

Supplemental feeding is a relatively new concept for our state but the use of feeders to attract game animals isn't new to other areas of the country and around the world for that matter. In the fall of 2008 supplemental feeding was made legal throughout the state with certain limitations. It started with requirements such as certain feed rations, distance from hunters, and feed must be kept in an authorized feeder system to be legal. The next round of modifications was authorized in 2015 to allow the feeder to be within line of sight and to still be limited to 100 yards from the hunter or property boundaries.

On August 16, 2017 Brad Martin and I were allowed to address the Mississippi Wildlife Commission to discuss the current law and how it affects archers throughout the state. Our position was that the Mississippi Bowhunters Association (MBA) is neither an advocate or critic of the use of supplemental feeding while hunting. Our position is that the current law allows for firearms hunting over supplemental feed stations with the line of sight removal and this unfairly discriminates against bowhunters who want to hunt over those stations. The commission was very welcoming regarding our concern and committed to discovery and research to potential change the law for the 2018 hunting season. During the meeting there was concern over the illegal act of placing corn or bait directly on the ground. This is an animal health concern to preserve our wildlife heritage for generations to come with the real threat of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) throughout the nation. The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) was clear that those proven to be taking part in this activity would pay a heavy penalty.

For all the archers taking to the field this fall, please know and follow the laws as currently written and know that the Mississippi Bowhunters Association will continue to engage in the process to support the archery lifestyle.

Supplemental Feeding in Mississippi

The current law reads:

1. Feed may only be provided from above ground covered feeders or stationary spin cast feeders.
 2. Any type of feed or food product may be used in feeders
 3. Feeders may be placed no closer than 100 yards from the outermost boundary of an area of sole ownership or exclusive hunting rights
 4. Feed may not be poured, piled, or placed directly on the ground
 5. Salt/mineral stations, blocks, and/or licks may be established. These stations, blocks, and/or licks may not contain any corn or grain products
 6. From February 15 – September 30, milo, grain sorghum, and/or wheat may be evenly broadcast at a rate not to exceed 50 pounds per acre
 7. Feeding of migratory birds is regulated pursuant to Federal regulations set forth at 50 CFR 20.11 and 20.21(i).
- D. Supplemental Feeding During Any Hunting Season: From the opening day of deer archery season to the close of the spring turkey season, hunters must be no less than 100 yards away from any feed, or a feeder which contains feed.

Photo courtesy of Steel Outdoors



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