Chronic Wasting Disease & Idaho’s Domestic Cervidae Industry

CSG West Annual Meeting
Big Sky, MT July 18, 2019

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• In 1994, the Idaho Legislature deemed domestic cervidae farming an agricultural pursuit. (Title 37 Idaho Code)
• Authority for all regulation of domestic cervidae farms in Idaho transferred to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA).
• The ISDA was given authority to “promulgate, and enforce general and reasonable rules not inconsistent with law, for the registration of domestic cervidae farm or ranch premises, and for the prevention of the introduction or dissemination of diseases among domestic cervidae of this state”.
• Domestic Cervidae defined as “fallow deer, elk or reindeer owned by a person”. (IDAPA 02.04.19 Rules Governing Domestic Cervidae)
Program Funding

- Budget is 100% dedicated funds.
- The Idaho Legislature established the following fees in state code:
  - $10.00 annual fee for all domestic cervidae present at the farm or ranch as of December 31 and all domestic cervidae that die or have been harvested on the farm or ranch during the same calendar year.
  - $10.00 per head on all domestic cervidae imported from outside of the state due by December 31 of the year of import.
  - $10.00 per head on all domestic cervidae exported outside of the state due by December 31 of the year of export.
  - $10.00 per head on all domestic cervidae whose ownership is transferred from one producer to another within the state due by December 31 of the year of transfer.
Program Demographics

- As of December 2018:
  - 5090 head of domestic cervidae in Idaho in 43 herds (35 elk, 5 deer, 3 mixed elk & deer).
    - Historical high: approximately 6800 head in 108 herds.
    - Average herd size: 118 head.
    - Herd sizes range from 1 to 912.
  - Predominantly an import state.
    - Currently have no herds participating in the USDA National CWD Herd Certification Program for export purposes.
  - Majority of facilities are located in eastern Idaho.
Until 2014, Idaho law required 100% of all domestic cervid species that died, or were harvested, be tested for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) at an approved laboratory.

- 2003 to 2014 an average of 1500 head of domestic cervid species were tested annually.
- No domestic Cervidae were found to be infected with CWD.
In 2014, the Idaho Cervidae industry successfully petitioned the legislature to allow for decreased CWD surveillance in domestic cervidae due to the long mandatory testing history with no CWD positives identified.

- Tissue samples from no less than ten percent (10%) of all domestic cervidae sixteen (16) months of age or older that are harvested on domestic cervidae farms or ranches shall be submitted by the owner of the domestic cervidae farm to official laboratories to be tested for CWD.

- Tissue samples must be collected from 100% of all domestic cervidae 16 months of age and older that die for any reason other than being harvested and submitted for CWD testing.
CWD Testing Since 2014

- 2015
  - 1056 deaths/477 tested, all negative (45%)
- 2016
  - 952 deaths/446 tested, all negative (47%)
- 2017
  - 1027 deaths/435 tested, all negative (42%)
- 2018
  - 1172 deaths/542 tested, all negative (46%)
CWD Prevention/Mitigation

• Strict enforcement of Idaho’s domestic cervidae import regulations.
  – Imported animals must be enrolled in and possess “Certified Status” in the USDA CWD Herd Certification Program or Canadian Food Inspection Agency program.
  
• Origin farm must have a 5-year history of negative tests on all animals that die or are harvested.
  – Cannot originate from a CWD endemic area.
  – Must be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and an import permit issued by the ISDA.
  – Must have 2 forms of official identification.
  – Must meet all other import requirements.
CWD Mitigation

- **Surveillance**
  - Continue recommending aggressive sampling of harvested domestic cervidae.
  - Continue enforcing mandatory testing of 100% of animals that die from unknown causes.

- **Biosecurity**
  - Continual maintenance of fences to ensure adequate separation and prevent ingress of wild elk or egress of domestic elk.
  - Control access to premises.
CWD Mitigation

- Stakeholder outreach and education.
- Coordinated approach with state and federal partners.
- Update ISDA’s CWD Response Plan as needed.
Contact Information

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