



QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 160 • 170 Whitetail Way • Bogart, GA 30622
PHONE: 800.209.3337 • FAX: 706.353.0223 • www.QDMA.com

Date: 2 October 2019
To: Nathan Webb, Wildlife Director
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
From: Kip Adams, Director of Conservation
Re: Baiting for deer

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) I am writing to voice our opposition to legalizing baiting for white-tailed deer in Maine. The QDMA is a national nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and our hunting heritage. The QDMA has over 60,000 members nationwide and our membership includes hunters, landowners and natural resource professionals.

I understand there is ongoing discussion for allowing baiting for hunting deer in Maine, and listed below are several of our concerns:

- Baiting has the potential to accelerate transmission of diseases such as chronic wasting disease (CWD) and bovine tuberculosis (TB) should they ever be discovered in Maine.
- Numerous national surveys confirm that the vast majority of the hunting and non-hunting public objects to hunting over bait.
- Legalization of baiting has been shown to create both “offensive” and “defensive” baiting situations among neighboring hunters, thus increasing conflicts.
- Baiting can alter deer behavior patterns, increasing movement and feeding activity at night rather than during the day. Research has clearly shown that deer harvest does not increase with legalized baiting.
- Experience in other states suggests a 4- to 8-fold increase in the amount of artificial food on the landscape following legalization of baiting.
- Evidence confirms that predators key in on feed sites to ambush deer – thus increasing deer mortality rates.
- Baiting has been shown to increase reproduction/spread of nuisance animals such as raccoons.

Legalizing baiting for deer would not be good for hunting, wildlife management, or wildlife conservation. For all these reasons, we urge you to oppose this allowance. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Kip Adams
Director of Conservation