

### General Information

1. Please refer to the flowchart on Page 8 for a visual depiction of the new rules regarding the movement of breeder deer. DMP sites are not included in this graphic, please read below for information regarding the movement of breeder to and from DMP sites.
2. Not Movement Qualified (NMQ) status overrides any transfer classification information presented in the flowchart and described below. If your deer breeding facility currently (1) has Not Detected CWD test results for less than 20% of eligible mortalities since May 23, 2006, (2) has an unreconciled herd inventory, or (3) was designated NMQ prior to July 1, 2015 for any other reason, it will remain NMQ and be included in Transfer Category 3, defined in the following pages.
3. Eligible mortalities are defined as deer that are 16 months of age or older at time of death, or deer that are 12 months of age or older at the time of death if the facility is enrolled in the Texas Animal Health Commission's (TAHC) CWD Monitoring Program.
4. Breeder deer may be released only to high-fenced, registered release sites.
5. A Tier 1 facility is defined as any facility that either (1) transferred breeder deer to a CWD-positive facility within the five-year period preceding the confirmation of CWD in the CWD-positive facility, or (2) received exposed deer within the previous 5 years. Tier 1 facilities will receive a TAHC Hold Order and an individualized herd plan developed by the TAHC. Please refer to the second bullet of the Transfer Category 3 and Tier 1 Deer Breeding Facilities section below for additional information.
6. All deer breeding facilities, regardless of whether the facility participates in the voluntary TAHC CWD Herd Monitoring Program will now be classified at one of three Transfer Categories by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), based on clearly defined levels of CWD Monitoring, outlined on the following pages.
7. A deer breeding facility's authority to transfer breeder deer to other deer breeding facilities, specific classifications of release sites, and other non-breeder facility types (e.g., nursing facilities, DMP sites, etc.) will be determined by the deer breeding facility's Transfer Category. Transfer Categories are described below.
8. The classification of destination deer breeding facilities, release sites, and DMP facilities may be affected by the numeric status of the source facility. If the numeric status of the source facility is lower than the numeric status of the destination facility, the destination facility's numeric status will be 'downgraded' to match that of the source facility. For

example, if a deer breeding facility ("Facility A") is currently in Transfer Category 2 (TC 2) and receives deer from another deer breeding facility ("Facility B") that is in Transfer Category 3 (TC 3), Facility "A" will be downgraded to TC 3. Likewise, if a breeder deer is transferred to a TC 2 breeding facility from a Level 3 DMP facility, the breeding facility becomes a TC 3 breeding facility.

9. Because of the potential for facility statuses to be downgraded, and because release sites and DMP sites may have responsibilities associated with the release of breeder deer, all transfer permits must now be approved by both the source and the destination facility in TWIMS before the transfer permit can be activated. This is designed to ensure that all parties involved in the transfer of breeder deer understand the responsibilities associated with that transfer.
10. Any downgrade in facility status will take place automatically upon activation of the transfer permit that involves a source facility possessing a lower status than the destination.
11. Regardless of the source facility's status, any breeder deer transferred to a Class III release site or Level III DMP site will be subject to additional deer identification requirements (see Class III release site and Level III DMP site requirements).
12. Release sites that receive breeder deer, or deer from a DMP facility that involved breeder deer, may have reporting and CWD testing requirements of hunter-harvested deer depending on the classification of the release site. All non-Tier 1 release sites will begin with a Class I release site status, defined in the following pages. The classification of the release site will be downgraded to match the classification of the source deer breeding facility or DMP facility. An explanation of the requirements for release sites is detailed below.
13. All registration of new release sites must be done by submitting the appropriate form titled "Request to Register Release Site or Non-deer Breeder Facility," available here: [http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/permits/land/wildlife\\_management/scientific\\_deer\\_breeder/index.phtml](http://tpwd.texas.gov/business/permits/land/wildlife_management/scientific_deer_breeder/index.phtml) (email completed forms to deer.breeder@tpwd.texas.gov)

**Deer Breeding Facility Classification Requirements**

**Transfer Category 1 (TC 1):**

- The deer breeding facility must have met all prior requirements for Movement Qualified (MQ) status, and must have achieved a “Fifth Year” or “Certified” status in the voluntary TAHC CWD Herd Monitoring Program.
- TC 1 deer breeding facilities may transfer breeder deer to all registered, current, non-Tier 1, MQ deer breeding facilities and most non-breeding facilities under standard transfer permit and breeder deer identification rules (see final bullet in this section for the exception).
- Release sites that receive breeder deer from only TC 1 deer breeding facilities have no hunter-harvest reporting or CWD testing requirements. See information for Class I release sites below.
- If a TC 1 deer breeding facility receives deer from a TC 2 or TC 3 deer breeding facility, or from a Level 2 or 3 DMP facility, it will be downgraded to a TC 2 or TC 3 classification immediately upon activation of the transfer permit, depending on the Transfer Category of the source facility.
- If a TC 1 deer breeding facility transfers deer to a Class III release site or Level 3 DMP facility, all breeder deer must be tattooed with the deer’s assigned unique number and possess an 840 RFID button tag or USDA National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tag.

