Farmed Cervidae Inspection Guidelines

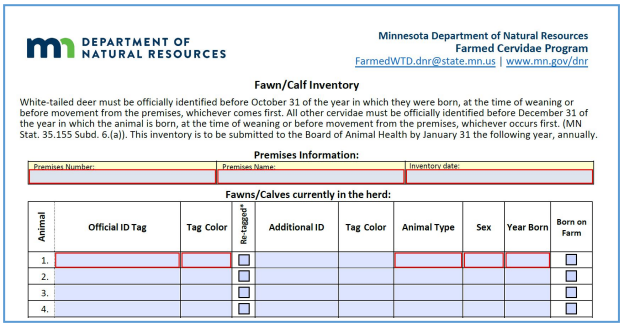
In order to pass a farmed Cervidae facility for annual inspection, all items on the inspection form applicable to the facility must meet the minimum standards as outlined below. As the criteria below are minimum standards, the inspector may find additional concerns or issues that may prohibit passing any particular component of the inspection.

If a component of the inspection does not meet the minimum criteria, a Notice of Violation and Correction Order (NOV) should be issued. The requirements set to bring this component up to standard to pass inspection must be outlined in the NOV. All applicable components of the inspection must be in compliance before the inspection is considered passed.

1. Inventory match

The inspector must see and review the written inventory report. The following must be reviewed: 1) official identification (ID), 2) lost tags, 3) retags.

1) All Official (and unofficial) ID tags must be listed on the Inventory Worksheet for all required animals. Two forms of ID are required for herds that move animals interstate.
   - For inspections performed after October 31st the report must include official ID of all white-tailed deer fawns born that year .
   - For inspections performed after December 31st the report must include official ID for all other cervids born in the previous year.



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Farmed Cervidae Program
FarmedWTD.dnr@state.mn.us | www.mn.gov/dnr

Fawn/Calf Inventory

White-tailed deer must be officially identified before October 31 of the year in which they were born, at the time of weaning or before movement from the premises, whichever comes first. All other cervidae must be officially identified before December 31 of the year in which the animal is born, at the time of weaning or before movement from the premises, whichever occurs first. (MN Stat. 35.155 Subd. 6.(a)). This inventory is to be submitted to the Board of Animal Health by January 31 the following year, annually.

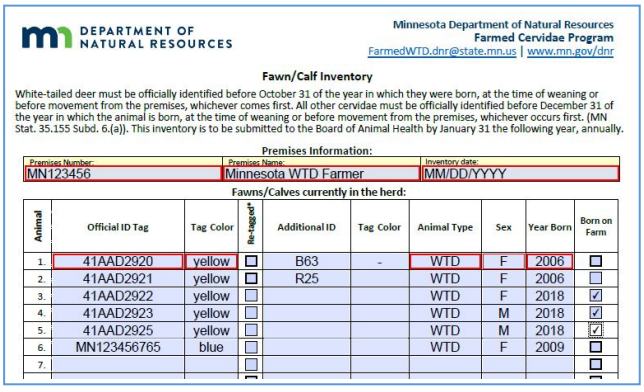
Premises Information:

Premises Number:	Premises Name:	Inventory date:

Fawns/Calves currently in the herd:

Animal	Official ID Tag	Tag Color	Re-tagged*	Additional ID	Tag Color	Animal Type	Sex	Year Born	Born on Farm
1.			☐						☐
2.			☐						☐
3.			☐						☐
4.			☐						☐

   - The official ID listed on the inventory report must include the full sequence of numbers and or letters required for the type of official ID and the color of the tag if it is a plastic tag. Refer to Guidelines for Official Identification for additional information.



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Premises Information:

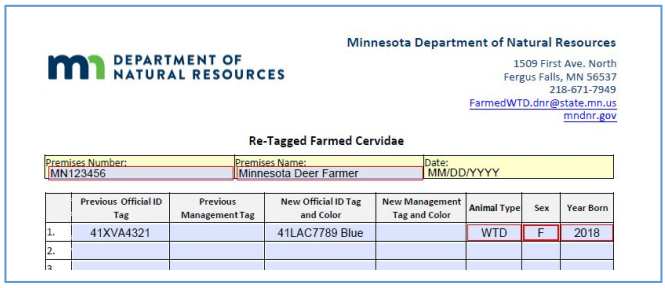
Premises Number:	Premises Name:	Inventory date:
MN123456	Minnesota WTD Farmer	MM/DD/YYYY

Fawns/Calves currently in the herd:

Animal	Official ID Tag	Tag Color	Re-tagged*	Additional ID	Tag Color	Animal Type	Sex	Year Born	Born on Farm
1.	41AAD2920	yellow	☐	B63	-	WTD	F	2006	☐
2.	41AAD2921	yellow	☐	R25		WTD	F	2006	☐
3.	41AAD2922	yellow	☐			WTD	F	2018	☑
4.	41AAD2923	yellow	☐			WTD	M	2018	☑
5.	41AAD2925	yellow	☐			WTD	M	2018	☑
6.	MN123456765	blue	☐			WTD	F	2009	☐
7.			☐						☐

2) Animals that have lost their official ID must be included on the inventory.

