

# PROGRAM GUIDELINES FOR OKLAHOMA CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD) CERVID SURVEILLANCE AND CERTIFICATION STATUS PROGRAM

## Part 1- Definitions

**ACCREDITED VETERINARIAN:** A veterinarian approved by the Deputy Administrator of Veterinary Services, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the State Veterinarian in accordance with 9 C.F.R. Part 161 (January 1, 1997) to perform functions required by cooperative State-Federal animal disease control and eradication programs.

**Affected Herd:** Any herd in which a cervid has been determined to be CWD positive.

**Anniversary Date:** The date on which the Department approved the application, or the date the Department can verify that the requirements listed in Part 2 of these guidelines have been met.

**Cervid:** Any domesticated mule deer, white-tailed deer, or elk.

**Commingling:** Cervids grouped together having physical contact, e.g., sharing common pastures, for purposes of defining sub-units within a herd, cervids having less than 30 yards of physical separation shall be considered to have commingled. Commingling does not include limited contacts, such as contact at an auction/sales or during transportation as long as animals are in separate compartments.

**Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD):** A non-febrile, insidious, degenerative transmissible spongiform disease affecting the central nervous system of deer and elk. CWD may cause, but is not limited to, the following signs in affected animals.

weight loss, poor condition

salivating, drooling

behavioral abnormalities such as incoordination, weakness and recumbency

It is important to note that not all CWD-affected cervids show clinical signs.

**CWD EXPOSED CERVID:** A cervid which is part of a CWD positive herd.

**CWD Positive Cervid:** A cervid which has had a diagnosis of CWD confirmed by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL), United States Department of Agriculture, Ames, Iowa, or any additional laboratory approved by NVSL.

**CWD-Suspect Cervid:** A cervid which displays clinical signs suggestive of CWD, or for which laboratory analysis is not conclusive.

**Department:** The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture.

**Enrolled Herd:** A herd participating in the program which has met the requirements listed in Part 2 of these guidelines.

**Herd Status:** Classification of a herd with regard to its number of years in the program.

**Herd:** Any group of cervids maintained on common ground for any purpose, or two or more groups of cervids under common ownership or supervision, geographically separated but which have an interchange of cervids without regard to whether the cervids are infected or exposed.

**HERD INVENTORY:** An official list of all of the cervids belonging to a herd or a herd sub-unit.

**Herd Plan:** A written plan which sets out the steps to be taken to eradicate CWD from a CWD infected or trace herd.

**Owner:** An individual, partnership, company, corporation, or other legal entity which has legal or rightful title to a cervid or cervids, regardless of any liens held on the animal(s).

**Premises:** The ground, area, buildings and equipment occupied by or used in conjunction with one or more herds of cervids.

**Program:** The Oklahoma Surveillance and Certification Program for Chronic Wasting Disease of Cervids.

**Trace-Back Herd:** A herd(s) where a CWD affected cervid has resided up to 36 months prior to death or detection of CWD

**Trace-Forward Herd:** A herd(s) which has received cervids from an affected herd within 36 months prior to the death or detection of a CWD affected cervid.

## Part 2 - Requirements for entry into the Program

- A. Program application form must be completed, signed, submitted and approved by the department.
- B. Herds which have been in the cervid Tuberculosis Accreditation program may enter the CWD program with an advanced standing: if they have had no death loss, or if they have a record of a negative CWD examination on any animals over 16 months which have died since they have been in the accreditation program. Herd inventory records must be furnished and examined for advanced standing entry.

## Part 3 - Program Protocol

### A. General Provisions

The herd owner or manager who participates in the Program shall agree to do the following:

1. Maintain perimeter fencing adequate to prevent entrance or outlet of cervids
2. Furnish the Department the Global Positioning System (GPS) location or legal description of the premise as well a map of the premise showing the perimeter fence and all interior fences and furnish an updated map when fences are added or removed.
3. Identify each cervid twelve months of age or older with a minimum of two state and/or federally approved unique identifiers.
4. Report all death losses of cervids over 16 months of age that die of any cause and submit proper tissue samples for diagnostic purposes from such cervids. These samples must be collected by a CWD certified veterinarian or the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and submitted to a CWD certified laboratory. Diagnostic tissue samples must also be collected from cervids which are slaughtered.

5. Report to the department within seven days the escape of any cervids from the herd enclosure
6. Report to the department within thirty days the purchase of any cervids from any lower or non-status herds.
7. Maintain a current herd inventory report which shall include the following records on all cervids in the herd and furnish a copy of this inventory to the department annually at the time of renewal of the herd status. The inventory shall also include information on management subunits that might be useful in assessing risk should a positive animal be diagnosed.
  - a. Official and visible identification numbers.
  - b. Sex, breed and age.
  - c. Disposition of cervids - date and reason for removal from the herd.
  - d. Primary and secondary identification numbers, sex and birth dates of progeny.
  - e. Date of birth, date of entry and herd of origin of acquired cervids
  - f. Copies of laboratory reports of CWD submissions.
  - g. These records must be kept on each animal for five years after removal from the herd for any reason.
8. Present all cervids for an annual verification of inventory by an accredited veterinarian or a state or federal animal health veterinarian. This verification shall include a cross check of all animal identifications with the previous year and current herd inventory as well as specific information on the disposition of all cervids not present. Herds which are in the cervid Tuberculosis Accreditation program may use the bi-annual Tuberculosis test as inventory verification.
9. Meet with a State or Federal veterinarian and the herd's Accredited veterinarian to discuss and clarify the requirements in obtaining and maintaining a CWD certified herd.

