

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY

2800 North Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City OK 73105-4298
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Missouri Law to Impact Oklahoma Deer Farmers

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF) expects changes in Missouri law will affect deer farmers in Oklahoma. Staff Veterinarian, Justin Roach, DVM supervises ODAFF's farmed deer program and has reviewed the potential impact of these changes.

"Lots of restrictive regulations are likely coming to Missouri deer farmers including the ban of all whitetail imports January 30, 2015," Roach said. "Because of an Oklahoma law that passed a few years ago, our office will have to reciprocate and ban all whitetail imports from Missouri when this happens. Oklahoma's reciprocity law was passed to encourage other states to open their borders to Oklahoma and discourage further closures. This change is unfortunate since Missouri is one of about only eight states that Oklahoma does significant commerce with in regards to farmed deer."

The Missouri Conservation Commission unanimously voted to approve proposed amendments to regulations regarding the operation of hunting preserves and wildlife breeding facilities that hold white-tailed deer, mule deer, their hybrids and other members of the deer family, known as cervids. The goal is to prevent the spread of diseases, including chronic wasting disease, to the state's deer herd.

Actions by the Commission include:

- * Banning the importation of live whitetailed deer, mule deer and their hybrids from other states. The regulation still allows for the importation of semen for artificial insemination.
- * Requiring all facilities, existing and new, to maintain or construct a single 8-foot fence following specific standards detailed in the Wildlife Code of Missouri. Existing facilities would have 18 months to bring fencing into compliance.
- * Requiring Class I and Class II wildlife breeders and big game hunting preserves to test all mortalities of deer that are older than six months for chronic wasting disease and allow permittees to apply for an exemption from mandatory testing requirements in the event of a mass-casualty event.
- * Requiring Class I and Class II wildlife breeders who hold deer to participate in a U.S. Department of Agriculture-approved chronic wasting disease herd certification program.
- * Set requirements for disease testing, record keeping, reporting disease test results and complying with an established disease response plan in the event a disease is discovered.
- * Prohibiting any new captive-cervid facilities within 25 miles of a confirmed chronic wasting disease location for five years.

The Missouri regulation changes are expected to become effective Jan. 30, 2015. Roach encourages all Oklahoma deer farmers with pending animal movements to or from Missouri to complete those prior to January 30, 2015. If any deer farmers have extenuating circumstances attempting to move pre-owned deer from Missouri to Oklahoma after that deadline, Roach suggests contacting him as soon as possible to discuss special arrangements. ODAFF's Farmed Cervidae program may be reached at (405) 522-8396 or (405) 522-6124 or by email at justin.roach@ag.ok.gov.

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