3) If the animal has been re-tagged, the report must include the previous official ID for that animal if known and the new official ID applied to that animal.
   - If the animal has not been re-tagged, an NOV should be issued, and the inspection failed until the corrective action (re-tagging the animal) has been achieved.



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
1509 First Ave. North
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
218-671-7949
FarmedWTD.dnr@state.mn.us
mndnr.gov

Re-Tagged Farmed Cervidae

Premises Number:	Premises Name:	Date:
MN123456	Minnesota Deer Farmer	MM/DD/YYYY

	Previous Official ID Tag	Previous Management Tag	New Official ID Tag and Color	New Management Tag and Color	Animal Type	Sex	Year Born
1.	41XVA4321		41LAC7789 Blue		WTD	F	2018
2.							
3.							

The inspector must visualize all the animals listed on the inventory report to ensure that they can observe a tag in every animal's ear. If tags are not visible, a NOV should be issued, and the inspection failed until the corrective action (re-tagging the animal or presenting the animal for visual inspection) has been achieved.

The inspector should attempt to reconcile the inventory report with the animals recorded in the CoreOne database.

- If the animals cannot be reconciled, discrepancies should be documented, and the inspector should work with the producer and program administration to reconcile.

2. Fencing

The entire perimeter of the fence must be visualized and inspected to verify: 1) all fencing is at least 96" in height, 2) fences are maintained in a way that prevents escapes of farmed Cervidae and entry by free- roaming wild cervids, 3) any repairs to the fence made after 07/01/2019 utilize high tensile wire.

1) The fence must be measured using an approved measuring device (available from the farmed Cervidae Program director) to ensure it is at least 96 inches. The inspector should measure every side of all farmed Cervidae enclosures in at least three evenly spaced locations along the fence line.

2) Fencing must meet minimum criteria and be maintained in a way to prevent escapes of farmed cervids or entry by free-roaming wild cervids. Refer to Guidelines for Perimeter Fencing for additional information.

3) New fencing and repairs to existing fencing housing farmed Cervidae made after 07/01/2019 must be high-tensile. Repairs must be reported to the inspector at the time of inspection and the use of high tensile wire must be verified. Refer to Guidelines for High Tensile Fencing for additional information.

If a fence deficiency is noted, a NOV should be issued, and the inspection failed until the corrective action (fencing repair) has been achieved. The NOV must include a timeline for corrective action (repairs to the fence) and date the fences will be re-inspected.

If a fence deficiency allows entry or exit by farmed or wild Cervidae, the producer must repair the deficiency **within 45 days**. All other fence deficiencies must be re-inspected **not more than 3 months** from when the deficiency is noted unless there are extenuating circumstances preventing a repair within that timeframe.

The inspector must notify the producer that a re-inspection fee equal to one-half the applicable annual inspection fee will be due within 30 days following the date of re-inspection. An invoice for this fee will be mailed and/or e-mailed to the producer from the Board of Animal Health St. Paul office.

3. Exclusionary Fencing

If a producer has exclusionary fencing this fence must also be inspected to ensure it meets minimum criteria. Refer to Guidelines for Exclusionary Fencing for additional information.

Inspectors should verify that a producer with exclusionary fencing has an updated status in the CoreOne database. If not, this status for his herd will need to be modified.

Fees :: Cervidae		Team Southeast	07/01/2019	09/27/2019	Fee Amount - $500	Commercial	deer (MN[redacted]) - 2019 Cervidae Producer Notification	c...		
Exclusionary Fence :: Cervidae		Team Southeast	08/27/2018	08/27/2018	Other			exclusionary fencing: 2nd f...		
CWD :: State Endemic Area	4089	Team Southeast	12/06/2017	05/01/2018	Within 10 Miles			Robyn verified that Chad h a...		

4. Record keeping

The inspector must visualize and review all records generated since the last inspection. At a minimum, the producer must show the inspector:

- Copies of death reports and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) test results (if applicable) for all animals that died since the last inspection.
- Copies of movement forms for all animals that moved into or out of the herd since the last inspection.
- A copy of the most recent herd inventory.

