What are County Deer Advisory Councils?

CDACs are state-recognized advisory councils made up primarily of volunteers representing key stakeholder groups in deer management. They communicate with the public and advise the DNR on deer management issues specific to the county.

CDAC Charter:

1. Gather public opinion on deer populations and goals, antlerless quotas and herd management strategies
   CDACs gather public input through meetings and online input between CDAC meetings. The councils integrate this feedback into their deer management recommendations. Comment on CDAC recommendations through the CDAC web page at dnr.wi.gov, keyword “CDAC.”

2. Review and consider scientific metrics on deer herd trends, impacts to habitat and agriculture and human-deer interactions
   These deer herd metrics track biological and social factors associated with county and regional deer populations. Easily access these metrics online at dnr.wi.gov, keywords “deer metrics”.

3. Provide the department with recommendations on deer population objectives, antlerless quotas and herd management strategies
   Each year, the department receives over 1,000 CDAC recommendations on everything ranging from the types of deer seasons offered to the number of antlerless deer harvest authorizations to issue. View each council’s recommendations at dnr.wi.gov, keyword “CDAC.”

County Deer Advisory Councils (CDACs) in each county give the people of Wisconsin greater input into local deer management.

Get to Know Your CDAC

Locate member contact information, meeting times, meeting minutes, recommendations and deer herd metrics for your county at dnr.wi.gov, search keyword “CDAC.”

Questions? Email: DNRCDACWebmail@wisconsin.gov.
Membership consists of up to seven stakeholder seats, which are open to any Wisconsin resident or landowner with the experience and desire to represent one of the following groups. Members serve for a 3-year term.

CDAC Membership and Supporting Roles

Meeting Schedule

CDACs convene in the spring of each year to develop antlerless harvest quotas and other deer season recommendations. Every three years, CDACs meet in the fall to recommend 3-year deer population objectives. CDACs may be asked to hold special meetings in response to emerging deer management issues. All CDAC meetings are open to public attendance.

CDAC Recommendations

CDACs form recommendations on the following to influence the size and impacts of the local deer herd:

- **Population objectives** describe a desired outcome to increase, maintain or decrease the deer herd in each county over a 3-year period.
- **Antlerless harvest quotas** determine how many antlerless deer should be harvested to reach the population objective.
- **Antlerless harvest authorizations** are issued to hunters to meet the harvest quota. Depending on the county, a number of harvest authorizations may be issued with a license or available for purchase.
- **Season structures** such as buck-only seasons, extended archery seasons and the antlerless-only Holiday Hunt.

What's the role of the Conservation Congress?

The chair and alternate chair of each CDAC are county delegates to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. Along with their leadership roles, both the chair and alternate chair have voting rights on the councils.

What's the DNR's role?

DNR wildlife biologists, foresters and law enforcement officers provide training and logistical support to CDACs, present deer-related data and contribute their expertise at CDAC meetings.

Visit us online: dnr.wi.gov, keyword “CDAC”

- **Attend a meeting.** Provide written or spoken comments or simply learn more.
- **Share your opinion using online public input opportunities.** Online input offers an easy way to participate!
- **Talk with your CDAC members.** Contact information is available on the CDAC web page.
- **Apply for an open CDAC seat.** Applications can be downloaded from the CDAC web page and may be submitted electronically or through the mail.

CDAC Meetings: from Discussion to Decision

Review and consider all metrics  
Form preliminary recommendations (Meeting 1)  
Online public comment period on recommendations  
Form final recommendations (Meeting 2)  
Final recommendations sent to DNR for review  
Final CDAC and DNR recommendations sent to Natural Resources Board for approval