**Transfer Category 2 (TC 2):**

- The deer breeding facility must have met all prior requirements for MQ status.
- Additionally, the facility must have provided “Not Detected” CWD test results for:
  - (1) at least 4.5% of the eligible population that was reported in the facility inventory as of 3/31/2014 and 3/31/2015 (including eligible mortalities that occurred during those report years), or
  - (2) at least 50% of the total eligible mortalities that were reported from 4/1/2013 through 3/31/2015, as long as the facility has reported a minimum of one eligible mortality.

- A deer breeding facility that does not initially achieve TC 2 classification may submit a sufficient number of CWD test results to have achieved the 4.5% of population requirements described above. No deer breeding facility is required to euthanize deer to achieve a higher Transfer Category, but may do so if desired.
- TC 2 deer breeding facilities may send breeder deer to all registered, current, non-Tier 1, MQ deer breeding facilities and most non-breeding facilities under standard transfer permit and breeder deer identification rules (see final bullet in this section for the exception).
- If a TC 2 facility receives breeder deer from a TC 3 facility or Level 3 DMP facility, the destination facility will be downgraded to TC 3 classification immediately upon activation of the transfer permit. If a deer breeding facility is downgraded from TC 2 to TC 3, it will not be able to return to TC 2 classification unless the facility complies with requirements for TC 2 facilities for two consecutive years.
- If a TC 2 facility sends breeder deer to a TC 1 facility, the destination facility will be downgraded to TC 2 classification immediately upon activation of the transfer permit.
- If a TC 2 facility sends breeder deer to a Class I release site, the destination release site will be downgraded to a Class II release site immediately upon activation of the transfer permit.
- If a TC 2 facility sends breeder deer to a Level 1 DMP facility, the DMP site will be downgraded to a Level 2 status immediately upon activation of the transfer permit. The release site associated with the DMP facility will then downgrade to a Class II release site beginning on the Saturday nearest to September 30 of the following year.
- If a TC 2 facility sends breeder deer to a Class III release site or Level 3 DMP site, all breeder deer must be tattooed with the deer's assigned unique number and possess an 840 RFID button tag or USDA National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tag.

### **Transfer Category 3 (TC 3):**

- If a deer breeding facility does not meet the requirements of TC 1 or TC 2, the facility will be included in TC 3.
- All Tier 1 deer breeding facilities with a current TAHC Hold Order will be included in TC 3 and designated NMQ initially. Dependent upon CWD testing of exposed animals and compliance with the TAHC herd plan, the facility's Transfer Category and MQ status can

be reevaluated (see Tier 1 Deer Breeding Facilities section below for additional information).

- If a deer breeding facility has (1) submitted “Not Detected” CWD test results for less than 20% of eligible mortalities since May 23, 2006, (2) has an unreconciled herd inventory, or (3) was designated NMQ prior to July 1, 2015 for any other reason (including Tier 1 facilities under TAHC Hold Orders), then the facility will be included in TC 3 but will not be authorized to move any deer into or out of the facility until MQ status is regained as described in this document.
- Non-Tier 1, MQ TC 3 deer breeding facilities may transfer breeder deer to all other Non-Tier 1, MQ deer breeding facilities based on standard transfer permit and deer identification rules.
- If a TC 1 or TC 2 deer breeding facility receives deer from a TC 3 deer breeding facility or Level 3 DMP facility, the destination facility will be downgraded to TC 3 classification immediately upon activation of the transfer permit.
- All breeder deer sent to a release site or DMP facility from a TC3 deer breeding facility must be tattooed with the deer’s assigned unique number and possess an 840 RFID button tag or USDA National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tag.
- Any release site that receives deer from a TC3 facility must comply with the requirements described for Class III release sites (see below).
- If a TC3 facility sends breeder deer to a Level 1 or 2 DMP facility, the DMP facility will be downgraded to a Level 3 status immediately upon activation of the transfer permit. The release site associated with the DMP site will then downgrade to a Class III release site status beginning on the Saturday nearest to September 30 of the following year.

### **Tier 1 Deer Breeding Facilities:**

- Each Tier 1 deer breeding facility that has received a TAHC Hold Order will have an individualized herd plan developed for that facility by TAHC.
- The TAHC herd plan may or may not accommodate transfers to and from a Tier 1 deer breeding facility, including transfers to other deer breeding and non-deer breeding facilities.

- TAHC herd plans may impose additional requirements regarding transfer notifications and deer identification.

### **Non-breeder Facility Requirements:**

#### **Transfer Category 4 (TC4): Nursing facilities**

- May receive breeder deer fawns from any deer breeding facility with a valid transfer permit.
- May transfer breeder deer fawns to any deer breeding facility with a valid transfer permit.

