

March 15, 2022

To Whom it may concern,

In January 2021 the MN DNR implemented a movement ban. At that time, we had a date to sell our farmed meat does to Crescent Meats in Cadott WI. Because of the ban we were unable to deliver the animals and lost our date and the sale of 20 animals.

We live 15 miles north of Rochester MN. In 2021 the Board of Animal Health set up a new endemic zone for CWD from a deer that was hit by a car and put in the trunk of a car and driven to the DNR office in Rochester, that was later tested positive for CWD. The Board Of Animal Health drew a 15 mile circle from the approximate section of land that the deer was supposedly hit in, which is a very populated area located by Saint Mary's Hospital. The results put us 14.82 miles to our mail box, which our deer pens are actually out of the endemic zone. I was still forced to put up an exclusionary fence to be able to move deer in the future. The cost of the exclusionary fence was \$7,000.00. Two days after the fence was completed and inspected, I was informed that the Board Of Animal Health passed a rule to get rid of the status of exclusionary fencing and restricted movement out of endemic zone. The rule was postponed by a judge but it sounds like it will be reinstated this spring, during the next rule making process. It is unfortunate that the state would force you to spend a bunch of money for their rules knowing all well that they were going to change the rules.

The DNR's shut down in October of 2021 was devastating. We have to sell our bucks in the fall to pay for all of our operating costs, state fees, and taxes. Our animals were sold and scheduled to be delivered in the middle of Oct. 2021. Because of the movement ban we were unable to move or sell the animals. I had to hold them back. Of the 8 bucks that were held back, I now only have 3 left. The rest were killed by fighting. I lost a \$48,000.00 sale from the movement ban.

We are devastated from all the rules and bans imposed by the state of Minnesota. I don't know how we are going to make it and afford our operating costs, state fees, and taxes with no income. After 24 years of business, we are going to be forced out of business and loose everything we poured our hearts and souls into for most of our lives. It is a very sad time for the small family farms in Minnesota.

Steve Dougherty