

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 710

**DATE:** March 18, 1999

**Version:** Second Engrossment

**Authors:** Holsten and others

**Subject:** Shooting preserves for farmed cervidae

**Analyst:** Sam Rankin 651-296-5047

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: [www.house.mn/hrd](http://www.house.mn/hrd).

---

### Overview

Farmed cervidae (elk, fallow deer, and other members of the cervidae family) were granted status as agricultural products by the 1993 legislature. HF 710 expands the allowed purposes of farmed cervidae to include stocking them on licensed shooting preserves.

- 1 Farmed cervidae.** Expands the allowed purposes for raising farmed cervidae to include "shooting" and "harvesting."
- 2 Raising farmed cervidae is an agricultural pursuit.** Expands the existing declaration that raising farmed cervidae is an agricultural pursuit by clarifying that the animals may be sold for personal consumption or taken on a licensed shooting preserve.
- 3 Slaughter.** Narrows the application of the requirement that farmed cervidae be slaughtered and inspected under an approved federal inspection program. Only animals sold for commercial meat purposes must now meet this requirement.
- 4 Cervidae shooting preserves.** Establishes standards and licensing fees for a cervidae shooting preserve.

The initial fee, payable to the department of agriculture, is \$500; each annual license fee is \$25. The commissioner of agriculture may license up to 10 cervidae shooting preserves in the state..

Only animals from herds in the accredited program of the board of animal health may be released on a licensed shooting preserve.

A shooting preserve must be physically separated from breeding pens or pastures where farmed cervidae are kept.

A shooting preserve must be not less than 240 nor more than 960 contiguous acres in size and have adequate screening cover for the animals. Fences must be at least 96 inches tall and boundaries of the preserve must be posted.

Wild cervidae must be removed from the preserve before farmed cervidae are introduced.

The hunting season on a cervidae shooting preserve is August 15 through March 31, and a patron is not required to obtain a state hunting license.

Weapons used on the preserve must comply with those authorized to take wild cervidae in the same area.

The operator of a shooting preserve may establish more restrictive regulations than the minimum provided in law.

Cervidae released on a shooting preserve must bear a permanent identification mark. Harvested cervidae must be tagged during transport.

The operator of the shooting preserve must keep extensive records which must be open to inspection by the department of agriculture at reasonable times.