



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Rich Storm
Commissioner

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Gabe Jenkins
Deputy Commissioner

AUTHORIZATION REGARDING HUNTING AND FEEDING OF DEER

September 04, 2026

STATEMENT:

Whereas Chronic Wasting Disease has been detected in free-ranging deer less than 8 miles from the Kentucky border in Henry County, TN, in free-ranging deer in Ballard County, KY, in captive deer in Breckinridge County, KY, less than 2 miles from the Kentucky border in Posey County, IN, and in a free-ranging deer in Pulaski County, thus activating the department's CWD Response Plan;

AUTHORIZATION DECLARATION:

- A) By the power vested to me by KRS 150.025 and 301 KAR 3:040 I do hereby authorize the following be implemented in the Kentucky Counties of Casey, Laurel, Lincoln, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, and Wayne Counties:
- An antlerless only (including button bucks) modern firearms deer season beginning the fourth Friday of September for four consecutive days;
 - Restrict harvest for all deer hunters during the new 4-day September season, regardless of hunting method, to antlerless only deer (including button bucks);
 - During the 4-day antlerless only modern firearms season in September, all hunters who harvest a deer in these counties shall submit the head for CWD testing in a KDFWR CWD Sample Drop-Off Site; and
 - All provisions with regards to hunter orange requirements, carcass movement restrictions, hunter restrictions and harvest recording, bag limits and checking as prescribed in 301 KAR 2:172 shall apply.
- B) By the power vested to me by KRS 150.015, 150.025, 150.105, and 150.720 and furthermore by the submission of amendments to 301 KAR 2:172 and 301 KAR 2:015 by October 15, 2026 to the Legislative Research Commission, I do hereby authorize the following restrictions be lifted from 301 KAR 2:172 and 301 KAR 2:015 and be implemented in the Kentucky Counties of Casey, Laurel, Lincoln, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Whitley and Wayne Counties:

1. Prohibition on baiting and feeding of all wildlife by means of any grain, salt, mineral, or other attractants intended to be ingested.

C) By the power vested to me KRS 150.015, 150.025, 150.105, and 150.720 and furthermore by the submission of amendments to 301 KAR 2:172 and 301 KAR 2:015 by October 15, 2026 to the Legislative Research Commission, I do hereby authorize the following be implemented in the Kentucky Counties of Casey, Laurel, Lincoln, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Whitley and Wayne Counties:

- Baiting be allowed under the authority established in this authorization, except contact style feeders (e.g., troughs, funnels, gravity feeders without spreading capabilities, etc.) are prohibited.

D) By the power vested to me by KRS 150.015, 150.025, 150.105, and 150.720 and furthermore by the submission of amendments to 301 KAR 2:172, 301 KAR 2:015 and 301 KAR 2:095 by October 15, 2026 to the Legislative Research Commission, I do hereby authorize the following:

- CWD Surveillance Zones Requirements for the Kentucky Counties of Ballard, Breckinridge, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hardin, Henderson, Hickman, Marshall, McCracken, Meade, Union, and Webster Counties:
 - An antlerless only (including button bucks) modern firearms deer season beginning the fourth Friday of September for four consecutive days;
 - Restrict harvest for all deer hunters during the new 4-day September season, regardless of hunting method, to antlerless only deer (including button bucks);
 - During the 4-day antlerless only modern firearms season in September, all hunters who harvest a deer in these counties shall submit the head for CWD testing in a KDFWR CWD Sample Drop-Off Site; and
 - All provisions with regards to hunter orange requirements, carcass movement restrictions, hunter restrictions and harvest recording and checking as prescribed in 301 KAR 2:172 shall apply.
 - Restrictions be lifted from 301 KAR 2:172 and 301 KAR 2:015 on the prohibition on baiting and feeding of all wildlife by means of any grain, salt, mineral, or other attractants intended to be ingested.
 - Baiting be allowed, except contact style feeders (e.g., troughs, funnels, gravity feeders without spreading capabilities, etc.) are prohibited.

E) By the power vested to me by KRS 150.015, 150.025, 150.105, 150.720 and 301 KAR 3:040 and furthermore by the submission of amendments to 301 KAR 2:172 and 301 KAR 2:095 by October 15, 2026 to the Legislative Research Commission, I do hereby authorize the following:

- Restrictions be lifted from 301 KAR 2:172 and 301 KAR 2:095 on the prohibition of transporting a cervid carcass or cervid carcass parts from outside of a CWD Surveillance Zone to a KDFWR licensed taxidermist or meat processor if:
 - The licensed taxidermist or meat processor's facility is located within the 30-mile radius of a CWD positive location, but not included in a CWD Surveillance Zone;
 - The facility owner submits a written request to the Commissioner's Office expressing their desire to accept a cervid carcass or carcass parts;
 - The facility owner agrees to turn over all biological material needed for CWD testing of each carcass (if sampling material is available); and
 - The request has been approved by the Commissioner's Office.

Note: Submission of a written request does not constitute approval. Authorization to accept an entire cervid carcass or carcass part is subject to review and approval by the Commissioner's Office and may be denied or conditioned as deemed necessary.

EFFECTIVE TIMEFRAME:

This authorization is effective immediately and shall be effective until the end of the 2026 – 2027 deer hunting season or until amendments become effective to 301 KAR 2:172, 301 KAR 2:015 and 301 KAR 2:095.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich Storm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rich" and last name "Storm" clearly distinguishable.

Rich Storm

KDFWR Commissioner