

Deer Tagging Instructions

- 1 You must validate the appropriate deer carcass tag immediately upon killing and before field dressing or moving the deer by slitting the appropriate date and time.
Note: An antlerless deer is any deer that does not have any antler of 3 or more inches in length. A buck deer is any deer with an antler 3 inches or longer.
2. Insert a string or similar fastener through the small hole in the middle of the tag (note: a tab covers the hole) and attach to the deer's ear or antler. You will need to provide your own string or similar fastener to attach the carcass tag to your deer.
3. After the deer has been tagged, it must be registered at an appropriate registration station. Please see the section below on registration.
4. The carcass and registration tags must remain attached to the deer until butchering. The person who killed, tagged or obtained the deer shall retain all tags until the meat is consumed.

Deer Registration

Deer must be kept intact, except for field dressing and skinning, prior to registration. The lower legs, up to the tarsus joint (“ankle or hock”) on the hind legs and up to the carpus joint (“wrist or knee”) on the front legs, may also be removed. If the skin or legs are removed prior to registration, they must be kept with the carcass until after the deer is registered.

Exemption: Deer may be skinned and quartered by persons holding a Class A or B Disabled Permit. All parts must be presented at the time of registration.

In addition to the tagging requirements, **all deer must be registered** at a DNR Deer Registration Station. Registration forms are available at deer registration stations.

Non-CWD Unit Deer Registration

- **Deadline:** All deer killed by **firearm hunters (including muzzleloader deer season)** must be registered no later than 5:00 p.m. of the day after the close of the season in which the deer was killed. All deer killed by **archery hunters** must be registered no later than 5:00 p.m. on the third day after the deer was killed or by 5:00 p.m. the day after the season closes, whichever occurs first.
- **Location:** All deer killed must be registered in the unit of kill or in an adjoining unit.

CWD Unit Deer Registration

- **Deadline:** All deer killed must be registered no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day after it was killed.
- **Location:** All deer killed in the **CWD Management Zone** must be registered within the unit of kill or adjacent unit of kill **within** the CWD Management Zone.

Collection of samples at time of registration

Note: Any part of any deer may be collected or sampled by the department for disease testing purposes. If requested, you must allow the department to collect a sample for disease testing. Special arrangements can be made at the time of registration for deer that are to be mounted. Failure to provide or allow a sample to be collected may result in a fine.

Baiting and Feeding Deer

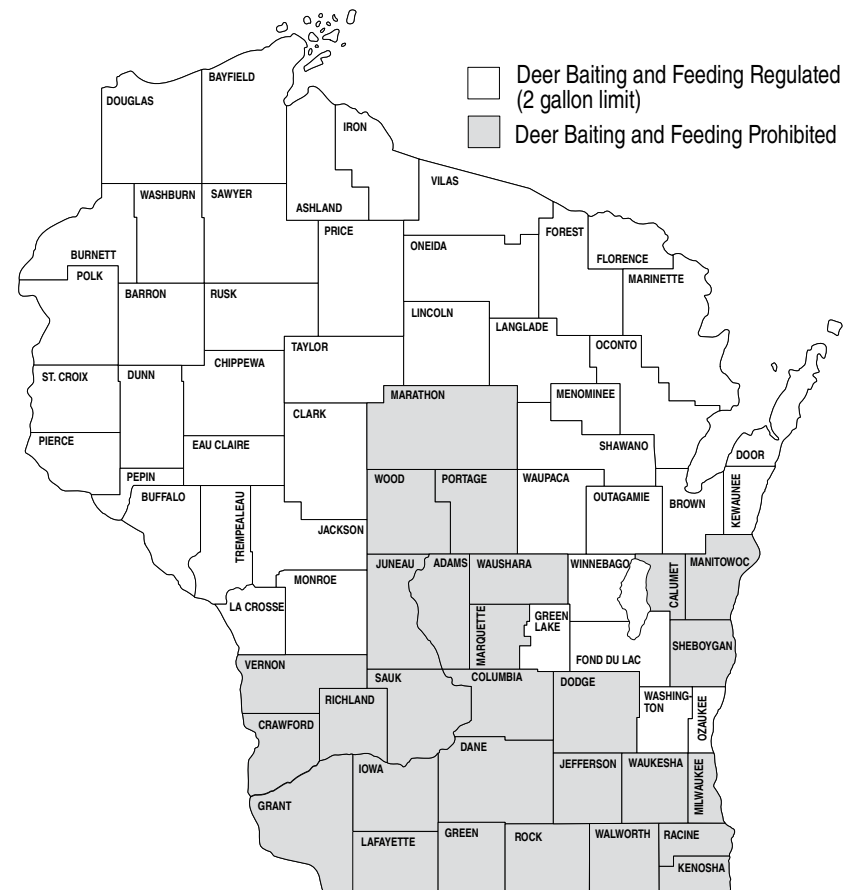
The following regulations pertaining to baiting and feeding are divided into two parts of the state—those counties where baiting and feeding deer is prohibited, and those areas where baiting and feeding of deer is allowed with a 2 gallon limit.

