



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Marketing and  
Regulatory  
Programs

2803 Jolly Road  
Suite 100  
Okemos, MI 48864

To whom it may concern,

Calendar year 2026 marked the first year of United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services (WS) field involvement with the Southeast Michigan Urban Deer Coalition (SEMIUDC). After years of SEMIUDC working together on management strategies for their respective municipalities, along with collaborative research done by the University of Michigan students, three cities within the coalition decided that deer removal was a feasible solution to their ongoing issues. WS was requested to assist under cooperative service agreements with the Cities of Farmington, Farmington Hills, and Southfield. As a result of these programs, 70 deer were removed from the region.

To limit public disturbance and impact on the community, USDA operated at night in primarily city-owned locations that were closed to the public. As part of this program, all removed deer were donated locally through the Sportsman Against Hunger Program. The goal of this regional approach is to reduce deer-vehicle collisions across the area with the understanding that deer do not know municipal boundaries.

### **Program Results**

- 70 white-tailed deer removed
- 2,312lbs of venison donated to local food banks
  - o 9,240+ meals provided

### **Challenges**

- Limiting removal locations to primarily city-owned properties does not always contribute to core areas where highest issues exist, especially given the time of year these efforts are taking place.
- Weather patterns impact the potential movement of white-tailed deer on nights planned for removal efforts. Due to this, USDA and appointed city staff had to adjust the schedule on a weekly basis to accomplish program goals and objectives.

### **Recommendations**

- Identify personnel that can grow, facilitate, gather data, and coordinate the regional deer management program and its objectives.
- Identify large individual parcels or multiple adjacent smaller parcels of private properties within the cities that will expand the program and allow the ability to focus efforts in areas of highest concern
- Consider adopting an urban archery program in areas of highest priority or areas where it can safely be conducted.
- Continuing community involvement, education, and outreach.
- Identify ways that each program and community can contribute funds to assist with the overall cost of processing and donation.
- Strictly enforce feeding bans within the cities. Feeding deer increases the potential for conflicts by making deer less wary of people.