



Mississippi Bowhunters Association and Supplemental Feeding

STORY BY BRIAN MONTGOMERY

The regulations in Mississippi pertaining to supplemental feeding have evolved over the course of the last several years. During that time the Mississippi Bowhunters Association has been relatively silent on the subject. As stated previously, the general stance of the organization has been neutral on the subject, that is until the state choose to allow hunters to hunt within line of site but be 100 yards from the feeders. In essence, the state was allowing firearm hunters to utilize supplemental feeder stations. The yardage limitation prohibited archers from using feeders if they so choose to.

At the August 2017 meeting of the State Wildlife Commissioners the MBA raised the issue of the yardage limitation being unfair to bowhunters and the commission was very welcoming and understanding about our concern. The MBA continued to reiterate that we are neutral on the legality of the activity of supplemental feeding but that we are not neutral when it comes to bowhunters rights.

Summer of 2018 the MDWFP released a survey to determine where the state stood on the subject of supplemental feeding and primarily the yardage limitation. The results of the survey show that of the archers that

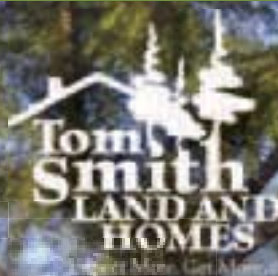
participated in the survey approximately 75% of them were in favor of there not being a yardage limitation. During the September meeting of the Wildlife Commission, the decision was made to eliminate the yardage limitation.

There are lots of opinions on the subject of supplemental feeding/baiting around the state and around the country. Some believe that baiting isn't fair chase and others don't have a problem with the practice. Others believe it's not sound wildlife management and can lead to disease and reduction of our wildlife that we all want to protect. The MBA believes that the biologist will fight that fight with science and we, the MBA will support the laws the state sets forth. The MBA will continue to focus on bowhunters rights in our state and this is a great example where the heritage and hard work of the MBA led to a victory in cooperation with the Mississippi Wildlife Commission and MDWF&P.

On another note, please go to MDWFP website to see the complete regulations. There are some other criteria that need to be considered pertaining to supplemental feeding. One of those are the practice of placing feed directly on the ground. This practice is prohibited under the law and will be severely punished. With the science we currently have, we know this practice puts our wildlife at the most risk of spreading disease among our deer and turkey populations. With the change in the law, a bowhunter can now hunt directly over an approved feeder, we need to do our part to protect our wildlife by following all state mandated laws and regulations.

<http://www.mdwfp.com/administration/rules/>

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