Counties where baiting is NOT allowed

Placing bait for hunting purposes is prohibited in the following counties:

Adams, Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Lafayette, Manitowoc, Marathon, Marquette, Milwaukee, Portage, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Vernon, Walworth, Waukesha, Waushara and Wood Counties.

In these counties, no person may place, use or hunt over bait or feed material for the purpose of hunting deer.



Scents: Scent may be used for hunting deer, but the scent may not be placed or deposited in a manner that it is accessible for consumption by deer, and scents shall be removed daily at the end of hunting hours. However, two ounces or less of scent may be placed, used or deposited in any manner for hunting deer and does not need to be removed daily at the end of hunting hours.

Natural Vegetation and Plantings: You may hunt with the aid of material deposited by natural vegetation or material found solely as a result of normal agricultural or gardening practices, or with the aid of crops planted and left standing as wildlife food plots.

Counties where baiting deer is allowed

In the remainder of the state (except for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands), baiting for deer hunting purposes is allowed **only under the following conditions:**

Amount: Each hunter may place up to 2 gallons of bait for each property under the same ownership regardless of the size of the property. If the property is larger than 40 acres, then each hunter may place an additional 2 gallons of bait for each additional full 40 acres of contiguous land under the same ownership if the bait sites are at least 100 yards away from any other bait site (parcels of land that do not touch but are separated only by a town, county or state highway are considered contiguous).

Note: *Bait may be spread out or divided into more than one pile as long as the total amount of bait or feed material is not more than 2 gallons per 40 acres or less.*

Placement: No person may:

- Place a baiting site closer than 100 yards of another baiting site.
- Hunt within 100 yards of more than 2 gallons of bait on the same parcel of land.
- Place a baiting site within 50 yards of any trail, road, or campsite used by the public, or within 100 yards from a roadway having a posted speed limit of 45 mph or more.

Note: *Removal of unlawfully placed bait or feed material does not preclude the issuance of a citation for the original placement of the unlawful baiting or feeding material.*

Timing: No person may:

- Place, use or hunt over bait or feed for hunting purposes during the closed season for hunting deer, but may start to place bait for deer hunting the day before the opening day of the deer archery season. **This means the 24-hour period from 12:00 am to 11:59 pm on the day immediately before the season.**
- Hunt over bait or a feeding site that is in violation of these regulations, unless the area is completely free of bait or feed material for at least 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, pursuing animals or dog training.

Content: No person may place, use or hunt over any bait or feed material that:

- Contains any animal part or animal by-product. **Note:** Animal parts and by-products include honey, bones, fish, meat, solid animal fat, animal carcasses, or parts of animal carcasses but does not include liquid scents.
- Is contained in or deposited by a feeder that is designed to deposit or replenish feed automatically, mechanically, or by gravity.
- Contains or is contained within, metal, paper, plastic, glass, wood or other similar processed materials. This does not apply to scent materials.

License: No person may use or hunt over bait or feed material placed for deer without possessing an appropriate valid Archery or Gun Deer License and valid, unused carcass tag.

Counties where feeding deer is allowed

In counties where it is legal to bait deer for hunting, it is also legal to feed deer for recreational viewing. However, the following regulations apply:

- Each owner-occupied residence or business open to the public may place out **no more than 2 gallons** of feed.
- The feed must be located **within 50 yards** of an owner-occupied residence or a business open to the public.
- The feed **may not** be located within 100 yards of a roadway with a posted speed limit of 45 MPH or more.
- It is **illegal** to use a feeder that replenishes or distributes food automatically, mechanically, or by means of gravity (i.e. automated feeders).
- It is illegal to place feed at a deer feeding site that the person knows is being used by bear or elk. If the owner of the residence or business is notified by the department or otherwise becomes aware that bear or elk have been using a deer feeding site, the owner must discontinue feeding for a period of not less than 30 days.

Owner-occupied residence means a dwelling devoted to human occupancy that is used as a residence by the owner, members of the owner's immediate family, or when used as a residence by individuals as a rental property. When a residence is not being used as a residence it is not legal to feed deer there.

Business open to the public means a business building that allows the general public to enter and access the building.

Note: It is not legal to feed deer, even for recreational viewing purposes, in counties where baiting deer is prohibited.

Baiting and Feeding Frequently Asked Questions

What exactly is considered bait?

Bait is any material that is placed or used to attract wild animals, including scent materials, salt, minerals, grains, etc. Water is not considered bait.

What is considered a scent material?

Scent is any material, except animal parts or by-products, used to attract wild animals solely by its odor.

Are there any restrictions on scent material?

The following rules apply statewide:

- Up to 2 ounces of scent (liquid or solid) may be placed or used in any manner (on the ground, scrapes, branches, etc.)
- Any scent material over 2 ounces must not be accessible to deer and must be removed daily at the end of hunting hours for deer.
- Honey and solid animal parts or animal by-products may not be used as scent.

In areas where deer baiting is not allowed, what CAN I USE to attract deer closer to my stand if I can't use bait?

