

SCPO Best Practices for Reducing the Transmission of CWD

The following recommendations are based upon ongoing discussions of SCPO’s CWD Working Committee, with consideration of additional input from individuals familiar with research on the topic. The Committee will continue to revise and expand this document as new information is received and reviewed with the goal of contributing to the management of the disease. Input and feedback on these practices may be forwarded to admin@scpo.ca.

Feeding

Topic	Explanation	Considerations
Spreading feed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread feed over a broader area (e.g., circle with 12’ diameter) to reduce deer to deer contact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model other examples of congregation in natural settings, e.g., forest cut

Feed

Topic	Explanation	Considerations
Salt blocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate the use of deploying salt or mineral blocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate a potential point for direct deer-to-deer transmission
Alfalfa or hay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce or eliminate the use of alfalfa or hay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces potential for transmission through saliva • Reduces potential for transmission to other species (e.g., moose)

Feeding Locations & Duration

Topic	Explanation	Considerations
Site Relocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move feeding sites to alternative locations during the season and season to season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the build up and concentration of deification at site • Reduce soil contamination at site
Feeding Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin maximum two weeks before first guest • Terminate immediately following last guest • Winter-feeding ban 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of days that feeding is conducted • Reduces overall time period deer are congregating at a feeding site
Site Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A standard for site clean- up and maintenance following feeding period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce potential of congregation of animals beyond the feeding season

Current Provincial Baiting Regulations (Deer)

- Bait means any food including salt and salt products intended to attract big game, but does not include fields of crop or forage, whether standing or harvested crops, forage or hay stacked in the field where it is grown, or grain that is scattered or piled as a result of farming operations.
- On private land or occupied Crown land, no person shall, without the permission of the owner or occupant, place bait, including salt and salt products, for hunting big game or feeding or attracting other wildlife. It is recommended that salt or salt products used for hunting purposes be placed in a leak-proof container.
- In the provincial forest, in provincial parks or recreation sites and on unoccupied Crown land, no person shall:
 - store any bait at or near any bait location.
 - hunt at a bait site placed by another person without that person's consent.
 - other than the owner, tear down, remove, damage, deface or cover up any bait or sign.
 - use salt or salt products for bait unless placed in a leak-proof container that is secured in such a way to prevent the contents from being spilled.
 - use as bait: any noxious weed or noxious weed seed as described in The Weed Control Act, any exotic plant as described in The Forest Resources Management Regulations or any carcass or part of a domestic animal other than domestic animal trimmings received from a licensed butcher shop or abattoir.
 - feed wild ungulates between January 1 and July 31.
 - place bait for the hunting of wild boar.
- In the provincial forest, in provincial parks or recreation sites and on unoccupied Crown land, no person shall place bait including salt and salt products for hunting big game:
 - without erecting at the site a sign of durable material no less than 600 square centimetres (8 x 12 inches) on which is clearly marked the person's full name and address, or clearly marking his/her full name and address on any container used for holding the bait.
 - within 500 metres of any campground, dwelling or other place used by people.
 - within 200 metres of any numbered provincial highway, provincial or municipal road.
 - within 200 metres of any maintained forest access road, snowmobile trail or cross-country ski trail prior to April 1.
 - prior to August 1, except for hunting black bear during the spring black bear season when bait may be placed on or after March 1.
- For the purpose of hunting big game other than black bear, no person shall:
 - use bait, other than bales, that exceeds 40 litres in volume (9 gallons).
 - in the case of bales, use more than two bales with a combined total weight exceeding 90 kilograms (198 pounds).
- A person who has placed bait for the purpose of hunting big game shall remove, at the end of the hunting season for which it was placed, any remaining bait, the container, the sign marking the bait, and any items brought to the bait site.
- In provincial parks and recreation sites, no person shall place bait for hunting big game without the authorization of the park manager. Note: No person shall place bait for the purpose of hunting big game or wild boar on any wildlife lands.