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**RESOLUTION NUMBER: 31**

**Approved**

**SOURCE:**

**COMMITTEE ON FARMED CERVIDAE**

**SUBJECT MATTER:**

**Proximity Barriers for Interstate Movement of Farmed Cervidae**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The goal of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) National CWD Voluntary Herd Certification Program, located in (9 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 55 & 81) is to provide a consistent national approach to control the incidence of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in farmed cervids and prevent the interstate spread of CWD. Farmed cervid herds must participate in the program and be certified to move animals interstate.

Some state regulatory officials governing interstate movement are utilizing their own authority to prohibit entry if the herd originates from an area within a specific proximity to a known CWD discovery in the free-ranging herd. Such guidance on proximity exclusions is not included in the CWD Federal Rule or the APHIS Program Standards.

State restrictions are inconsistent with examples showing mileage restrictions of 10 miles, 25 miles or 50 miles from a known CWD diagnosis or a herd's location in relation to the home county, adjacent county or state.

The farmed cervid industry agreed to a federal layer of regulation aimed for consistency but the recent state action wanes the usefulness of the federal rule. Farmed cervid herds with more than twenty years of monitoring status and hundreds of post-mortem CWD non-detected samples are being restricted based on local environment status.

Such interstate movement restrictions are not based on peer-reviewed science that demonstrates specific range impacts of free-ranging discovery of the same cervid in relation to a farmed herd, specific range impacts of free-ranging discovery of a different cervid species in relation to a farmed herd, time elapsed since the free-ranging discovery and impacts to herds residing in double fenced facilities.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association urges state animal health officials and/or state wildlife officials that govern state import requirements of farmed cervidae to use proximity restrictions based off best available science and the science be made publicly available.