

Farmed White-Tailed Deer Physical Inventory

Following the recommendations of the Farmed Cervidae Program audit report in April 2018, the Board implemented a physical inventory requirement to be completed every 3 years by all farmed cervid herds in the state. The purpose of this physical inventory is to verify identification tags, verify animal details, replace lost tags, and correct record keeping and data entry errors. Herds that are Tuberculosis Accredited and/or Brucellosis Certified will complete this physical inventory at the time of their whole herd tests.

What is a physical inventory?

A physical inventory includes individually reading, completely and accurately recording all identification tags, age, and sex for every animal in your herd that is tagged at the time the physical inventory is performed.

How is this different from my annual inventory?

On annual herd inventories, the identification tags must be reported, but they do not have to be visually verified. For a physical inventory, each animal's identification tags must be observed and all identification tags, age, and sex recorded.

How do I complete the physical inventory?

Each farm is unique and the best way of handling animals may vary by farm. It is up to you to determine the best way to perform the physical inventory for your herd. The task should be completed with the safety of both the people and animals in mind. Tranquilization by darting should only be used if necessary.

All identification tags must be completely and accurately reported. Animals with an RFID must have all 15 digits recorded (ex. 840000123456789). Animals with an official metal or plastic tag must have all 9 characters recorded (ex. 41ABC1234). If you have older animals where the official ID is a premises ID, then you need to include the number of the premises as it appears on the tag as well as the animal's individual ID. Management or bangle tags must be reported as well. Please include tag color when recording the management ID. Some producers and veterinarians find it helpful to take photos of the identification tags. If animals are re-tagged, please make every attempt possible to also record the previous identification tags, if known. If you report the identification numbers on a hand-written document, please make sure the document is legible. MN DNR has a few options for submitting your inventory electronically, including pre-made spreadsheets and fillable PDFs, found on our MN DNR website.

How do I report my physical inventory?

Complete the Physical Inventory form and submit it with your annual inventory. The Physical Inventory form must be signed by an accredited veterinarian in addition to the regular inventory form.

Please contact the Farmed Deer Program staff at the MN DNR if you have any questions or need assistance in completing this requirement.

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