

**Resolution E3-23: *Supporting a Vibrant Cervid Industry in Alberta***

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST that the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation support the requests of the Alberta Elk Commission to reduce regulatory processes in line with other livestock.**

**Response:**

There are significant differences between bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and chronic wasting disease (CWD), as well as significant unknowns related to CWD and risks to environmental and human health.

The CWD situation has evolved significantly in Alberta over the past 20 years. Cervid producers farm an exact duplicate of an animal that exists as wildlife, which has resulted in certain regulations and processes for the cervid industry.

Agriculture and Irrigation has conducted ongoing engagement with the cervid industry to discuss regulation of the industry. Engagement on this topic will continue.

On February 27, 2023, the Ministry held an industry meeting to discuss these issues. Based on discussions, we are committed to working with industry to resolve regulatory processes in the following areas:

- Removing restrictions on out-of-province cervids that enter Alberta for immediate slaughter.
- Identifying alternative options for CWD sample collection or identification.
- Including cervids in the predator compensation program.
- Modifying CWD control policies for farmed cervids (regarding not requiring herd depopulation and allowing repopulation in certain situations).
- Committing to work with Environment and Protected Areas regarding the wild CWD situation and with the federal government on other policy issues that affect the cervid industry.