

**Subject** Farmed cervids  
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### Overview

This bill modifies a number of provisions regarding the regulation of farmed Cervidae (deer, elk, moose, etc.), including modifying fencing and identification requirements, prohibiting new white-tailed deer farm registrations, and establishing additional requirements for those who own property where chronic wasting disease (CWD) is detected. It requires live-animal CWD testing of all farmed white-tailed deer by October 1, 2022, with additional testing required for any white-tailed deer that initially tests positive.

The bill would also transfer oversight of farmed Cervidae to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Under current law, as of July 1, 2021, the Board of Animal Health (BAH) and the Department of Natural Resources have concurrent authority to enforce the state's farmed cervid laws.

### Summary

Section	Description
1	<b>Running at large prohibited.</b> Requires the owner of farmed Cervidae to immediately notify the DNR of an escaped animal if the animal is not returned/captured within 24 hours. Allows a licensed hunter to kill and possess an escaped farmed Cervidae without being liable to the owner for the loss of the animal. Requires farmed Cervidae killed by a hunter or the DNR to be tested for CWD at the owner's expense. Provides an effective date of September 1, 2022, for the provision.
2	<b>Fencing.</b> Requires perimeter fencing for farmed Cervidae to be constructed and maintained to prevent physical contact between farmed Cervidae and free-roaming Cervidae beginning September 1, 2023.

<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>
3	<p><b>Fencing; commercial herds.</b></p> <p>Requires commercially farmed white-tailed deer to be confined by two or more perimeter fences of at least 120 inches high beginning September 1, 2023.</p>
4	<p><b>Identification.</b></p> <p>Requires identification of farmed white-tailed deer to include certain contact information of the owner. Provides an effective date of September 1, 2023, for the provision.</p>
5	<p><b>Mandatory registration.</b></p> <p>Generally prohibits the BAH from approving new registrations for the possession of farmed white-tailed deer.</p>
6	<p><b>Mandatory surveillance for chronic wasting disease; depopulation.</b></p> <p>Prohibits the movement of farmed white-tailed deer from any premises to another location. Requires the owner of a premises where CWD has been detected to allow and cooperate with inspections of the premises as determined by the BAH and DNR conservation officers and wildlife managers. Requires fencing on premises where CWD has been detected to be maintained for ten years (current law requires the fencing for five years) and prohibits raising farmed Cervidae on the premises for at least ten years. Requires the owner of land where CWD was detected in farmed cervids to, prior to any sale or transfer of the premises, use a BAH-approved method to test the soil for CWD and report the results to BAH. In addition, the owners must record a notice in the county's real estate records that includes specified information including the legal description of the premises, the date of CWD detection, and the requirements incumbent upon an owner of the land under this subdivision. Requires the BAH to treat a state with CWD in its wild or farmed Cervidae populations as a chronic wasting disease endemic area.</p>
7	<p><b>White-tailed deer testing required; chronic wasting disease.</b></p> <p>Requires registered owners of farmed white-tailed deer to have each animal tested for CWD using the RT-QuIC live-animal test prior to October 1, 2022, and report the results to the BAH. If a farmed white-tailed deer tests positive, the owners must have the animal tested again. Should the animal test positive a second time, the owner must have the white-tailed deer destroyed and tested using a BAH-approved postmortem test. If the postmortem test is positive, the owner must depopulate all farmed cervids on the premises after the federal indemnification process, if any, is complete.</p>
8	<p><b>Transfer of duties; farmed Cervidae.</b></p> <p>Transfers oversight of cervid farms from the BAH to the DNR effective July 1, 2024. This transfer would follow a standard statutory process whereby existing farmed</p>

Section	Description
	cervid statutes and rules would remain in effect, except that BAH personnel would not transfer to the DNR, and instead the DNR would contract with them.
9	<b>Appropriation.</b> Appropriates \$250,000 on a onetime basis to the BAH for purposes of the white-tailed deer testing required in section 7, and requires the BAH to issue a request for proposal for the required RT-QuIC testing.
10	<b>Revisor instruction.</b> Requires the revisor to modify Minnesota Statutes and Minnesota Rules to conform to the transfer of oversight in section 8.



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