

Resolution Requiring Double Fencing of Captive Deer Farms

Whereas, Wisconsin's white tailed deer herd is a major recreational and multi-billion dollar economic asset to the State of Wisconsin and is by far the most important game animal for state and non-resident hunters; and

Whereas, there has been increased spreading of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) to 42 counties in Wisconsin, with major jumps in distance to Washburn, Vilas, Marathon, Eau Claire and Portage counties mainly from outbreaks on captive deer farms; and

Whereas, the great majority of the over three hundred registered captive deer farms in Wisconsin only have single fencing surrounding the farms and there have been between 20 and 60 incidents of escapes of captive deer from single fenced deer farms each year in the state; and

Whereas, the regulation of captive deer farms by the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has been ineffective in preventing the spread of CWD in captive deer farms and in the prevention of escapes from single fenced deer farms; and

Whereas, the great majority of the over three hundred registered captive deer farms in Wisconsin only have single fencing surrounding the farms and there have been between 20 and 60 incidents of escapes of captive deer from single fenced deer farms each year in the state; and

Whereas, mandatory double fencing of all captive deer farms would substantially reduce the number of deer escaping into the wild from captive deer farms; and

Whereas, the DNR only inspects the fencing around captive deer farms once in ten years and there is no regulatory requirement that captive deer farm owners periodically inspect the integrity of their deer farm fencing including after major weather events; and

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its Annual Meeting held on April 8th 9th at Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, requests the Natural Resources Board to modify the state captive deer farm fencing regulations to 1. require double fencing of all captive deer farms, 2. require annual DNR inspection of captive deer farm fences, 3. require periodic inspection of deer farm fences by the owners including after major storms and 4. require warning devices to detect open deer farm gates; and

Therefor Be It Further Resolved that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation further requests the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to strengthen its regulation of captive deer farms in Wisconsin to eliminate future outbreaks of Chronic Wasting Disease in Wisconsin.

Submitted by the WWF Wildlife Committee
Ralph Fritsch,
Wildlife Committee Chair