If these records are not made available at the time of inspection, a NOV should be issued, and the inspection failed until the corrective action (records presented and verified) has been achieved.

5. Official identification

At the time of inspection, the inspector must verify that all farmed cervids are officially identified with the exception of:

- White-tailed deer less than 12 months of age if the inspection is done before Oct 31st of the year in which they were born.
- All other farmed Cervidae less than 12 months of age if the inspection is done before Dec. 31st of the year in which they were born.

Refer to Guidelines for Official Identification for additional information.

6. Supplemental identification

To be certified for interstate movement a herd must achieve a status level 6 in the CWD herd certification program and must apply supplemental identification to all animals in the herd. Supplemental identification must be listed on the inventory report and must include the full sequence of numbers and or letters required for the type of official ID and the color of the tag if it is a plastic tag.

Inspectors should verify that a producer certified for interstate movement has an updated status in the CoreOne database. If not, this status for his herd will need to be modified.

7. Movement Reports

The producer must present to the inspector copies of all movement reports for animals moved since the last inspection. If these records are not made available at the time of inspection, a NOV should be issued, and the inspection failed until the corrective action (records presented and verified) has been achieved.

8. Death Reports

The producer must present to the inspector copies of all death reports for officially identified animals under 6 months of age and CWD test eligible animals over 6 months of age that were not tested for CWD since the last inspection. The producer must present to the inspector copies of all death forms or CWD submission forms for animals over 6 months of age that died, were harvested on the farm, or moved to slaughter and got tested for CWD. If these records are not made available at the time of inspection, a NOV should be issued, and the inspection failed until the corrective action (records presented and verified) has been achieved.

9. CWD Testing

The producer must present to the inspector copies of all CWD test results for test eligible (12 months of age and over) animals that died, were harvested on the farm, or taken to slaughter since the last inspection. If these records are not made available at the time of inspection, a NOV should be issued, and the inspection failed until the corrective action (records presented and verified) has been achieved.

If test eligible animals that died, were harvested on the farm, or taken to slaughter since the last inspection were not tested, the inspector must record the explanation on the inspection report and inform the farmed Cervidae program director.

The inspector must notify the producer that their CWD surveillance herd status will be adjusted as outlined in 1721.0420. Subp. 1.F. for each animal not tested.

Minn. Rule 1721.0420. Subp. 1.F: the CWD surveillance period for a herd must be shortened each time an animal over 12 months of age dies, is slaughtered, escapes, or is lost and is not tested for CWD. For each animal that is not tested for CWD, the surveillance period will be shortened:

(1) by the length of the surveillance period for herds in status level 1;
(2) by 365 days for herds in status levels 2 to 3;
(3) by 180 days for the herds in status levels 4 to 5; or
(4) by 90 days for herds in status level 6

10. Redundant gating

The inspector must visually verify that redundant gates are in place for all entrances used to regularly feed, manage, or handle farmed cervids and are maintained to prevent the escape of farmed cervids through an open gate. Refer to Guidelines for Redundant Gating for additional information.

11. Carcass Disposal

The inspector must visually verify that the producer is disposing of farmed Cervidae that die on the premises using a method approved under Minnesota law and in a manner approved by the Board of Animal Health. Refer to Guidelines for Carcass Disposal for additional information.

Guidelines for Official Identification:

Official ear tags that are placed in farmed Cervidae after January 1, 2018 must adhere to either the National Uniform Ear-tagging System (NUES) or the Animal Identification Number (AIN) system.

Official identification may not be removed from an animal once it is applied.

National Uniform Ear Tagging System (NUES)

NUES ear tags begin with an official state number followed by three letters and then four numbers. The official state number for Minnesota is ’41’. Metal NUES tags **must display the U.S. shield if applied to an animal March 11, 2015 or after.**

Animal Identification Number (AIN) System

AIN ear tags begin with an official country code followed by an additional 12 digits; 15 digits in total. The official U.S. country code is ‘840’. AIN tags **must display the U.S. shield if applied to an animal March 11, 2015 or after.**

Limited Movement

Tags that include a premises number and unique animal number placed prior to January 1, 2018 are considered valid for movement within Minnesota only.

Guidelines for Perimeter Fencing:

Farmed Cervidae must be confined in a manner designed to prevent escape. All perimeter fences for farmed Cervidae must be at least 96 inches in height and be constructed and maintained in a way that prevents the escape of farmed Cervidae or entry into the premises by free-roaming Cervidae. After July 1, 2019, all new fencing installed, and all fencing used to repair deficiencies must be high tensile and must follow these guidelines. Refer to Guidelines for High Tensile Fencing for additional information.

