

Wisconsin Commercial Deer and Elk Farmers Association Fall Update

From The President's Desk,

October, 2020

An update from the WCDEFA brings our organization new opportunities in the review of CWD research. Our organization looks to join the collaborative support of the Peck Farm research along with NADeFA and DBC. This research initiative will add a bull elk into the CWD study review as the farm approaches its 5th year of CWD exposure as outlined in our summer update. Research to date shows negative impacts of environmental contaminations that suppress a deer's immune system to a point of debilitation resulting in development of CWD as an end life stage disease process. Through monitoring these negative environmental organisms we've looked to optimize our dietary and water supports of these deer to stave off negative health consequences. Though initially we lost deer who succumbed to CWD in this study, we learned immensely from their deaths about the disease process which has eluded our industry in the past. To date, we have been successful in re-establishing reproduction and survival of whitetail deer offspring in the last 2 breeding cycles. CWD was first reported on this farm nearly 5 years ago, and our research is showing that we are on a positive pathway to understanding this disease process. Our hope is to be able to beat CWD in deer.



Buck, Red 1 (6-4-15) and Doe Purple 1 (7-8-2012) show good body composition for the pending breeding season.



Purple 2 born 8-15-2019 likes to hang with his brother Purple 3 born 7-1 2020.

With early frosts followed by new snows in our north, winter seemed to come early this year. With deer / elk breeding cycles approaching full swing on farm, the rut and breeding season showcases the true grit of both sexes survival lasting into late December. The next thing you know our Annual Convention will be here!

Last year's convention we were luckier than most by being able to host our Annual Convention amidst COVID concerns. So far we are still ON for our 2021 WCDEFA Annual Convention.

This coming year, our convention will be held on January 29 / 31st, 2021 at the Hotel Marshfield in Marshfield, WI. Like last year, we are hopeful to have our meeting along with the Whitetails of Wisconsin Cervid Farmers Foundation providing this COVID thing is held at bay. By networking together we all win in the areas of shared interests and ideas that work on the farm, in our communities and our businesses.

Building our agenda for this year's meeting relies on areas of your interests or concerns in our market place. Let me know what areas of subject material we should cover this year in moving our industries forward. Your responses will help shape our speaker line up so let me know today.



Approaching 5 years of CWD quarantine our 12 year old bull adds body weight for the winter months.

Again, for those who are able to attend our meeting let us know what meals you would like to see at the table. Elk Tacos, Elk meat loaf or?

Remember, you the member, by being involved, will help in our planning for another successful event like this past year. Please consider getting involved! Remember, we have a meat tasting / judging contest for those interested in putting your favorite meat product to the test.

E-mail me, Jerome at ag_o3@earthlink.net or Shelly Burns at wcdefa@gmail.com to provide your suggestions / or time availability in helping make this year's convention another success story. Stay tuned for more information about our upcoming meeting!!

Thank you, Jerome Donohoe
President – Wisconsin Commercial Deer and Elk Farmers Association (WCDEFA)

Contact your Board members and have a conversation about supporting our CWD research.

WCDEFA wcdefa@gmail.com, NADeFA schafer@nadefa.org , or DBC cati@dbcdeer.com