

## Peck Farm Research Update Spring 2020

Looking towards initiation of the Phase 4 portion of the Peck Farm research we'll continue to evaluate the evolving positive health status of the remaining 3 deer on the quarantined farm (buck red 1, Doe purple 1 and her buck fawn purple 2). This year the study will include the lone Bull elk on this farm as well. This update provides current information regarding the progress of the remaining deer and 1 elk quarantined for exposure to CWD.



**Left to Right – Red 1 , Purple 1 and her late born (8-15-2019) buck fawn Purple 2 body condition March 7,2020.**

As we look towards the summer months we were continually reminded of the many environmental conditions with seasonal changes and increasing risks for exposures to weather conditions, parasites, flies and bacterial organisms found around the farm which could impact your deer.

A bright spot for Red 1 and Purple 1 produced their first known fawn in 4 years time on 8-15-2019. The importance is that the buck has now bred 3 different Does in this study that went on to die with CWD onboard. Purple 1 was determined to be pregnant again in early April, 2020.

The importance of this second pregnancy is even with a late birth (8-15-2019) it still allowed for her to re-breed with her 2020 fawn being born 7-1-2020 (45 days sooner). This reproduction shift shows that improvement to dietary inputs for deer health in this study helped to re-establish breeding success in a deer that had not born a fawn in 4 years resulting in breeding twice in the same year (Jan 2019 and Dec. 2019) producing 2 fawns!

In this study we set out to identify disease producing organisms on this CWD quarantined farm in relationship to our control farms. In time as we begin to examine our success, one step at a time, understanding the relationship between dietary inputs / disease helps to support deer farm management relating to feed / water quality along with disease causing organisms on the farm. This provides the positive progression in understanding deer farm disease related issues leading to the the deers immune suppression resulting in the development of disease issues like CWD.

From past experience, every day can be critical for predicting and monitoring for disease especially during the months of August through December. These months signal the shortening days of fall that require deer to put on more body fat along with a new winter hair coat which critical for survival.



Left to Right - Red 1 shows good body condition while pregnant Purple 1 awaits birth of her fawn(s) while her last year fawn Purple 2 (born 8-15-19) looks on to start his first set of antlers seen budding 6-15-2020.



Left to Right: Purple 3 (7-1-2020) soaks up the sun on its first day of birth. The Bull elk (11 years old) now part of this CWD study is approaching his 5<sup>th</sup> year under original quarantine conditions.

You, the member of your participating organization, hold the key in supporting this continued research so your input and questions and financial resources are always welcomed.

Contact me or your Board members to have a conversation supporting CWD research.

WCDEFA [wcdafa@gmail.com](mailto:wcdafa@gmail.com), NADeFA [schafer@nadefa.org](mailto:schafer@nadefa.org) , or DBC [tim@dbcdeer.com](mailto:tim@dbcdeer.com)

Submitted: Jerome Donohoe, [ag\\_o3@earthlink.net](mailto:ag_o3@earthlink.net)