

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS  
POST OFFICE BOX 451  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205

PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER W-3796

The Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, at a meeting in New Albany, MS on April 2, 2008, under authority of Section 25-43-3.103, Mississippi Code of 1972, made known its intent and thirty days thereafter did adopt the following **Supplemental Feeding of White-tailed Deer**. This was done under authority of Section 49-4-41, Mississippi Code of 1972.

To properly manage white-tailed deer in Mississippi, MDWFP Biologists recommend a complete deer management program which includes:

- Habitat management practices to improve overall habitat conditions;
- Herd management to balance sex ratio, age structure, and population numbers within available habitat;
- Supplemental plantings that provide year-round forage;
- Education of hunters and land managers; and,
- Not allowing feeding to replace a complete deer management program.

I. Supplemental Feeding of Deer:

- It shall be lawful to feed deer, year round, on private lands subject to the following restrictions:
  - Feed may only be provided from above ground covered feeders or stationary spin cast feeders.
  - Feed allowed in feeders:
    - Complete Pelletized Ration:
      - October 1 – November 30
      - March 1 – June 30
    - Corn may be used and/or added to the Complete Pelletized Ration:
      - July 1 – September 30
      - December 1 – the last day in February
  - Feeders may be placed no closer than 100 yards from any property boundary.
  - Feed may not be poured, piled, or placed directly on the ground.
  - Salt/mineral stations, blocks, and/or licks may be established.
  - For the purpose of this regulation, Complete Pelletized Ration is defined as a feed mixture in the form of a pellet that is nutritionally adequate for deer and containing at least 16% crude protein, crude fat, crude fiber, vitamins, minerals, and does not contain any animal byproducts.

II. Supplemental Feeding of Deer During the Deer Hunting Season:

- To hunt within the vicinity of a feeder: hunters must be both 100 yards away from, and not within the line of sight of feed or a feeder which contains feed.
- For the purpose of this regulation, within the line of sight means being hidden from view by natural vegetation or naturally occurring terrain features.

This regulation does not apply to:

1. Food plots, standing crops, grain crops properly shucked on the field where grown, or grains found scattered solely as the result of normal agricultural planting or harvesting.
2. Lands where shelled, shucked, or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed has been distributed or scattered as the result of bona fide agricultural operations or procedures, or as a result of manipulation of a crop or other feed on the land where grown for wildlife management purposes. Manipulation of crops or other feed for wildlife management purposes does not include the adding, distributing, or scattering of grain or other feed (i.e., sweet potatoes, turnips, etc.) once it has been removed from or stored on the field where grown.
3. Feeders within the curtilage of the home. "Curtilage of the home" means the area encompassing the grounds immediately surrounding any home or group of homes used in the daily activities of domestic life, and may or may not be enclosed by a fence or other barrier.
4. Feeders within wildlife enclosures.

It is the intent of the Commission to establish guidelines for the supplemental feeding of deer and to clarify accepted practices of habitat manipulation.

Each violation of this public notice shall be considered a violation of MS Code §49-4-41 which is a Class II violation.

This adopted public notice will become effective June 2, 2008. Witness my hand and seal this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 2008.

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

BY:   
John C Stanley IV, Chairman

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS

BY:   
Sam Polles, Ph.D., Executive Director

I certify this to be a true and correct copy.

  
Executive Director

  
Notary  
Hinds County  
My commission expires  
May 15, 2015