



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Veterinary Division

R. Douglas Meckes, DVM
State Veterinarian

May 23, 2016

North Carolina Deer and Elk Farmers Association,

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) is in receipt of your request regarding clarification on the importation of reindeer into North Carolina. We appreciate your concern and thank you for your engagement.

As you know, in mid-March 2016, the first known case of a naturally occurring chronic wasting disease (CWD) infection in a free-ranging reindeer from the Nordfjella population in South-Norway was identified. NCDA&CS has made an inquiry of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as to the possible change of classification of reindeer from a non-susceptible CWD species to a susceptible CWD species. North Carolina Law requires that NCDA&CS follow USDA's Chronic Wasting Disease Program Standards in the implementation of NC's farmed cervid program. We have received acknowledgment that USDA is aware of this case and there are discussions occurring at this time. Out of an abundance of caution in order to prevent and control transmissible disease in farmed cervids, and under the authority and requirements of G.S. 106-549.97, NCDA&CS has placed a moratorium on importation of reindeer into North Carolina until such time as USDA has made a determination with regard to the CWD status of reindeer.

Thank you for your patience as we work through this issue and continue to foster and develop our farmed cervid industry in North Carolina. If you have further questions, you may contact the our office at 919-707-3250.

Sincerely,

R. Doug Meckes, DVM
North Carolina State Veterinarian

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Enclosures