## B. Program Status

1. A herd will gain program status based on the date the herd is approved and the continuous number of years in the program. The date of approval will be the anniversary date for the herd. The status will be dependent on the herd being in compliance with the Program Regulations and Guidelines and being approved annually for advancement in the program.
2. Herd additions are allowed without decrease in herd status only from herds of equal or greater status. If herd additions are acquired from a herd of lower status, the receiving herd shall revert to the same status as the herd from which the animals were acquired. If a herd in the program acquires cervids from a herd which is not participating in a CWD surveillance program, the receiving herd shall lose its status and shall be required to start the certification process anew if certification is desired.
3. When establishing a new herd entirely from a status herd, the herd of origin's status level will transfer to the new herd if the new herd owner notifies the Department and submits an application for participation in the program within 90 days of the cervids arrival on the farm and before any herd additions. Applications received more than 90 days after the

cervids arrival on the farm will be reviewed for approval by the Department. The anniversary date of the new herd will be the same as the herd of origin.

4. Program Status Classification will be as follows:

- a. Year 0 - herd is approved for participation in the program, but has not completed one year of herd surveillance.
- b. Year 1 - one year of surveillance and successful completion of program requirements.
- c. Year 2 - two years of surveillance and successful completion of program requirements.
- d. Years 3, 4, 5, etc. - for each year of surveillance
- e. After five years of surveillance are completed the herd obtains "Certified Status". Once the herd has received Certification status, slaughter surveillance will no longer be required but other requirements of the program will remain in force.

C. Management of CWD Affected or Exposed Herds

1. A herd plan must be developed for all affected and trace herds. This herd plan shall be developed by the herd owner and an animal health official and must be approved by the State Veterinarian.
2. Affected Herd - If an enrolled herd has a confirmed diagnosis of CWD, the Department will issue a quarantine and a herd plan will be established. The herd will lose its status in the CWD surveillance program and shall be required to start the certification process anew if certification is desired.
3. Trace-back or Trace-forward Herd - If an epidemiological investigation reveals a herd in the program to be a Trace-back or Trace-forward herd a herd plan will be developed based on the epidemiological investigation. The Department may issue a quarantine and/or suspend the herds status in the program.

D. Laboratory Submission of Samples

All tissues submitted for CWD diagnostic testing shall be submitted to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL), United States Department of Agriculture, Ames, Iowa, and/or additional laboratories approved by USDA.

E. Use of Semen and Embryos

Enrolled herds may not use semen from any donor found to be CWD positive. Enrolled herds may use semen from lower status or non-participating herds with no effect on program status as long as the semen is not from infected herds or trace herds at the time of collection.

Embryo recipient cervids must meet the programs requirements for cervid acquisitions.

F. Cervids Imported From Foreign Countries

Imported cervids from foreign countries may enter a program herd at the appropriate level if they have an equivalent certification program, or are recognized free of CWD by APHIS standards and the State Veterinarian. If cervids at any time commingle with cervids of a lower program status before entering the recipient herd, the recipient herd will assume the lowest status of the commingled herds.

**APPLICATION FOR OKLAHOMA CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD)  
CERVID SURVEILLANCE AND CERTIFICATION STATUS PROGRAM  
Requirements for a Certified CWD Cervid Herd**

The herd must be in compliance with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Chronic Wasting Disease regulations, which include:

- 1) The herd must be maintained within perimeter fencing adequate to prevent entrance or outlet of cervids.
- 2) Reporting all death losses of cervids over 16 months of age and required submission of brain samples from such cervids. These samples must be collected by a CWD certified veterinarian and submitted to a CWD certified laboratory.
- 3) Annual verification of herd inventory with specific information on the disposition of any cervids missing from the previous year's inventory.
- 4) Identification of each herd member twelve months of age or older with a minimum of two state and/or federally approved unique identifiers.
- 5) Report to the department within seven days the escape of any cervids from the herd enclosure.
- 6) Report to the department within thirty days the purchase of any cervids from lower status or non-status herds.

Attached to this application is:

- a) A map of the premise of this herd showing the perimeter fence and all interior fences. I agree to furnish an updated map to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture whenever fences are changed, added or deleted on this premise.
- b) A current herd inventory listing all cervids over one year of age.

I hereby make application for entry into the Oklahoma Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Cervid Surveillance and Certification Status Program. I understand that this is a voluntary program and I have reviewed the requirements for establishing and maintaining a Cervid herd in this program as presented in the Oklahoma State Department of Agriculture Regulations Subchapter 47 "Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Cervids" and the guidelines for this program as well as the requirements listed on this application.

Herd Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Legal Description--Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ FAX Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Full Name Signature Date

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

I have reviewed this application and the records for this herd and have determined that they have met the requirements for the Oklahoma Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Cervid Surveillance and Certification Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approving Official Title Date Herd ID no.



## **CWD Monitored Herds**

If you are entering the CWD Monitored Herd program, you will need to submit the following documents:

- 1. Application, completed and signed and dated.
- 2. Initial inventory completed by the owner. Subsequent inventories for this program must be completed by a veterinarian qualified for CWD work. Only the initial inventory can be completed by the owner. While inventories completed by qualified veterinarians must be used for CWD, they can also be submitted with your annual Farmed Cervidae applications. However, Farmed Cervidae inventories cannot be used for the CWD program.
- 3. A diagram of your premise denoting perimeter fencing as well as interior pens.
- 4. Using the legal description listed on the application, a county road map (or plat map) should be attached to the application denoting the section the premise is located in, i.e., driving directions.
- 5. If you are also applying for Brucellosis Certified and/or Tuberculosis Accredited status, you will need to be sure to provide verifying documentation, i.e., test charts and/or certificates from herds you made purchases from that verify the status of the herd of origin.

All of the documents listed above need to be mailed to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry to the attention of Marie Edgemon in Animal Industry Services.

When we receive all of these documents, we will assign an inspector to perform the required inspection.