



# Wisconsin Bear Baiting & Feeding Regulations

## Summary of Statewide Bear Baiting and Feeding Regulations...

WM-457-2008

- ❖ **Feeding bears for non-hunting purposes, such as recreational viewing, is NOT legal.**
- ❖ **You may use up to 10 Gallons of legal bait material to bait for hunting & dog training.**
- ❖ **Bait for bear may be placed from April 15 through the end of bear hunting season.**
- ❖ **Bait must be enclosed and covered to prevent access to the bait material by deer.**

### Regulations on Baiting:

1. Bait may be placed and used for the purpose of hunting bear or training bear dogs **statewide**, except that **no person may** place, use or hunt over bait placed for bears:
  - Beginning the day after the bear season closes and continuing through the following April 14th.
  - In excess of **10 gallons** of bait at any baiting site.
  - That is **not** totally enclosed in a hollow log, a hole in the ground or stump which is capped with logs, rocks or other naturally occurring and unprocessed substances which **prevents deer from accessing the material**. Liquid scent used for hunting of bear or training bear dogs does not need to be enclosed, but is part of the 10 gallon limit.
  - Unless, when the bait site is checked or re-baited, all bait that has been uncovered is again enclosed and made **inaccessible to deer**.
2. Additionally, **no person may** place, use or hunt over bait that:
  - Contains or is contained within, metal, paper, plastic, glass, wood or other similar processed materials. This does not apply to hollow logs or stumps used to contain bait, or to scent materials.
  - Contains any animal part or animal by-product.
  - Is located within 50 yards of any trail, road or campsite used by the public, or within 100 yards from a roadway having a posted speed limit of 45 miles per hour or more.
  - Is contained in, or replenished or deposited by an automatic, mechanical or gravity feeder.
3. **No person may** hunt over bait material placed for bear without possessing a valid unused class A bear license and carcass tag.
4. No person age 12 or older may place or deposit any bait for bears without a Class A or B Bear License.  
**Note:** Youth under 12 years of age may assist with placement of bait for bear without a license.
5. