



## Revisions to Cervid Regulations

I have served on the La Dept of Ag Board of Animal Health for many years. Since my first year my goal has been to revise the rules that govern our industry to make them fair, enforceable, and based on the latest available science. That mission has finally been completed. In November, 2016 our rule revisions became final and now govern all Cervids in Louisiana. I will highlight some of the major changes following. I will also be available at the spring WOL convention to answer any questions and hear your comments.

- 1) The definition and any mention of canned hunts has been removed from our regs.
- 2) The definition of CWD has been revised.
- 3) LDWF has been removed from our regulations except for their input in initial pen inspections. However only LDAG determines when a new pen can be permitted.
- 4) A delinquent fee of \$125 has been added for any existing license that is not renewed prior to August 31. Renewal fees are due prior to June 30 each year.
- 5) The minimum size of enclosures has been changed from 300 acres to 250 acres. However if a new pen to be permitted is less than 300 acres then 60% of the acres must be in brush or trees.
- 6) The maximum size of enclosures has been eliminated.
- 7) Insertion of an electronic chip for harvested animals is no longer valid. Each animal in a breeder pen must have an electronic chip.

- 8) Sale of all animals must be reported to LDAG within ten calendar days from the sale, including microchip ID for each animal sold.
- 9) Farm raised whitetail deer meat may be sold to an approved slaughter house.
- 10) Whitetail deer antlers and capes may be sold.
- 11) Rules for decommissioning an existing farm have been added.

These changes should allow our industry to grow and prosper. Please help us by obtaining a copy of the regulations and learn them. Copies will be available at our Expo in April or on our website.

I would like to personally thank Commissioner Dr. Mike Strain, Dr. John Walther, and Lindsey Hunter, attorney for LDAG for their help and patience working through these revisions. They have been most helpful and cooperative.

I remind you that our state is still under a temporary ban on importation of all CWD susceptible species which includes whitetail deer, Elk, Red Deer, and several other species.

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