

PROGRAM NUMBERS:

Total Herds:

257

**Total Animals
in Those Herds:**

7,476

Species Breakdown of Animals:

Species	Total Animals	Number of Herds*
White-Tailed Deer	3,380	172
Elk	3,252	86
Red Deer	145	7
Reindeer	83	10
Fallow Deer	63	9
Sika Deer	24	4
Muntjac	19	4
Pere David's Deer	5	1
Moose	3	1
Caribou	2	2

*The total number of herds in this table does not match the number of cervid herds listed on the left. As some herds may have more than one species of cervid in their herd, a herd may be represented more than once in the "Number of Herds" column.

**CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE TESTING
(SFY2021)**

Number tested for CWD: 1,763

- Not Detected: 1,725
- Positive: 23 (Houston and Beltrami County CWD-infected herds)
- Other: 15 (location or unsuitable)



COMPLIANCE

Activity	Notice of Violation and Correction Order	Notice of Civil Penalty	Fines Assessed	Fines Collected	Fines Referred to MODR
Animal Identification	7	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
CWD Testing	9	7	\$3,500	\$2,900	\$600
Escapes (Running at Large)	5	2	\$350	\$350	\$0
Fees	1	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fencing/Enclosure	6	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Inspection Violations (Non-Fence)	0	2	\$500	\$500	\$0
Inventory	34	2	\$2,200	\$450	\$1,750
Movement	3	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Records	9	2	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other*	4	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL:	64	11	\$6,550	\$4,200	\$2,350

*Other = Violation of Herd Agreement entered into with the Board.

HERD CANCELLATIONS

The Board of Animal Health cancelled registration for three herds during State Fiscal Year 2021. Of those three herds, one producer depopulated the animals, a second producer dispersed the herd, and the third producer is refusing to disperse a herd, which has been referred to the Attorney General's office for legal action and a court order. Last year, two of the five farmed cervid producers who had registrations cancelled entered into compliance agreements with the Board. One producer put down the herd, the other producer came into compliance and then dispersed the two animals in the herd.

CWD SAMPLE COLLECTOR AUTHORIZATION

Since January 1, 2020, the Board has required individuals who collect samples from farmed cervids for CWD testing to be authorized by the Board. Currently the Board has 187 authorized sample collectors in Minnesota.

CWD INVESTIGATIONS: HOUSTON AND BELTRAMI COUNTIES

In State Fiscal Year 2021, two farmed white-tailed deer herds were found infected with CWD, the Houston County herd in October 2020 and the Beltrami County herd in April 2021. The herd owners received federal indemnity to depopulate the Houston County and Beltrami County herds and both herds were depopulated. Sample testing from both herds resulted in a total of 23 CWD positive animals. The herd enclosures must be maintained on the properties for five years and posted with biohazard signs.

When CWD is found in a herd, there is an epidemiological investigation conducted by regulatory agencies. This investigation included three Minnesota farmed cervid producers who sold animals to either the Beltrami or Houston County producers and the animals were found CWD positive when the infected herds were depopulated.

Within the investigation timeline required by USDA, these three producers sold animals to seven other Minnesota farmed cervid producers and producers in eight other states; all of these animals are considered exposed to CWD. Each animal must be traced to determine if the animal is alive or was previously tested for CWD. Currently four Minnesota herds remain quarantined with CWD exposed animals in their herds and the producer must either put the animals down and test them for CWD or wait five years after the animal was last in contact with a CWD positive animal.

In addition to the animal movement investigation, the Beltrami County herd owner illegally dumped farmed cervid carcasses on public land several miles from his farmed cervid enclosure. The Board has commenced legal action, including seeking a court order for the Beltrami County producer to build an exclusionary fence around this dump site to prevent contact between wild cervids and farmed cervid carcasses on this site. As the owner is contesting this order, the Board worked with the DNR and other state and local agencies to construct an exclusionary fence on this property to ensure the area would not be accessible to wild cervids as soon as possible, preventing contact by wild cervids to farmed cervid carcasses on the land; this fencing was completed in early August 2021.

ESCAPES

In State Fiscal Year 2021, there were seven escape events where 16 animals escaped their farmed cervid enclosures. Thirteen white-tailed deer escaped in five events from four farms; three elk escaped in two events from two farms. Nine of the animals were returned to their enclosures, five of the animals were killed and two of the animals were not recovered. All five animals killed were tested for CWD and the test results for the five animals was "not detected." Two events involved fallen trees damaging the fence, one event was due to damage to a

fence along a roadside, one event involved the opening of a remote gate with two locks on it, another event was a result of dogs that got into the pen and killed two animals, one due to a buck hitting the fence and bowing the fence allowing a doe to escape, and one event was from redundant gates that were left open.

STATUS OF RULEMAKING

Given the recent law change granting the DNR concurrent authority to regulate farmed white-tailed deer, the DNR Commissioner and DNR leadership asked the Board to pause its rulemaking process and allow the DNR time to review our proposed farmed cervid rule changes. Board

staff agreed to the hiatus and postponed a special Board meeting in July, that had been scheduled to allow the Board rulemaking staff to review our proposed rules draft with our five board members. This meeting would have allowed the Board members to vote to approve this draft, and to move forward with the publishing of the 'Notice of Intent to Adopt' in the State Register. The Board received a response from the DNR with suggested rule changes.

The Board continues to work with DNR leadership and staff on determining the path forward for rule making, as both legislative changes and urgency in addressing CWD are crucial.

BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH SEPTEMBER 2021 CWD INVESTIGATION

