

## Peck Farm Research Update Fall 2019

In the Phase 3 report we sought the continuance of evaluating the evolving health status of the remaining 4 deer on the quarantined farm (1 buck, 3 Does). This update provides current information regarding the progress of the deer quarantined for the exposure to CWD.



**Early March 2019 show deer in good late winter condition prior to April's testing.**

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



**Pink 1 (left) decided to leave the farm after a late night electrical storm the night before. It's unknown how this happened as no fence damage was found. Notifications to DATCP and DNR were made within 24hrs. Yellow 2 (center) snacks on some grass the day after the birth of her first fawn (right) on July 24th.**

A bright spot for Yellow 2 was in spite of being detected as a rectal positive deer this year successfully produced her first fawn (Yellow 3). This was the first surviving fawn since the beginning of this study. Interesting that Yellow 1 was found dead by goring (Phase 3) by the buck on December 26<sup>th</sup>. This could provide a time point of the buck's aggressive intentions for the late month breeding cycle. Deer gestation from conception typically lasts 200 / 205 days with Yellow 2 giving birth to her fawn at 209 days from the 26<sup>th</sup>. This provides a timeline for re-establishing reproductive performance. A second bright spot was that Purple 1 also produced her first known fawn later in the month of August (22 days post Yellow2). Though most fawns are born earlier in the year (May/June) the late birth of these fawns, though not uncommon, will be tracked as for future reproductive performance.





**Buck Red 1 rests with fawn Yellow 3 under the shade of a pine while Purple 1 tends to her fawn Purple 2 (born 8-15-19) on a late August day after a soaking rain.**

From past observation, the next important time point for monitoring this disease process would be in 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.



**Fawn Yellow 3 and Yellow 2 turn to pose on a warm late August afternoon.**

Fawn Yellow 3 un-expectedly found dead the morning of September 4th. This fawn had a very vibrant disposition showing little course of slowing down. It was later found the fawn had an open sore on a back leg hock area that had become infected and covered with flies. A necropsy was not performed due to autolysis of the fawn by the time the death was discovered. It was determined that Yellow 2 was declining in body condition in the following weeks and arrangements were in process to put her down for the collection of live tissue samples. Currently we are waiting for necropsy and sample results that will be outlined in a Phase 3.5 report.

You the member, hold the key in supporting this continued research so your input is highly valued.

Contact me or your Industry Leaders to have a conversation supporting CWD research.

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