regulations through emergency Board Order WM-14-15(E) and permanent Board Order WM-13-15. The department will continue to maintain rule oversight of fences for farm-raised white-tailed deer but, through this rule-making process, is investigating ways to eliminate what may be incentives to illegally release captive deer to the wild. Following a short presentation, the department invites members of the public and representatives of interested organizations to share ideas and provide input that will help with developing these rules.

[Agenda](#) [This is a link that would go to the agenda below]

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N5780 Kinney Rd, Portage, WI 53901

**Attendees:** Representatives of the Department of Natural Resources bureau's of Law Enforcement and Wildlife Management. All members of the public and representatives of interested organizations are invited to attend.

**Purpose of the meeting:** The department is developing rule changes to deer farm fence regulations through emergency Board Order WM-14-15(E) and permanent Board Order WM-13-15. The department invites members of the public and representatives of interested organizations to share ideas and provide input that will help with developing these rules.

**Background information:** Under current Department regulations, the type of fencing a licensed deer farmer is required to maintain depends upon whether the licensee is enrolled in DATCP's herd status program. New USDA regulations are being adopted which will change herd status eligibility criteria. Individuals who are currently enrolled in the herd status program must comply with the new eligibility criteria to maintain their fences as is. Individuals who are unable to meet the new eligibility criteria will be required to install double or solid fencing. Both options could result in significant costs to licensees. Farmers who are not able to comply with new USDA/DATCP regulations and are not able to

build an additional fence may have limited options for disposing of their deer. The department is concerned about the illegal release of deer.

So that owners do not need to dispose of their deer, the rules could eliminate the requirement for white-tailed deer farms to comply with either of the following as a condition of their fence certificate: enrollment in the chronic wasting disease herd status program which is administered by the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection or, for farms greater than 80 acres in size, testing 10% of deer that die annually and submit those results to the natural resources department. The Department would still issue fence certificates, which would indicate whether a facility was enclosed by a single fence, doubled fence, or solid fence, according to standards already established in NR16. The chronic wasting disease and other testing requirements established under ATCP 10 would still be in effect. Farms not participating in the herd status program administered by agriculture department would not be allowed to export live deer.

### **Agenda**

1. Introductions.
2. Background information presented by department staff.
3. Opportunities for public input. Testimony may be limited to five minutes if necessary to assure time for everyone interested in speaking.