Posts

Fence Posts should:

- Be pressure treated if made of wood.
- Be 4-5 inches in diameter.
- Be set at least 3 feet into the ground.
- Extend above the top line of the fence.
- Be spaced no more than 15 to 25 feet apart.
- Be vertically erect and undamaged/unbroken.

Materials

Any perimeter fencing surrounding primary enclosures that is installed or repaired after July 01, 2019 must be high tensile woven wire. Refer to Guidelines for High Tensile Fencing for additional information.

Enclosures built prior to July 01, 2019 may be composed of materials that prevent egress of farmed Cervidae or ingress of wild Cervidae. This may include fencing designed for non-Cervidae livestock species, single wire strands, wood or other solid materials. The inspector must use discretion and questions about fencing should be directed to the Program Administrator or Director.

Spacing

- Spacing between horizontal and vertical wires must not exceed 12 inches and closer spacing should be considered for smaller species (i.e. 6 inches for fallow deer).
- Fencing should be flush with the ground with no visible gaps due to terrain irregularities.

Guidelines for Exclusionary Fencing:

The purpose of exclusionary fencing is to prevent the commingling of wild and farmed Cervidae which includes contact through a fence. The first three designs are approved as exclusionary fencing by the Board for preventing commingling of wild and farmed Cervidae. The fourth design (electric fencing) is conditionally approved as exclusionary fencing and will be evaluated at farms using this design.

- Approval of exclusionary fencing for interstate movement would be subject to meeting the receiving state's acceptable fencing parameters.
- Any variations to these options must be approved by the Board.
- Completed fencing must be inspected and approved by the Board before an exclusionary fencing designation is granted.

Board approved exclusionary fencing options

1) **Double 8 foot (96 inches) high fencing at least 4 feet apart**
2) **Secondary (coupled) fence attached to the outside of an existing 8 foot fence:**
    - Secondary fence material is 2 inch by 4 inch welded wire that is four feet high.
    - Spacers are attached to existing posts, so the two fences are at least 11 inches apart.
    - The bottom of this fence is 6 inches above the ground and the top is 4 feet 6 inches above the ground.
    - Spacers are placed between the posts at no more than 8 foot intervals to ensure that the 11 inch space between the fences is maintained.
3) **Solid fencing as part of an existing 8 foot fence:**
    - Solid material such as wood or densely woven shade cloth.
    - Solid material must be attached to the fence and cover at least 4 feet in height from the ground.

Board conditionally approved exclusionary fencing options

1) **Electric fencing to include the following:**
    - Electrified 12.5 gauge or larger diameter fencing wire must be used to create an external barrier consisting of at least four strands of wire. Wires should be evenly spaced with the lowest wire no higher than 10 inches off the ground and the highest wire at least four feet (48 in.) but no higher than five feet (60 in.) off the ground.
    - The fence must deliver a minimum of 5000 volts throughout the length of the fence.
    - An industrial strength fencer with alarm notification and battery backup must be utilized to electrify the fence.

Guidelines for High Tensile Fencing:

After July 1, 2019, all new fencing and any fencing used to repair deficiencies must be high tensile. Repairs may be made with single strand or woven wire high tensile materials.

High tensile wire must meet the following requirements:

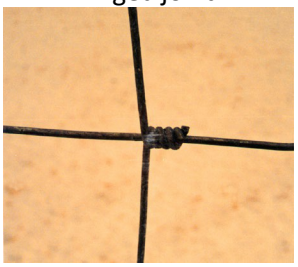
- Composed of high carbon steel with a carbon content of at least 0.28% (increased carbon content significantly increases the wire's strength and reduces elongation minimizing the need for future tensioning and repair).
- Wire diameter must be no larger than 12.5 gauge.
- May be coated with zinc, galvanized steel or aluminum.

High tensile fixed knot woven wire fencing must the following requirements:

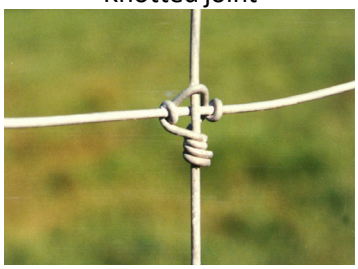
- Secured to the inside of the post.
- To make up the 96 inch height requirement 17-20 horizontal wires must be used. Spacing should be closer near the bottom for fallow and reindeer species.
- Vertical stay wires must be spaced no more than 12 inches apart.
- Vertical and horizontal wires must be locked in place with hinged or knotted joints.

Examples:

Hinged joint



Knotted joint



The fence should have some flex without being sloppy. The horizontal wires should be able to move freely through the staples on the posts.

How can you tell the difference between low carbon fencing and high tensile fencing?