### **Release Site Requirements**

All release sites must be surrounded by a fence capable of retaining deer under ordinary circumstances (i.e., high-fenced). Additional requirements are outlined below, based on the release site classification. All registered, high-fenced release sites will initially be categorized as Class I release sites. If a Class I release site receives breeder deer from TC 2 or TC 3 deer breeding facilities or from Level 2 or 3 DMP facilities, the release site status will be appropriately downgraded. For example, if a Class I release site receives breeder deer from a TC 1 facility and a TC 3 facility, the release site will become a Class III release site, and must comply with all associated requirements.

#### **Class I Release Site:**

- A release site that receives deer only from TC 1 deer breeding facilities.
- No testing of hunter-harvested deer is required for Class I release sites.
- All release sites begin as Class I and remain Class I until they receive breeder deer from a TC 2 or TC 3 deer breeding facility or from a Level 2 or 3 DMP facility.

#### **Class II Release Site:**

- A release site that receives deer from deer breeding facilities that: (1) are not Tier 1 Facilities, (2) are from at least TC 2 deer breeding facilities or Level 2 DMP facilities at the time of liberation, and (3) comply with all standards for Class II release sites described immediately below.

- 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 bullet.
- 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.
- Example testing scenarios:
  - 10 breeder deer are liberated on a release site. 100 deer are harvested from the property that season and 8 of those harvested are breeder deer liberated that season. The release site is required to test 5 deer for CWD, 4 of which must be liberated breeder deer.
  - 10 breeder deer are liberated on a release site. 100 deer are harvested from the property and none of those harvested are breeder deer liberated that season. The release site is required to test 5 deer for CWD, including zero liberated breeder deer.
  - 100 breeder deer are liberated on a release site. 50 deer are harvested from the property that season and 40 of those harvested are breeder deer liberated that season. The release site is required to test 25 deer for CWD, 20 of which must be liberated breeder deer.

### **Class III Release Site:**

- A release site that receives deer from TC 3 deer breeding facilities or Level 3 DMP facilities, including (1) Tier 1 facilities that have tested and received “Not Detected” CWD results for 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 TC 1 or TC 2 (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 be tattooed with their assigned unique number and possess an 840 RFID button tag or USDA National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tag.
- Example testing scenarios:
  - A release site liberates 10 breeder deer. The release site must harvest a minimum of 10 deer that season and they must all be tested for CWD.
  - A release site liberates 5 breeder deer, but harvests 25 deer during the same hunting season. All 25 harvested deer must be tested for CWD.

### DMP Site Information

All sites must possess a valid DMP permit issued by TPWD before placing any deer in a DMP pen. All DMP facilities will begin with a Level 1 status unless deer are trapped from a previously registered release site, in which case the DMP Level will be set to match the existing release site Class. If a DMP facility accepts deer from a deer breeding facility with a lesser status, the DMP facility will inherit the numeric status of the deer breeding facility. Any breeder deer sent to a DMP site associated with a Class III release site must be tagged with an appropriate RFID or NUES tag (see Class III release site requirements).

If deer are released to a release site from the DMP pen of lesser status, the release site will inherit the numeric status of the DMP. For example, if the associated release site has a Class I status and the DMP pen is assigned a Level 2 status, then the release site will inherit a Class II status when deer are released from the DMP facility. CWD testing requirements on the release site resulting from DMP activities go into effect the next hunting season.

If a breeder buck is returned to a deer breeding facility from a DMP facility of lesser status, the deer breeding facility will inherit the numeric status of the DMP facility beginning on the Saturday nearest to September 30 of the following year. **It is the responsibility of the deer breeder to make appropriate agreements with the DMP facility owner regarding the return of breeder bucks PRIOR to moving deer to a DMP facility.**



### Level 1 DMP Facility:

- A DMP facility not associated with an existing Class II or III release site.
- A DMP facility that uses only pasture trapped deer (bucks and does), or a buck from a TC 1 deer breeding facility.
- A Level 1 DMP facility will retain its status until breeder deer are transferred from a TC 2 or TC 3 deer breeding facility to either the DMP facility or the associated release facility (if deer are trapped from the release site after the downgrade occurs).
- No testing of hunter-harvested deer is required for release sites associated with a Level 1 DMP facility.

### Level 2 DMP Facility:

- A DMP facility that is associated with an existing Class II release site.
- A DMP facility that has received breeder deer from a TC 2 deer breeding facility.
- A TC 1 deer breeding facility that receives a breeder buck from a Level 1 or Level 2 DMP facility will downgrade in status to TC 2.
- The release site associated with a Level 2 DMP facility must comply with all testing requirements described above for Class II release sites.

### Level 3 DMP Facility:

- A DMP facility that is associated with an existing Class III release site.
- A DMP facility that has received breeder deer from a TC 3 deer breeding facility or a Tier 1 breeding facility.
- A TC 1 or TC 2 deer breeding facility that receives a breeder buck from a Level 3 DMP facility will downgrade in status to TC 3.
- The release site associated with a Level 3 DMP facility must comply with all testing requirements described above for Class III release sites.
- All breeder deer sent to a Level 3 DMP facility must be tattooed with the deer's assigned unique number and possess an 840 RFID button tag or USDA National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tag.

## 2015-16 Hunting Season Plan TAHC/TPWD Breeder Deer Movement Qualification Standards

