



Deer Steward II – Hastings, MI – September 8 - 11, 2017

Certification Course Confirmation

Your registration has been accepted and confirmed for the *Deer Steward Level II Certification Course* in Hastings, Michigan from **September 8-11, 2017**. The course will be held in the field at the [Thornapple River QDM Cooperative](#), and all indoor sessions at the Hastings Elks Lodge BPOE #1965, located at 102 E Woodlawn Ave, Hastings, MI 49058, 1(269) 945-5308.



Reservations –

Please make your reservations as soon as possible. For your convenience QDMA has blocked rooms at a discounted rate (\$119.99 [King] and \$124.99 [2 Queen] + tax/night) at the [Holiday Inn Express](#) in Hastings; you can contact them here:

1 (269) 945-0000

Please be sure to reference “QDMA” when making your reservations. Remember lodging and travel expenses are not included in the price of your registration. **Room rates are only good until August 8th**, after that the hotel will release the block.

Registration –

The course will begin with an informal welcome reception on Friday night. If you plan to attend, please check in at registration between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening (*exact location TBD, and will be emailed to you*). If you do not wish or are unable to attend the dinner, please check in at registration between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning at the Hastings Elks Lodge.

Meals –

Lunch and dinner will be provided during the course and are included in your registration fees. Please note that breakfast each morning is “on your own”. However, the above listed accommodation has an on-site continental breakfast available for you.

Supplies –

QDMA will provide classroom, laboratory and field-session materials, including a 3-ring binder that you will take home which includes a final agenda, speaker bios, note pages and a CD with Adobe Acrobat copies of all PowerPoint session talks. We will also have some clipboards for loan. However, you may want to bring your own chair, clipboard, a personal laptop (for those that want to view the inside session talks up close), pens, pencils, highlighters, notebooks, camera, etc. Also, please be sure to dress appropriately for the field sessions (hat/cap, sunglasses, boots, coat, sunscreen, etc.).

Preparation –

A suggested reading list for both Deer Steward Level I (as a reminder) and Level II is provided below. Reviewing any or all of the materials is not required; the instructors simply recommend supplemental information to support the information taught on site. Most of these materials can be found at www.QDMA.com. Other, related educational materials can also be obtained from “The Shed” web store.

Agenda (tentative) –

A detailed, tentative agenda is provided below. Unlike Deer Steward Level I, participation on Monday is *required* in Level II. Some of the class will be held indoors and some will be outdoors, with maximum time involving “hands-on” training.

Cancellation –

Applicants shall be entitled to a full refund of course fees if the QDMA National Office is notified within fourteen (14) business days of the course date. Cancellations made less than fourteen (14) business days from the course date shall entitle the applicant to a fifty percent (50%) refund of course fees. No refunds shall be made for cancellations less than two (2) business days before the course date.

Course Instructors (tentative) –

Kip Adams, Wildlife Biologist, QDMA Director of Education & Outreach
Dr. Craig Harper, Professor & Extension Wildlife Specialist, University of Tennessee

Joe Hamilton, Wildlife Biologist, QDMA Founder & Senior Advisor

Matt Ross, Wildlife Biologist, Forester and QDMA Certification Programs Manager

Travel Contacts (in case of emergency) –

Matt Ross – QDMA Certification Programs Manager; cell #: (518) 391-8414

Mike Flohr – Barry County QDMA Branch President; cell#: (269) 838-6268

Anna Mitterling – MUCC Cooperative Specialist; cell #: (517) 614-2507

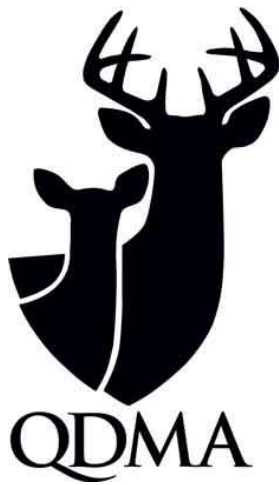
Carpooling, Reservations and Special Needs

If you would like to have your name placed on a list regarding potential carpooling and/or room sharing opportunities with other attendees, please contact Matt Ross at **mross@qdma.com**.

If you plan to attend the Friday night welcome reception, please RSVP **at least two weeks** prior to the event by contacting Matt Ross (see above). We will email everyone specific instructions regarding this event.

If you have any special dietary or physical needs, please inform Matt Ross (see above) well in advance of the course.

QDMA programs and policies are consistent with pertinent Federal and State laws and regulations, and prohibits discrimination in its programs, activities and employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran's, marital or family status.