1) Determine the type of knot:
   - If it is a knotted joint where the vertical is one piece with a separate knot at the crossover point with the horizontal, it would be high tensile.
   - If it is hinge joint, where the verticals are wrapped around the horizontal line wires, it could be either low carbon or high tensile.
2) Look at the size of the wire:
   - If it is larger diameter (9 or 11 gauge) it is most likely low carbon
   - If the wire is smaller diameter, generally 12.5 gauge, it could be either one
3) Do a bend test on the wire to determine the difference:
   - Grasp each side of the wire in your hands with your thumbs in the middle and bend the wire.
     - If it bends easily, it is probably low carbon
     - If it is stiff and difficult to bend, it's probably high tensile.

Guidelines for Redundant Gating:

By December 1, 2019, all entry areas for farmed Cervidae enclosure areas must have two redundant gates, which must be maintained to prevent the escape of animals through an open gate.

Gates of a height compatible with the fence are recommended when inside an enclosure and required when outside of an enclosure. Latches on all gates must be secure and strong enough to prevent them from being opened accidentally or by the force of deer playing or rubbing against them.

1) The redundant gate must allow all equipment needed in the pen to get completely inside the outer gate allowing it to be secured before opening the inner gate and gaining entrance to the enclosure.
2) If the gate is added to the outside of the enclosure, it must meet the requirements of a perimeter fence – at least 96 inches in height and maintained in a way to prevent the entrance or exit of farmed or wild cervids.
3) The redundant gate must always remain secured when not directly in use.

Gates used infrequently to manage pastures, fields or infrequently move equipment are considered access to agricultural land and would not need redundant gates. Any perimeter gates used to infrequently access agricultural land must be secured by at least two locking mechanisms when not in use.

Guidelines for Carcass Disposal

All carcasses from farmed Cervidae that die or are killed must be disposed of within 72 hours unless other arrangements for disposal have been approved by the Board of Animal Health (Board). Leaving carcasses to decompose in place, on the open landscape, in open pits or ditches, or in or near water is illegal and unacceptable. Proper disposal is necessary to prevent spread of disease to people and other animals and to protect the environment.

Carcass disposal options:

- Incineration
- Chemical Digestion
- Landfill
- Onsite burial
- Composting

CWD positive, exposed, or suspect herds must be disposed of in a manner determined by the Board.

Preferred Disposal Methods

On-site disposal

Burial

Carcasses must be buried deep enough to prevent scavengers from digging up and removing the carcass from the disposal site. If feasible, carcasses should be buried within an enclosure to prevent contact with wild cervids.

Steps to get started with burial:

- Check with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service to find locations where water table depths allow you to bury.
    a. Make sure to stay away from both above ground and underground water sources.
    b. The hole must be five (5) feet above the seasonal high-water table. Check the water table depth when you bury by digging the hole and then drilling down an additional five feet to verify that you are above the water table.
- When you find the location to bury a carcass, dig the hole deep enough to completely cover the carcass to prevent scavenging by other animals.

Off-site disposal (if on-site disposal is not an option)

Landfill

The preferred off-site disposal location is an approved landfill. It is essential that you contact the landfill to ensure they are approved and willing to accept carcasses.

Chemical Digestion

Chemical digestion is a method used by research facilities and diagnostic laboratories to safely dispose of infectious tissues by using high concentrations of sodium hydroxide. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) positive and CWD exposed carcasses indemnified by regulatory officials must be disposed of in this manner or an alternate manner approved by the Board.

Alternate Disposal Methods

Composting

When burial in an enclosure or off-site disposal at an approved landfill are not an option, farmed Cervidae may be composted inside an enclosure. Please contact your inspector for more information regarding composting. Any farmed

Steps to get started composting:

- Obtain a carbon-rich material such as sawdust, small wood shavings, ground-up woody plants from a community brush-chipping site, rotten hay bales, shredded sugar beets, peanut hulls, or other brown-colored crop residues. Mixing two or three types of carbon-rich material together works best.
    a. You will need about three to five cubic yards of the material for every 1,000 pounds of carcass —less if the material yields its carbon easily, more it if does not.
    b. "Seed" the pile of material with some manure, or unfinished compost ahead of time to kick- start the composting process.
    c. You will need to mix water into the pile occasionally as the high interior temperatures dry it out.
- You will need a front-end loader or other machine to assemble the pile, move the carcass, and turn the pile.
    a. The nutrients in your compost pile should be about 30 parts Carbon and one part Nitrogen (30:1).
    b. The pile should have three to five feet of porous compost materials surrounding its core to serve as an insulator and keep the core at 130°F or higher.