Use of the following are legal statewide:

- Decoys
- Scents
- Naturally occurring material (such as acorns), deposited by natural vegetation, that is not collected and relocated in any manner.
- Crops planted and left standing as wildlife food plots.
- Material deposited solely as a result of normal agricultural or gardening practices and not collected and relocated for hunting or other purposes.

Baiting and Feeding FAQs *continued...*

Can I still place out salt or mineral blocks or similar material?

In counties where baiting and feeding of deer is prohibited, no. These materials are considered bait and are not legal. In the remainder of the state, you may only place these materials during the open seasons for deer hunting, and may not exceed the 2 gallon limit per bait site per 40 acres.

Can I use an automatic, mechanical or gravity feeder to bait or feed deer?

No. It is not legal to use these types of feeders for baiting deer for hunting or for feeding wild deer for viewing purposes.

Does the 2 gallons per 40 acres also apply to public land?

Yes, If a hunter wants to place more than 2 gallons of bait, or more than one bait site on any public hunting land, then the hunter will need to make sure that each bait site does not exceed 2 gallons. The hunter must also be sure not to place more than 2 gallons for each 40 acres of public land that is contiguous, and that each site is more than 100 yards from any other bait site placed by them or another hunter.

What if my neighbor has a bait site on his property that is less than 100 yards from my stand where I want to place a bait site?

The 100 yard rule does not apply to bait sites that are located on an adjacent property which has a different owner. Where you place your bait site on your land is not affected or restricted by where a neighbor places their bait site, on their land.

If there are 4 members in my hunting party, can we each place 2 gallons of bait?

Yes, but each bait site must be at least 100 yards apart and the hunters may not hunt within 100 yards of more than one site (or 2 gallons of bait) at a time. So, if more than one hunter will be placing a bait site on the same property, the hunters may not hunt from any location that allows them to use more than 2 gallons or be within 100 yards of more than one bait site. Hunting halfway between 2 bait sites located less than 200 yards apart is not legal. Keeping all bait sites at least 200 yards apart will eliminate the risk of violating the hunting within 100 yards of more than one bait site restriction.

I have more than one stand on my 40 acres. Can I maintain a bait site at each location for myself, or for other hunters?

Provided all of the bait sites combined do not contain more than 2 gallons total, yes; however, no one, including family members, may place out another hunter's bait and their own if the total they place out is more than 2 gallons.

Can I hunt over someone else's bait site? Can someone else hunt over my bait site?

Yes. If it is a legally placed bait site, there is no restriction on how many hunters use that one bait site. This applies to both public and private lands. Placing a bait site out on public lands does not reserve that area for the exclusive use of the hunter who places the bait.

If I own or hunt on a 50 acre or larger parcel, how many bait sites can I have?

Only 2 gallons may be placed by each hunter on any property less than 80 acres in size. Each hunter may place up to 2 gallons of bait for each property under the same ownership regardless of the size of the property. If the property is larger than 80 acres, then each hunter may place an additional 2 gallons of bait for each additional full 40 acres of contiguous land under the same ownership if the bait sites are at least 100 yards away from any other bait site.

Note:

1. Hunters that only plan to place one bait site for hunting purposes do not need to worry about how many acres they own or have permission to hunt on.
2. Hunters that plan to place more than one bait site for hunting purposes will need to be familiar with the location and boundaries of the property they will be hunting and baiting.

If I only hunt deer during the firearm season and do not bow hunt, when can I start baiting for deer?

Placement of bait for deer hunting can be done during any open season for deer hunting and the day before the season opens. So, the day before the archery deer season opens is the first day you may begin to place out bait for deer, and all baiting for deer must stop when all the deer seasons have closed for that area.

Can I place out more than 2 gallons of bait or place bait in an automatic feeder, if I hunt more than 100 yards from the bait site?

No, it is not only illegal to place out more than 2 gallons of bait or feed for deer, or place feed or bait in an automatic feeder, but it is also illegal to use more than 2 gallons of bait, even if you stay over 100 yards from the illegal bait.

What is the penalty for illegal placement or use of bait material?

A bond amount for a citation issued for illegal bait or baiting is currently set at \$329–\$731, depending on the amount of bait. The maximum penalty which can be imposed by the court is \$2,138 and loss of all hunting, trapping and fishing privileges for up to 3 years. The penalty for the illegal feeding of wildlife is \$329.

For more information, including graphics of legal baiting and feeding activities, go to: dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/bait.htm.

Hunters' Code of Ethics

1. Respect Landowners

- Always know where you are hunting and gain permission before entering private lands. Know how to use a map, compass or GPS unit when needed.
- Be courteous, follow the landowner's rules and treat their property with respect.

2. Respect other Hunters

- Don't interfere or disrupt the hunt of another. Treat other hunters in a manner that you would expect to be treated.

3. Respect Non-Hunters

- Understand that not everyone supports hunting. While everyone is entitled to their own view, positive hunting behavior will not turn someone who is neutral into someone that is opposed.

4. Respect Wildlife and other Natural Resources

- Follow all hunting laws and report violations observed to your local warden.