The QDMA's REACH Program
Individual Certification Course

Deer Steward II Agenda (*Tentative*)

September 8-11, 2017

Thornapple River QDM Cooperative

&

Hastings Elks Club

102 E Woodlawn Ave, Hastings, MI 49058

Friday, September 8, 2017

5:00 pm Registration

6:00 pm Welcome Reception (*location TBD*)

Saturday, September 9

8:00-8:15 Late registration at Elks Club

8:15-8:30 Welcome and Opening Remarks

8:30-12:00 **Session I (mostly outdoors, 3-hour:30 min)**
Developing a Written Management Plan – Matt Ross
Property Evaluation at the Macro Scale – Craig Harper

9:30-9:45 **PREPARE TO GO AFIELD**

Ground Truthing Your Property: Habitat Composition and Soils Evaluation – Craig Harper/Kip Adams/Matt Ross

- Examine and confirm major vegetation classes/forest stand types
- Test and analyze soil profile on property
- Qualify the condition of cover and forage availability, and determine how to best arrange going forward

12:00-1:00 **LUNCH**

1:00-3:00 **Session II (2 inside stations, 30-minutes and 1.5-hour)**
Food Plot Design and Hunting Set-ups – Kip Adams
Property Evaluation: Putting it to work “hands on exercise” – Matt Ross

3:30-5:00 **Session III (1, 1.5-hour outside station)**
Layout a food plot *and* bedding area on the host property

5:00-5:15 **BREAK**

5:15-6:00 **Session IV (1, 45-minute inside/laboratory station)**
Antler Measuring – Joe Hamilton

6:15 pm **DINNER**

7:00 pm **Optional Property Tour**

Sunday, September 10

8:00-8:15 **Welcome back**

8:15-9:30 **Session V (1, 1-hour:15 minute outside station)**

Equipment and Calibration – Kip Adams

- Identify the most important and most accessible pieces of equipment available to deer managers, what they do and basics of how to use them
- Calibrate sprayer

9:30-9:45 BREAK

9:45-11:45 Session VI (1, 2-hour outside station)

Vegetation Management in Food Plots, Forests & Fields – Craig Harper

- Basic plant identification tips
- Food plots: seedbed preparation, amendments, determining what to plant, weed control, and management
- Forest: Forest Stand Improvement through girdling, hack-and-squirt, felling, and prescribed fire
- Fields: plant ID, herbicide applications, prescribed fire, and disking

12:00-1:00 LUNCH

1:00-3:15 Session VII (3, 45-minute outside stations)

Deer Necropsy – Joe Hamilton

Data Collection and Analyzing Reproductive Data – Joe Hamilton

Estimating Age of Harvested Deer – Kip Adams

3:15-3:30 BREAK

3:30-5:00 Session VIII (2, 45-minute inside/laboratory stations)

Analyzing & Interpreting Deer Harvest Data – Kip Adams

Developing a Deer Harvest Prescription – Kip Adams

5:00-6:30 Session IX

Short review period, then complete the written portion of Exam individually or in small groups

7:00 pm DINNER

Monday, September 11

8:00 am Welcome back

8:30 am “Biologist” practical at Elks Club

11:00 am Graduation ceremony

12:00 pm Depart for home – safe travels!

DS 1 Recommended Reading List

The Deer Steward Level I Certification Course Agenda is divided into six Sessions (listed below). Each Session contains anywhere between two and six topics, or talks.

The instructors recommend that you read the following article selections prior to attending the Deer Steward I course. This is **NOT** required prior to attending, as it only adds to and/or strengthens what you will learn during the course itself. All suggested reading materials originate from QDMA's website, QDMA.com, and articles are most easily be found by directly clicking on the embedded links below from this document.

I. History, Biology, and Ecology

History of QDM and the QDMA	QDMA's Mission and History
	QDM FAQ
Whitetail Biology and Behavior	When Do Bucks Visit Scrapes
	How Many Rubs Does a Buck Make
Senses and Communication	The Hunter's Guide to Deer Vision
	Tarsal Glands: What We Know
	The Vomeronasal Organ
Deer Movements and Home Range Use	10 Things We Know about Mature Buck Movements
	3 Studies, 3 Strikes for the October Lull
	New Data on Buck Home Range Size by Age
Population Dynamics and Predators	Top 5 Factors Causing Deer Population Declines
	Coyote Control: When Is it the Right Option?
Diseases and Their Implications to Hunters	EHD and CWD: What's the Difference?
	Can We Prevent EHD?
	10 Reasons You Don't Want CWD in Your Woods

II. Herd Management

Antler Growth, Deformities and Genetics	The Antler Growth Bell Curve
	Leg Injuries Can Affect Antler Growth
	Why We Can't Manage Deer Genetics
Antlered Buck Management	How Many Bucks Can I Harvest?
	Aging Bucks on The Hoof
Antlerless Deer Management	Harvesting the Right Number of Deer
	How Many Does Can I Harvest?
	Taking Does Can Actually Increase Fawn Production

III. Current Concerns

Minerals and Supplemental Feeding	Minerals for White-tailed Deer
	Feeding Regulations (2017 Whitetail Report ; pg 21)
Captive Cervids and Deer Farming Industry	Captive Deer Authority (2017 Whitetail Report ; pg 22)

IV. Habitat Management

Managing Fields and Other Open Areas	Better Hunting with Early Successional Cover
	How to Hunt Native Warm-Season Grasses
Forest Management for Deer	Don't Fear the Reaper: Timber Harvest is Good for Deer
	7 Steps to Stronger Acorn Production
	Does Logging or Habitat Work Push Deer Away?

