

Public Action Team Implementation Proposal

Action Team: <b>Herd Health/CWD</b>	<b>Parking Lot #4</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted	Deer Trustee Report Page #N/A

**I. ORIGINAL PARKING LOT ITEM**

Reducing risk of new CWD introductions in WI needs to include control of human-facilitated spread of CWD prion.

**II. PUBLIC ACTION TEAM PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE PARKING LOT ITEM**

Below is the Public Action Team implementation proposal along with their rationale and supporting evidence, potential implementation obstacles and consideration of the proposal's potential impact on the overall deer management in Wisconsin.

1. Action Team Implementation Proposal:

WI's CWD management needs to include:

- Reducing the risk of spread of CWD from farmed cervids to wild cervids by continuing mandatory CWD surveillance on all WI deer farms (implemented by accredited veterinarians), mandatory depopulation and premise management of CWD-affected farms, and rigorous prevention and management of farmed cervid escapes (including financial responsibility by producers for the government costs of escape management).
- Regulation of the movement and disposal of carcasses and carcass parts from deer harvested in CWD-affected areas (the intent is to reduce the potential for infectious material to be left on the landscape).
- Appropriate limitations on licensing so that taxidermy, deer rehabilitation, and deer farming activities cannot happen at the same facility.

2. Supporting data, references, rationale and other information behind it.

To achieve the goal of limiting spread of CWD to new areas in WI, we need to do more than manage spread of infection in wild deer populations; we also need to reduce the risk of human-facilitated new introductions of CWD:

1. Deer farms are a proven source of new introductions of CWD to wild deer populations; CWD has been repeatedly found on WI deer farms. There needs to be continued attention to surveillance and control of CWD on WI deer farms and management to guard against mixing of farmed and wild deer.
2. Carcass exposure is a proven route of CWD infection for deer; therefore controlling how people move and dispose of carcasses of harvested deer is a prudent part of CWD risk management.
3. In at least one case where CWD was found in a new area (New York), it is suspected that the source was a facility where taxidermy (of cervids harvested in other states) and deer rehabilitation/release were both practiced. To reduce this risk for introductions of CWD in new areas, cross-licensing of facilities for taxidermy, rehabilitation, or deer-farming should not be allowed.



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### 3. Consider and describe potential implementation obstacles or drawbacks.

- Effective implementation of all 3 of these proposals is dependent on collaboration between the DNR, other units in WI state government (especially DATCP) and the involved business communities (e.g. deer farmers, meat processors, taxidermists etc.).

### 4. Overall, how will this proposal simplify or complicate deer hunting, management, or research in Wisconsin.

- We know that restrictions on carcass movements and disposal can create challenges for some hunters and have workload implications for DNR staff (Enforcement, Staff, Wildlife, etc.). However, the risk management approaches described here are important to limiting spread of CWD and therefore are important to the future of quality deer hunting in Wisconsin.