

Chester County Deer Forum Fact Sheet

What is the Chester County Deer Forum (CCDF)?

Formed in March of 2003, the CCDF is a group of Chester County residents; federal, state, county and local government representatives and agencies and non-governmental organizations working together to find solutions for deer related concerns of Chester County residents.

Why was the Deer Forum started ?

The CCDF was founded in March of 2003 as a cooperative effort between the Chester County Office of Penn State Cooperative Extension and the PA Chapter of the Quality Deer Management Association (PA QDMA) to educate, unite and coordinate various Chester County stakeholders each of which had been mounting separate, sometimes conflicting, and almost always ineffective efforts to address what each individual or group saw as its own "deer problem".

Who are the Facilitators of the CCDF, and what are their functions ?

Cheryl Bjornson, Chester County Extension Horticultural Agent, and Tim Smail, Founder of the PA Chapter of the Quality Deer Management Association are the co-founders and co-facilitators of the County Deer Forum. They serve as Extension and PA QDMA representatives to the Focus Group, as co-executive directors of the Forum, and moderators and facilitators of Forum events and activities.

What stakeholders make up the Deer Forum Focus Group ?

The initial Focus Group was formed in order to have a small, broad based, knowledgeable planning and action group with experience in various aspects of deer biology and management, land use and management, government, social issues and action. Initial members of the Focus Group are representatives of: Chester County Cooperative Extension, the PA Chapter of the Quality Deer Management Association, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Chester County Conservation District, Chester County Parks and Recreation, The Brandywine Conservancy, and the Natural Lands Trust.

What planning and action has the Focus Group done ?

The Focus Group met to discuss the county wide "deer problem", to find common ground, to identify and define the problem and potential solutions, to identify stakeholders and stakeholder groups, and to set an action plan. The Focus Group agreed that deer population reduction and management is a necessary first and continuing component of any functioning system of deer management, and, further, that managed sport hunting using the concepts of quality deer management is the most effective, least cost, self sustaining and self policing method of deer population management available.

What Stakeholders and Stakeholder Groups have been identified ?

To date the following categories of stakeholders and stakeholder groups have been identified. Will you please assist us in serving the public by placing yourself into the one category which you feel best fits your circumstance. (If you think there is a need for more detail, please feel free to include your comments and questions.)

Agriculture

Forest Industry

Sportsmen's/Hunting Groups

Sporting Goods Suppliers

Deer Processors

Taxidermists

Human Health

Land Owners & Homeowner Associations

NGO's. Conservancies, Arboretums, Easement Holders, etc

Public Agencies

Chester Co Municipalities

Educational Institutions, Public & Private

Community / Other (Garden Clubs, Audubon, CC 20/20 Commission, League of Women Voters, etc.)

Individual Residents

Newspapers

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Chester County Deer Forum is to help Chester County residents find and implement the simplest, most cost effective, most comprehensive and sustainable solutions to their deer related problems and management concerns using natural, self sustaining, self policing systems through education, cooperative action, and utilization of all available resources.

Objectives

- Identify all Chester County Stakeholders and stakeholder groups.
- Catalog contact info for stakeholders and contact persons for applicable stakeholder groups.
- Establish and maintain a listserv of Chester County stakeholders for immediate communication.
- Establish a web site/link for dissemination and collection of information.
- Establish and sponsor a local branch of the Quality Deer Management Association to carry out fundraising and educational programs for the county deer forum.
- Through education empower all stakeholders to work cooperatively in solving their problems.
- Encourage active participation by all Chester County stakeholders.
- Enlist the aid and cooperation of the PA Game Commission at all levels. Establish and facilitate effective two way communication between Chester County residents and the PGC.
- Educate municipalities regarding their role in educating residents and facilitating solution of problems by the residents through coordinated, cooperative action.
- Encourage municipalities to routinely and actively invite citizen participation in the municipal comprehensive planning process, and other routine municipal processes, as a means inventorying the level and distribution of deer related problems and concerns throughout the municipality.
- Encourage municipalities to incorporate significant deer related problems and concerns into their comprehensive, and other, plans, develop strategies for solution of inventoried problems, and carry out adaptive measures necessary for solution.
- Similarly, educate and encourage other stakeholder groups to work with and through their memberships and cooperatively with all other county stakeholder groups for solutions.
- In particular develop and carry out landowner and hunter education programs and facilitate effective cooperation in establishing and maintaining healthy deer herds in balance with social and biological habitats.

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What activities has the Forum Undertaken ?

Establishment of a web link <http://chester.extension.psu.edu/Horticulture/Deer Forum>

Establishment of a Chester County Deer Forum listserv. To subscribe email tmail00@aol.com Subject : CCDF – Subscribe

Establishment and publication of “Chester County Deer Forum UPDATE” to inform stakeholders of current deer management related topics

Providing educational programs to municipalities as requested.

Kennett Twp Work with the Twp from 5/13/04 to present to develop and carry out twp deer management program
Public forum 4/21/05
Public Forum 9/11/04
Hunter Seminar 11/03/04
E Bradford Twp EAC 3/28/05
West Chester Area Council of Governments 8/29/05
West Pikeland Land Trust 4/16/05
London Britain Twp Supervisors 7/25/05

Providing educational seminars & displays to various Chester County stakeholders

Chester and Delaware Co Vegetable Growers 6/04/03
Chester County Conservation District Ag Law Forum 6/11/03
Chester County Public Forum 9/20/003
Chester County Crops Day 2/04/04
Keep Farming First Forum 2/10/04
Marshallton Grange 7/19/04
Keeping Farming First Forum 2/08/05
SEPA Cattlemans Assoc 3/22/05
Work with Ellis Schmit to develop pilot deer management program, London Britain Twp 10/01/03 - present
Work with Mary Sproat to develop QDM program on her property, New Garden Twp. 8/09/05 Provide QDM seminar for hunters on property. 8/31/05
Chester County Master Gardeners 8/11/05
Lesserton Garden Club 8/22/05
Kirkwood Farms, Rick Schlosberg & Suburban Deer Managers 9/7/05 & 9/21/05
West Chester Fish & Game 9/14/05
Chester County Conservation District Ag Law Forum 9/15/05
Crosslands at Kendall 10/29/05
Ecosystem Management Project, Deer in Your Backyard Workshop, Audubon 11/12/05
West Chester Area Council of Governments Deer Forum 11/16/05
Rose Valley Deer Forum, Delaware County 12/01/05
Keep Farming First Forum 2/26/06
Chester Co. Middle College High School, Exton 3/15/06