

**This is an important memo to all MI Chapter Presidents  
from Pete Demos, Winter Survival Committee Chair:**

**ACTION ALERT TO ALL NWTF CHAPTERS IN MICHIGAN**

With Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) found in MI, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has stopped all feeding and baiting for deer and elk along with some limitations for bear baiting in the Lower Peninsula (could the U.P. be next?). Rodney Clute, MDNR Big Game Specialist, has stated that the feeding of wild turkeys is not included providing deer and elk do not have access to the feed.

I have been advised that the MDNR will be monitoring the feeding of turkeys and feeders far closer than in the past because of CWD.

It is absolutely essential that the NWTF chapters throughout Michigan meet the MDNR requirements for their area.

The MDNR approved feeder most widely used utilizing a 55 gallon steel drum with drop pan and steel rods (approx. 2 inches apart) and wrapped with 2" X 4" wire meets the MDNR requirements. The welded 2" X 4" steel wire has been replaced with 2" X 4" horse fence wire, because the horse fence wire is stronger with heavier gauge looped wire (not welded) and is much more durable. Most farm supply stores carry horse fence wire in varying heights. If the feeder does not have wire, it MUST be added using the horse fence wire. If the welded wire needs replacing, again use the horse fence wire. A feeder model may be seen on the State Chapter web site: [www.mi-nwtf.org/wintersurvival](http://www.mi-nwtf.org/wintersurvival).

Remember, DO NOT start feeding wild turkeys until there is approximately 4 to 6 inches of snow on the ground and the firearm deer season is concluded (usually Dec. 1) and stop feeding when the snow is down to 4 to 6 inches.

Please be aware of the seriousness of the CWD impact on deer and elk and the cascading effect it can have on ALL Michigan wildlife and especially the wild turkey. Spread the word immediately! We do not want to lose what we have gained through the years.

Stay advised and work closely with your MDNR Wildlife Biologist and Conservation Officers so they know we are working diligently with them and support their efforts.

Many thanks,  
Pete Demos  
Winter Survival Committee Chair, MI State Chapter NWTF