

New CWD Program Participants Guide- what are the first steps?

-CWD Susceptible Cervids are regulated by PDA. Here is a brief guide of the initial steps to take before getting white tail deer, elk, or any other CWD Susceptible species.

- Locate your Premises ID number, if you already have one. If you don't have one, apply for one on the PDA BAHDS web site at [Premises Registration Form - Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture](#) . You will need your premises number for the CWD application. There is no fee to obtain a premises ID number.
- Apply for a Cervid Livestock Operator's License (CLO) or, when applicable, an exemption (use the Verification of Non-CLO status form for the latter). The CLO has a fee. For the application form, see: [Cervidae Livestock Operations \(pa.gov\)](#). For a copy of the Law, see the PA Domestic Animal Law, Subchapter G-1: [Chapter 23 - Domestic Animals :: 2010 Pennsylvania Code :: US Codes and Statutes :: US Law :: Justia](#)
- Apply for a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) program. Enrollment in a CWD program is mandatory, but you may select either the Herd Certification Program (HCP) or the Herd Monitored Program((HMP). Talk to your PDA inspector* about what will work best for your business model. There is no fee to enroll in the CWD program. For the enrollment form, see the forms tab on the following page: [Chronic Wasting Disease \(pa.gov\)](#)
- Before you bring any cervids onto your premises, you must first complete your pen, with all gates and appropriate fencing. Fence must be at least 8 foot high, but 10 foot is recommended. Fencing must prevent ingress and egress of all cervids (including wild fawns). When your pen is complete, contact your PDA inspector*who will inspect the pen. It must pass inspection prior to any cervids moving onto your premises. At the 1st inspection, the PDA inspector will also explain the program requirements, including enrollment.
- For large fenced-in areas (such as for a hunting preserve) PGC should be contacted prior to completing the fence. PGC will either want to verify no wild deer were inadvertently fenced in by driving them out, or they may assess and charge for estimated number of deer that may have been fenced in.
- *See PDA website, regional map for the contact information for the appropriate regional office which covers the county where your farm is located: [Regional Offices \(pa.gov\)](#).
- Obtain and read copies of the current CWD Quarantine Orders as you are legally responsible to comply with all parts of the QO that apply to your premises. [Chronic Wasting Disease \(pa.gov\)](#)
- Once your pen has passed inspection and your Inspector has given you the green light to receive your cervids, an initial inventory must be submitted to PDA listing the complete information about the cervids you received (type of cervid, official ID, secondary ID, sex, age, source including premises ID). Use the "Herd Addition" form for this and sign and return the certification form. Forms are located at: [Chronic Wasting Disease \(pa.gov\)](#) Please note: Forms may not open in all browsers.
- You may only get cervids from a premises currently enrolled in the CWD program. If movement is from an HCP participant, it must also be documented on the movement form (MR2014) and submitted to PDA within 10 days of the movement. If premises is from out of state, all PA import requirements must be met. [Domestic Animal Import Requirements \(pa.gov\)](#)
- Bills of sale detailing date, all ID numbers/tags of each cervid(s) and complete name/address/premises number of buyer and seller must be provided/kept as part of record keeping requirements.
- Your PDA Inspector will provide you with official tags or give you information on purchasing official ID.
- Develop an inventory system. Inventory must be kept up to date daily and be available to review upon request. Inventory must include complete information: *identification, movement(additions, deletion), births, deaths, retags, lab test records, cervid bills of sale, etc.)* Include the premises identification number next to the name of the location that bought or sold any Cervidae. You will also be turning in an annual inventory summary, your inspector will explain this to you, but it is the herd owner's responsibility to submit required inventory forms **annually** at the time of their anniversary. All forms must include the certification form which is signed and dated when submitted.
- To recap: You may not accept any Cervids unless (1)your pen passed inspection by PDA (2) the source premises is enrolled in a CWD program and is not under any movement restrictions such as a quarantine and (3) the cervids have official ID applied (attached to the ear, or implanted, if a microchip) and a secondary ID. Microchips are only acceptable if you have a microchip reader.(4)Cervids may only come from another CWD enrolled premises in good standing. If from out of state, all PA import requirements must also be met.

Note: If your premises is in Blair, Bedford, and/or Fulton Counties, no new Cervid locations will be approved (there is a moratorium against any new Cervid premises in these counties).