TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

JULIUS JOHNSON
COMMISSIONER

REGULATORY SERVICES
ANIMAL HEALTH

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy of cervidae that causes the loss of weight and eventual death of the infected animal. The spread of this disease could have a severe economic impact on the production of captive cervidae and the cervidae population in the wild. In view of the threat posed by the disease to the health of the state's livestock and livestock industry, the state veterinarian, pursuant to the authority vested in him by T.C.A § 44-2-102, hereby ORDERS as follows:

Tennessee Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Herd Certification Program (HCP)

This program is necessary for interstate movement of CWD susceptible cervidae to prevent the spread of CWD in Tennessee. Any TN cervid owner who wishes to transport cervidae interstate must participate in the Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program (CWD HCP).

1. Definitions

   a. Cervid – All members of the *Cervidae* family and hybrids including deer, elk, moose, caribou, reindeer, and related species.

   b. Certified status - is granted after program enrollment of 5 years with no evidence of disease, or identification as a trace-back or trace forward herd Renewal of "certified" status is contingent upon annual (10-14 months) inspection and continued compliance with program standards.

   c. Susceptible *Cervidae* - The species known to be susceptible to CWD are Rocky Mountain Elk (Cervus canadensis), Red Deer (Cervus elaphus), Mule deer (Odocoileus hemionus), Black-Tailed Deer (Odocoileus hemionus), Sika deer (Cervus nippon), and Moose (Alces alces) or as determined by USDA.

2. Premises Requirements

   a. All owners of captive cervidae in Tennessee shall obtain a premise identification number from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.

b. All cervidae premises that participate in the Tennessee CWD HCP shall have suitable handling facilities to allow inspection, identification, or testing of animals in a safe and humane manner.

c. All captive cervidae premises shall be enclosed by perimeter fences at least 8 feet in height and must be structurally sound, maintained in good repair, and of sufficient construction to prevent ingress and egress of farmed and free-ranging wild cervids/ animals.

3. Identification Requirements

   a. Each animal 12 months of age or older (and animals under 12 months of age leaving the premises), shall have a minimum of two forms of animal identification with one of those forms being USDA official identification. The official identification must be a visible ear tag, such as a radio frequency identification device (RFID) tag or steel USDA tag. The second form of identification must be unique form of identification to that animal in the herd and can be a farm bangle tag, tattoo, microchip, or RFID tag.

   b. Animals that lose their identification should be retagged as soon as possible. All animals 12 months of age or older must have individual identification and reconciled in herd records before the herd status can be advanced.

4. Enrollment, Inspections and Record Keeping Requirements

   a. After receipt of an enrollment application for the CWD HCP, an initial complete physical herd inventory is required as well as a recording of all individual identification. Records shall be reconciled during inspections and inventories. These inspections and inventories shall be submitted on an inspection form supplied by the state veterinarian's office and signed by an accredited veterinarian or by state or federal personnel. Owners are responsible for assembling, handling, and restraining animals for physical inventories or other inspections under conditions that will allow the accredited veterinarian, APHIS employee, or State Official to safely read all identification on the animals. The owners are responsible for the costs that may be incurred to present the animals for inspection and must agree that any liability or injury to the animals during handling rests with the owner.

   b. Inspections shall be conducted annually. Physical inventories shall be conducted every three years by state or federal animal health officials or TN accredited veterinarians. Annual inspections consist of an inspection of the facility, a visual inspection of the herd including a count of the cervids and verification that each cervid twelve months of age or older has at least one official visible individual identification. Physical inventories shall be conducted in such a manner that the two forms of identification on each

animal twelve months of age or older can be read and recorded. Both annual and physical inventories should correspond with herd records.

c. Participants in the CWD HCP shall submit their herd inventories in a format prescribed by the state veterinarian's office. Herds may not advance in status until the annual inspections have been completed, submitted, reconciled, and approved.

d. Herd records must be maintained that include a complete inventory of animals that states the species, age, and sex of each animal; the date of acquisition and source of animals not born into the herd; the date of disposal and/or destination of animals removed from the herd; and all individual identification numbers associated with each animal.

e. Animals can only be introduced into an enrolled herd from herds that are the same or higher status in the national CWD HCP in order to maintain their existing status. Should animals with a lesser program status be introduced into the herd, the herd will revert to the status of the newly introduced animals.

f. Documentation of any deaths, interstate movements, or any other disposition of animals since the last inventory shall be included in the records. Annual herd inventories shall be completed between 10 to 14 months of the enrollment date and within 10 to 14 months of the anniversary date thereafter.

5. Reporting and Testing Requirements

a. Immediate reporting of all deaths 12 months of age or older and subsequent CWD testing of those mortalities at the owner's expense shall be required and documented by an accredited veterinarian or state or federal personnel. Testing shall be performed by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, IA. All lab results must be received by state veterinarian. Exemptions may be approved only by the state veterinarian after consultation with the herd owner and herd veterinarian.

i. Tissues from all CWD-exposed or CWD-suspect animals that die or are depopulated must be submitted for testing regardless of the age of the animal.

ii. Carcasses and tissues from sampled animals must be disposed of in accordance with State regulation. Remains of CWD-positive or CWD-exposed shall be disposed of in compliance with all Federal, State and local regulations as approved by the State Veterinarian.

iii. All deaths of cervidae and any animal exhibiting signs of CWD shall be immediately reported to the Tennessee State Veterinarian.

6. Epidemiologic Investigations

   a. All animals reported as CWD-suspects will be investigated promptly.

   b. An epidemiologic investigation will be conducted of CWD-positive, CWD-exposed, and CWD-suspect herds that will include the designation of suspect and exposed animals identifying animals to be traced. States that are found to have received any animals involved in a trace will be notified immediately.

   c. Trace-backs of CWD-positive animals and trace-outs of CWD-exposed animals will be conducted. Appropriate states will be notified promptly after notification of a CWD positive animal has been received.

   d. Trace-backs based on slaughter or other sampling will be conducted promptly after receipt of notification of a CWD-positive animal at slaughter.

   e. If herds are found to have CWD-positive, CWD-exposed, or CWD-suspect animals, the herd will be designated as such and the herd will be promptly quarantined until it has been determined if the herd contains or has contained a CWD-positive animal.

   f. Designated herds will be subjected to a herd plan as developed by the TN State Veterinarian with completion of herd plan requirements before quarantines are removed. "Certified" status also would be suspended.

7. Enforcement

   a. Captive cervidae escaping their premises shall be immediately reported to the state veterinarian's office and recaptured by the owner within 72 hours of escape. If an escaped farm-raised cervid is returned to the herd more than 72 hours after it escapes, it loses any status that it may have had in a herd certification or herd status program and is treated as a new addition to the herd.

   b. "Certified" status is granted after program enrollment of 5 years with no evidence of disease or herd designation. Renewal of "certified" status is

contingent upon annual inspection, sampling and continued compliance with program standards.

c. "Certified" status may be revoked for failure to comply with program standards and requirements as provided in this order.

IT IS SO ORDERED

Charles W. Hatcher, DVM
State Veterinarian