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New York CWD Program Alert

1 NYCRR Part 68 outlines captive cervid health requirements related to the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) program in New York. 68.3(b) CWD requirements for the importation of captive CWD susceptible cervids into New York states “ Except as provided herein, CWD susceptible cervids shall be approved for importation only if they are moved from a herd which has achieved CWD certified herd status and the state of origin has adopted mandatory reporting and quarantine requirements equivalent to those set forth in this Part.”

This week a difference between the New York CWD Certified Herd program and Pennsylvania’s CWD Herd Certification Program (HCP) was identified. This finding removes the equivalence of the two state programs with respect to CWD surveillance in CWD Certified herds. After revision in June 2006 and update in November 2008 the Pennsylvania HCP plan states that “Once the herd has received certified status, slaughter surveillance and surveillance of animals killed in shooter operations will no longer be required, but other requirements of the program will remain in force.”

Because CWD sampling may be less rigorous in the Pennsylvania HCP program after a herd reaches CWD Certified status the level of CWD surveillance may be lower than the New York program. In New York all test eligible (16 months and older) animals in CWD Certified herds which die for ANY reason which are tested at ANY time after the herd is enrolled in the program including after the herd reaches Certified status.

Some herds which have reached CWD Certified status in the Pennsylvania HCP program have not chosen to downgrade their level of CWD testing. Those herds have remained enrolled in a CWD herd certification program which is equivalent to New York’s program as long as they have also not added animals from HCP herds which have chosen to follow the less rigorous CWD testing program. Animals originating in these herds will qualify to move to New York. Likewise CWD Certified herds from other states which have accepted herd additions from Pennsylvania herds which do not qualify for shipment to New York because the reduction of surveillance will not qualify as source herds for import into New York. Each potential source herd wishing to move CWD-susceptible cervids into New York will be evaluated individually in cooperation with the agency which oversees their herd CWD program. This additional scrutiny will significantly increase the time needed to process movement permit requests for imports into New York.

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