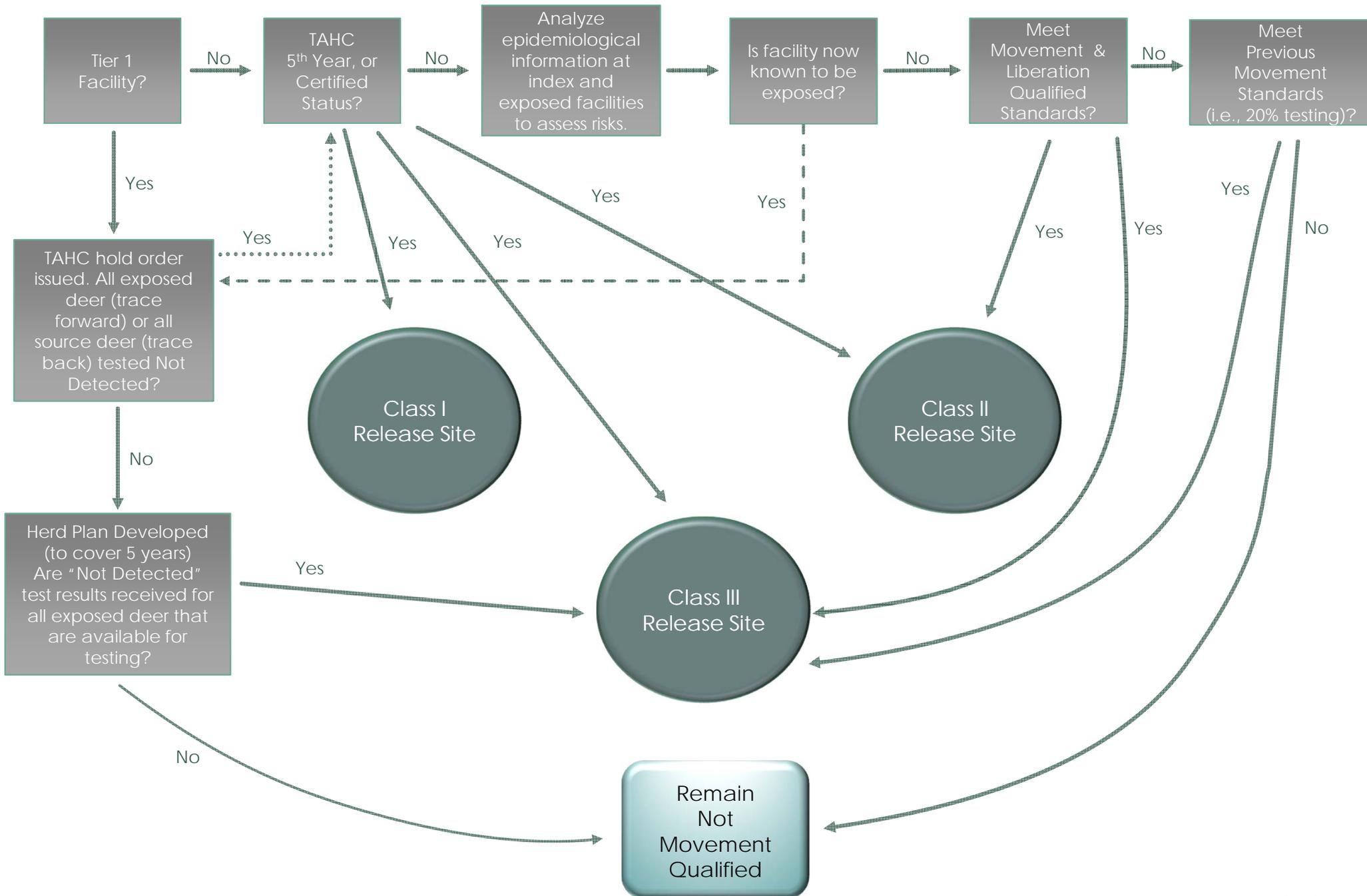


2015-16 Hunting Season Plan

TAHC/TPWD Breeder Deer Movement Qualification Standards



Movement & Liberation Qualified Standards

The following standards must be met to be eligible to transfer breeder deer to Class II release sites.

