



DISEASE TRANSMISSION RISKS WITH BAITING

¹ Chronic wasting disease is caused by a prion and is always fatal. It spreads through direct contact with infected animals, contact with contaminated bodily fluids from infected deer, and contact with contaminated environments. Thus, practices promoting these events increase the risk of disease transmission.

79%

² Trust NDGF to follow the best available science in managing CWD.

74%

² ND deer hunters perceive a baiting restriction to be slightly to very effective in managing CWD.

11%

² Consider NDGF's approach to managing CWD to be too aggressive.

³ In Saskatchewan, where baiting and feeding is widespread and was never regulated, infection rates in mule deer have risen from approximately 3% to 70% in 15 years in core areas. *This is the fastest increase documented in free-ranging cervids. CWD has been detected in North Dakota unit 3F2 since 2009 but infection rates in mule deer are approximately 5% as of 2022.*



⁴ Research has shown that food plots do not present the disease concerns that bait piles represent, even within areas with bovine TB.



⁵ When deer are artificially congregated under captive settings, CWD spreads more rapidly and to substantially higher rates than documented in wild populations.

⁶ **Bovine tuberculosis (TB)** is spread through similar mechanisms as CWD, making it a useful model for understanding CWD. Baiting and feeding has demonstrably been shown to facilitate increased transmission of TB in deer. Baiting and feeding enabled the TB outbreak in Michigan to persist and spread. Infection rates decreased after restrictions were applied. These continue to be a pivotal component of reducing the spread of this disease within deer and limiting the economic impact to the cattle industry.

⁷ Baiting was associated with higher deer concentration and extensive face-to-face contacts which increases the frequency and intensity of direct and indirect contacts among deer.

⁸ Baiting breaks down the natural spatial segregation of maternal family groups, resulting in increased contact of unrelated animals that typically don't associate.

⁹ Deer preferentially and more intensively visited artificial feed sources such as grain piles compared to natural browse sites, rubs, salt licks, and waterholes. At these artificial sources, they had more contacts with the environment resulting in higher potential exposure.

* Numbers associated with citations on back.



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