

Chapter NR 16

GAME FARMS AND EXHIBITS

NR 16.001 Definitions

NR 16.02 Game farms

NR 16.01 Deer farm fence specifications

NR 16.10 Wildlife exhibits

NR 16.001 Definitions. (1) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

(2) "Wild animal" means any mammal, bird, fish or other creature of a wild nature endowed with sensation and the power of voluntary motion.

(3) "Waterfowl" means any migratory bird of family Anatidae (wild ducks, geese, brant and swans).

(4) "Adult" means any animal which has reached the age of one year.

(5) "Pen" means any cage, fenced-in plot, or other enclosure in which animals are held.

History: Cr. Register, April, 1978, No. 268, eff. 5-1-78.

NR 16.01 Deer farm fence specifications. (1) Deer farm fence construction, replacement or repairs on licensed deer farms shall comply with the following minimum specifications:

(a) *Minimum size.* There shall not be less than $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land within the area enclosed as a licensed deer farm.

(b) *Fence height.* 1. 7 ft. 10 in. woven wire for deer farms licensed for white-tailed and larger species of deer.

2. 6 ft. woven wire for deer farms licensed for species smaller than white-tailed deer.

(c) *Posts (wooden).* Length—12 ft. Tops not less than 4 in. in diameter. Corner and gate posts with minimum of 6 in. tops.

(d) *Posts (steel or iron).* Length—11 ft.

(e) *Post spacing.* 12 ft. (or less).

(f) *Wire (woven) mesh and gauge.*

1. 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ gauge, not larger than 36 sq. in. mesh opening.

2. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ gauge, not larger than 48 sq. in. mesh opening.

3. 11 gauge or heavier, not larger than 48 sq. in. mesh opening.

4. Adjoining strips or widths of woven wire shall be securely fastened together at intervals not exceeding 4 ft.

(g) *Staples.* Nine-gauge, one staple for each strand of wire.

(2) **EXCEPTIONS.** The use of materials, other than those herein specified, in deer farm fence construction may be permitted by the secretary if found to exceed minimum specifications and in fact sufficient to hold the deer therein.

History: Cr. Register, April, 1958, No. 28, eff. 5-1-58; renum. from WCD 16.01 to be NR 16.01 and am. (2), Register, April, 1971, No. 184, eff. 5-1-71.

Register, January, 1989, No. 397

NR 16.02 Game farms. (1) **APPLICATION.** This section applies to all game farms as provided in s. 29.574, Stats., including commercial operations, shooting game farms and hobbyists. The owner or lessee of any lands within the state suitable for the breeding and propagating of game birds or animals as may be approved by the department shall have the right upon complying with this section, to establish, operate and maintain a game bird and animal farm for the purpose of breeding, propagating, killing and selling game birds and game animals on such lands. On areas where the hunting or killing of wild animals is to be permitted, the game farm license shall only include species listed in s. 29.01(4), (6) and (7), Stats.

(2) **SIZE OF HUNTING OR KILLING AREAS.** No game farm license shall be issued for any land area larger than 640 contiguous acres or less than 80 contiguous acres where hunting, trapping or killing of wild animals is allowed, except for such land areas licensed as game farms prior to the effective date of this subsection.

(3) **MIGRATORY BIRD DISPOSAL.** No person shall import, export or sell waterfowl or other migratory birds without compliance with federal regulations except captive-reared mallard ducks, alive or dead, or their eggs may be acquired, transported, exported but not imported and disposed of by any person without a permit provided such ducks are properly marked as specified within the federal regulations.

(4) **WILDLIFE FEE ASSESSMENT.** In addition to an annual license fee, signs and expense payment for the inspection board, each applicant shall pay to the department a specified sum of money for each wild animal found on the lands which are desired for propagation. The fee assessed for each animal shall be the amount established in s. 29.65 (1), Stats.

(5) **PEN REQUIREMENT.** (a) When individual animals licensed under s. 29.574, Stats., are confined to an area which does not exceed one-fourth acre in size, the standards established in s. NR 16.10 (10) and (11) shall apply.

(b) A person licensed prior to the enactment of these regulations shall be exempt from the pen requirement criteria.

(c) Variation in pen construction other than specified shall be submitted to the department and may be approved by the department if found to comply with the intent and purpose of this section.

(d) All waterfowl bred, propagated or held on a game farm licensed pursuant to this section shall be enclosed within a covered pen by the licensee throughout the open season for hunting waterfowl in the state when written or oral notice is given to the licensee by the department or its agents.

(6) **WATERFOWL DISEASE CONSIDERATIONS.** In addition to the above requirements and pursuant to s. 29.586, Stats., if the department determines that any species of waterfowl licensed under this section may pose potential threat to native wildlife populations due to disease transmittal or other factors, the department may prescribe additional requirements including:

(a) If a contagious disease is suspected, all birds exposed to the disease shall be quarantined until certified free of contagious disease by a qualified veterinary authority.