Prescribed Fire for Deer

[Get Ready to Use Prescribed Fire](#)

Developing a Food Plot Program

[4 Ways to Light a Prescribed Fire](#)

[Annuals, Perennials & Row Crops](#)

[What Should I Plant in My Food Plot?](#)

[8 Rules to a Successful Hunting Plot](#)

Effective Food Plot Mixtures for Deer

[Try These Warm-Season Food Plot Mixes](#)

[Try These Cool-Season Food Plot Mixes](#)

V. **Hunter Management**

Managing Hunters and Poaching Concerns

[Which Bucks Can I Shoot?](#)

[Avoid the Deer Hunting Toilet](#)

[7 Steps to a Successful Cooperative](#)

[Leading Other Hunters to QDM](#)

[Face to Face with a Trespasser](#)

Managing Hunting Pressure to Maximize Success

[Sanctuaries: Attract, Protect, Hold and Hunt](#)

[How Fast Can a Stand "Recover" from Hunting Pressure?](#)

VI. **Herd Monitoring**

Survey Techniques for White-tailed Deer

[How to Run a Trail Camera Survey](#)

[How to Conduct a Spring Pellet Count](#)

[Get Outside and Measure the Deer Food Supply](#)

Harvest Data Collection and Interpretation

[7 Ways to Check a Deer Herd's Health](#)

[Prepare Now to Collect Deer Harvest Data](#)

[Detecting the Rut Peak](#)

DS 2 Recommended Reading List

The Deer Steward Level II Certification Course Agenda is divided into eight Sessions (listed below). Each Session contains anywhere between one and four topics, or talks.

The instructors recommend that you read the following article selections prior to attending the Deer Steward II course. This is **NOT** required prior to attending, as it only adds to and/or strengthens what you will learn during the course itself. Almost all of the suggested reading materials originate from QDMA's website, QDMA.com, and articles are most easily be found by directly clicking on the embedded links below from this document (**note: two links take you to the HUNTERRA YouTube Channel*)

Session I

Developing a Written Management Plan
Property Evaluation at the Macro Scale

[QDMA's Land Certification Program](#)
[Rub Lines and Hunting Success: Part 1](#)
[Rub Lines and Hunting Success: Part 2](#)

Ground Truthing Your Property: Habitat Composition and Soils Evaluation

[Know Your Native Deer Foods](#)
[QDM on Six Acres?](#)

Session II

Food Plot Design and Hunting Set-ups

[8 Rules for a Successful Hunting Plot](#)
[5 Reasons Food Plots Fail](#)
[Bottled Bucks: Maps 1-4](#)

Property Evaluation

*[How to Read 3D Topo Maps: Analyzing a New Farm](#)
*[How to Read 3D Topo Maps: Draws and Spurs](#)
[Find Next Season's Buck Now](#)

Session III

Layout a Food Plot and Bedding Area

n/a -- Field Session, site-dependent

Session IV

Antler Measuring

[Mapping Antler Expectations](#)
[The Real Trophy](#)

Session V

Equipment and Calibration

[How to Calibrate a Food Plot Sprayer](#)
[Cultipackers for Food Plots](#)
[For Better Food Plots, Adjust Your Disk Angles](#)
[Game of Logging \(Kip's Korner\)](#)
[How to Tune a Chainsaw Carburetor](#)
[How to Safely Drop Large Trees with a Chainsaw](#)

Session VI

Vegetation Management in Food Plots, Forests and Fields

Plant ID:

[Know Your Deer Plants](#) (multiple articles)

Food Plots:

[QDMA's Guide to Summer Food Plots](#)
[How to Build a Food Plot Browse Enclosure](#)

Forest:

[Hack-N-Squirt for Timber Stand Improvement](#)

Fields:

[The Deer Steward's Guide to Herbicide Terms](#)
[4 Tips for Using ATV Disk Harrows](#)
[Avoiding Glyphosate Resistance](#)

Session VII

Deer Necropsy

[Digest This: Scouting Deer Food from the Inside Out](#)
[Do Deer Have Heart Bones?](#)
[Deer with Upper Canines](#)

Data Collection/Analyzing Reproductive Data
Estimating Age

[No Link Between Moon Phase and Rut Peak](#)
[7 Sins to Aging Bucks on the Hoof](#)
[Ground-Truthing Bucks](#) (articles on TRW included)
[How to Photograph a Deer Jawbone for Aging](#)

Session VIII

Analyzing/Interpreting Deer Harvest Data

[Have We Killed Too Many Does?](#)
[How State Wildlife Agencies Estimate Deer Harvest](#)
[When Doe Fawns Breed, It's a Good Sign](#)

Developing a Deer Harvest Prescription

[Deer Sightability vs. Deer Density](#)
[5 Reasons to Take Does Early](#)