



## Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Herd Certification Program Application and Agreement

Premises Name		Physical Location of Herd (descriptive or GPS)		Region	County / FIPS
TAHC Number (PIN or LID, if assigned)		CWD Herd Number		Status	TPWD Facility ID
Owner Name	Owner Phone	Owner Address		Owner Email Address	
Manager Name	Manager Phone	Manager Address		Manager Email Address	

**The Herd Owner, his or her agents, heirs and assigns agree to the following provisions for the CWD Herd Certification Program for Cervidae:**

1. Regulations — Comply with Title 4 Texas Administrative Code Section 40.3, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Herd Certification Program for Cervidae, of the Texas CWD regulations (copy attached) and Title 9 CFR Part 55 Subpart B, and USDA's 2019 CWD Program Standards. Failure to comply with Section 40.3 including program updates may result in the herd status not being advanced, lowered, suspended, or revoked.
2. Enrollment Requirements —
  - Each animal must be identified by March 31 of the year following the birth year using official animal identification. All animals of any age shall be officially identified on a change of ownership or when moved from the premises of origin.
  - Herd premises must have perimeter fencing adequate to prevent ingress and or egress of cervids. For herds established after October 15, 2021, the fence must be a minimum of 8 feet high.
3. Reporting Requirements —
  - Immediately report upon discovery all farmed or captive cervids that escape or disappear and all free-ranging cervids that enter the facility.
4. Annual Inventory —
  - An annual inventory shall be verified by a commission representative or a TAHC Authorized Veterinarian.
  - The herd owner shall maintain herd records that include a complete inventory of animals with documents showing all births, deaths, acquisitions, dispositions, and escaped or disappeared animals. The herd owner shall also maintain all test result records for those animals that died. For white-tailed and mule deer, all required animal information must be entered in the TWIMS database.
  - Identify natural additions to the herd in the inventory records with the letters "NA", purchased additions with the letters "PA", and retagged animals with the letters "RT".

5. Testing Requirements —
  - Test all deaths aged 12 months or older for CWD.
  - CWD test samples shall be collected and submitted to an approved laboratory within 7 days of collection for CWD diagnosis using an official CWD test. Test reporting shall be directed to the appropriate TAHC Region Office or through TWIMS.
  - Tissue samples submitted must include the obex and both retropharyngeal lymph nodes from each animal being tested.
6. Herd Status Changes —
  - Additions may originate from herds of equal or greater status based on status date with no change in the status of the receiving herd.
  - Additions may originate from herds of lesser status with the receiving herd acquiring the lower status and status date of the herd(s) involved.
  - If a herd participating in the program acquires animals from a nonparticipating herd, the receiving herd reverts to First Year status.
  - The herd owner shall notify the commission of lesser status additions within 5 business days of such acquisition. Herd status will be changed upon notification.
  - Farmed cervids commingled with other farmed cervids assume the status of the lowest program status, based on status date, animal in the group.
7. Identification Requirements —
  - Each animal must have at least two forms of animal identification attached to the animal. One of the animal identifications must be a nationally unique official animal identification number and the second identification must be unique for the individual animal within the herd. Both numbers must be linked to that animal in the CWD National Database or a TAHC-approved database.
8. Recordkeeping —
  - The herd owner shall maintain herd records that include a complete inventory of animals with documents showing all births, deaths, acquisitions, dispositions, and escaped or disappeared animals. The herd owner shall maintain all test result records for those animals that died. For the annual inventory records, identify natural additions with “NA”, purchased additions with “PA”, and retagged animals with “RT”.
  - The herd owner must also maintain the following information for a minimum of five years after the animal has left the herd or died:
    - (1) All identifications (tags, tattoos, electronic implants, etc.);
    - (2) Birth date;
    - (3) Species;
    - (4) Sex;
    - (5) Date of acquisition and source of each animal that was not born into the herd, including name and address;
    - (6) Date of removal and destination of any animal removed from the herd, including name and address;
    - (7) Date of death and cause, if known, for animals dying within the herd;
    - (8) Date of CWD sample submission, submitter, owner, premises, animal information, and official CWD test results from an approved laboratory; and
    - (9) Age.
  - For white-tailed deer and mule deer, all required animal information must be entered in the TWIMS database.

## 9. Inspections —

- Initial Inspection — an initial physical herd inspection of a cervid breeding facility must be conducted by a commission representative upon enrollment to:
  - Visually observe each cervid, and the herd as a whole, for clinical signs of CWD;
  - Verify and record the two unique animal identification numbers for each individual animal;
  - Perform a herd inventory not more 60 days prior to the herd's date of enrollment;
  - Confirm perimeter fencing is adequate.
- Annual Inspection — an annual inspection of a cervid breeding facility must be conducted by a commission representative or a TAHC Authorized Veterinarian 11 to 13 months after the last inspection to:
  - Visually observe the herd for clinical signs of CWD;
  - Examine records for completeness and accuracy;
  - Reconcile the previous year's inventory and all documented dispositions and acquisitions. One identification must be visually verified on at least 50% of the animals;
  - Review and reconcile the herd owner's records with the overall head count. Any discrepancies will require a complete physical herd inventory to determine the extent of the discrepancy;
  - Verify that CWD sampling requirements are met. Document deficient, missed or poor-quality samples; and
  - Inspect perimeter fencing for minimum standards and document needed repairs.
- Physical Herd Inspection — a complete physical herd inspection of a cervid breeding facility will be conducted by a commission representative or a TAHC Authorized Veterinarian no more than 3 years after the initial inspection or last complete physical herd inspection to:
  - Visually observe the herd for clinical signs of CWD;
  - Examine records for completeness and accuracy;
  - Reconcile the previous year's inventory and all documented dispositions and acquisitions. All required identification must be visually verified on 100% of the animals;
  - Review and reconcile the herd owner's records with the overall head count;
  - Verify that CWD sampling requirements are met. Document deficient, missed or poor-quality samples; and
  - Inspect perimeter fencing for minimum standards and document needed repairs.
- Compliance Inspection
  - A premises where a herd is located may be inspected at any time by a commission representative to determine compliance with the Herd Certification Program and the requirements of this chapter.
  - The herd owner is responsible for assembling, handling, and restraining the animals and for all costs incurred to present the animals for inspection.
  - The herd owner must notify the TAHC Region Office at least 72 hours prior to any inspection performed by a TAHC Authorized Veterinarian.

## 10. Fees —

- The commission will assess a fee of \$100 per hour for each annual inventory, initial inspection, annual inspection or physical herd inspection performed by a commission representative.

Herd Owner Name (required)	Herd Owner Signature / Date (required)
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Herd Manager Name (optional)	Herd Manager Signature / Date (optional)
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TAHC Management Signature / Date	TAHC Assistant Executive Director Signature / Date
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Return the completed agreement to your TAHC region office at the address below: