



## Why does Wisconsin need a Ban on Baiting and Feeding of Deer?

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Wisconsin law currently allows the use of up to two gallons of bait or feed for deer hunting and viewing. But baiting and feeding has negative impacts with the potential for even greater negative impacts in the future, adversely affecting our economy, forests, agriculture and Wisconsin's great deer hunting tradition.

### Baiting and feeding jeopardizes Wisconsin's agriculture industry

- Livestock is a **\$34 billion industry** in Wisconsin, and the potential spread of disease caused by baiting and feeding seriously jeopardizes the livestock herd.
- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and Tuberculosis (TB) are known to be transmitted in the saliva of deer, and baiting and feeding sites foster conditions for disease transfer through increased deer to deer contact, reduced distance between deer, and increased group size at feeding sites.
- TB spreads from captive or domestic animals to wild deer and vice-versa. Both Minnesota and Michigan have confirmed TB in both cattle and wild deer.
- Any drop in WI's TB free status will lead to \$1.87 million annually in testing costs alone for farmers in order to continue to export cattle, not to mention the costs of euthanizing herds, carcass disposal, and property disinfections, as well as risking consumer confidence and Wisconsin's status as "America's Dairyland." In Michigan, the projected cost to producers alone is \$121 million over 10 years.
- Deer overpopulation, supported by baiting and feeding, leads to increased damage to farm crops every year. For 2007, Wisconsin will pay more than \$1.3 million in agriculture claims to farmers due to deer damage.

### Baiting and feeding jeopardizes Wisconsin's forests and forest products industry

- Forest products are a **\$22 billion industry** in Wisconsin. The future of this industry is dependent on the sustainable management of our forests, which is compromised by baiting and feeding.
- Baiting and feeding promotes deer overpopulation, which threatens the health of Wisconsin forests by changing the composition and vigor of our forests, and limiting the benefits we all derive from them.
- Deer in high numbers feed on young trees, preventing their growth, and preventing forests from regenerating, a major problem for public and private forest landowners.
- Our forests are becoming increasingly important as a source of renewable products, both from traditional industries and in the emerging bio-energy markets. Deer herds kept artificially high jeopardize our ability to realize the full potential of our forests both for renewable energy and to maintain one of the largest sectors of Wisconsin's economy.

### Baiting and feeding jeopardizes Wisconsin's recreation and tourism industry and hunting heritage

- Deer hunting alone brings over **\$1 billion per year** into Wisconsin's economy, and the potential spread of disease threatens the long term health of Wisconsin's deer herd and our hunting heritage.
- Feeding of deer increases reproduction and survival, and alters natural movement patterns of deer, making traditional herd control methods less effective and increasing the need for other tools like Earn A Buck and October hunting seasons.
- Baiting and feeding causes deer to go nocturnal and concentrates deer on refuges, making a successful and satisfying hunting experience more difficult.
- Baiting and feeding concentrates deer on the private property of those who can put out the most bait most often – and reduces opportunities for hunters who rely on public hunting lands. Hunters and property owners consistently report that they only put out bait because their neighbor does, and baiting and feeding often leads to conflict between hunters on both public and private land.
- Overpopulation of deer has a direct link to increased car-deer collisions. Car-deer collisions cause \$70 million a year in personal property damage in Wisconsin and hundreds of injuries each year.
- Deer baiting and feeding has been prohibited in the 26 Wisconsin CWD counties since 2001. Now up to 28!
- Baiting and feeding creates vulnerability for opportunistic poaching of deer at night with lights at feeding stations associated with cabins and residences.