- Facility has submitted “Not Detected” CWD test results for (1) 4.5% of the average adult population size in the deer breeding facility for the previous 2 years (avg. pop. size on March 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015), or (2) 50% of eligible mortalities (minimum of 1 mortality required) between April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2015, whichever is less. Facilities that do not currently meet these guidelines may undertake additional testing to become eligible for movement and liberation; however, these facilities must submit a number of “Not Detected” CWD test results equal to or greater than 4.5% of the average adult population size in the deer breeding facility for the previous 2 years (avg. pop. size on March 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015).
 - Eligible mortality: Death of a breeder deer that is: (1) at least 16 months of age, or (2) at least 12 months of age if the mortality occurred in a facility enrolled in the TAHC Monitored Herd Program.

Release Site Requirements:

- All Release sites must be surrounded by a fence capable of retaining white-tailed deer under ordinary circumstances (i.e., high-fenced).
- **Class I Release Site:** A release site that receives deer only from deer breeding facilities that have “5th year status” or “certified status” in TAHC monitored herd program at the time of liberation. No testing of hunter-harvested deer is required for Class I release sites.
- **Class II Release Site:** A release site that receives deer from deer breeding facilities that: (1) are not Tier 1 Facilities, (2) do not have “5th year status” or “certified status” in TAHC monitored herd program at the time of liberation, and (3) comply with all standards for Class II release sites (see above). Required to test as many hunter-harvested deer as 50% of the number of breeder deer that are liberated in the 2015-2016 season (i.e., 1-for-2), or 50% of hunter-harvested deer, whichever is less. Additionally, required to test a minimum of 50% of the breeder deer liberated and harvested in that hunting season, even if that number exceeds the number required of the general hunter-harvested deer described in previous sentence. Breeder-deer tests count towards meeting the minimum requirements of the general hunter-harvested deer. Failure to comply with these requirements may prevent site from being an authorized release site in subsequent years.
- **Class III Release Site:** A release site that receives deer from (1) Tier 1 facilities that have tested all exposed deer that are available for testing, or (2) deer breeding facilities that had Movement Qualified status as of June 25, 2015 but do not currently meet all standards for Class II release sites (see above). Required to test 100% of hunter-harvested deer, not to be less than the number of breeder deer liberated on that site in that year. All liberated breeder deer that are ultimately harvested on Class III release sites (even if in subsequent years) must be tested for CWD. All liberated deer must possess an 840 RFID button tag or USDA National Uniform Ear tagging System (NUES) tag. Failure to comply with these requirements will prevent site from being an authorized release site in subsequent years.
- Electing to be a Class II or Class III Release Site may impact your ability to upgrade to a less-restrictive facility type in future years.
- **Tier 1 Facility:** A facility that either (1) transferred breeder deer to a CWD-positive facility within the previous 5 years (i.e., since June 1, 2010), or (2) received deer from a CWD-positive facility in the past 5 years.
- Except for Tier 1 Facilities, all deer breeding facilities that are authorized to transfer breeder deer to Class I, Class II, or Class III release sites are also authorized to transfer deer to other deer breeding facilities with Movement Qualified status.
 - **Note:** A deer breeding facility that receives deer from a deer breeding facility with lower standards will assume the requirements of that facility. For example, if a facility (“Facility A”) that is authorized to transfer breeder deer to Class II Release Sites receives deer from a facility (“Facility B”) authorized to release breeder deer only to Class III Release Sites, “Facility A” will no longer be authorized to release deer on Class II release sites, but may release deer on Class III release sites.
- Movement Qualification is also dependent on administrative compliance with deer breeder permit regulations and statutes.

*This plan is intended to be incorporated into emergency rule.

8/11/2015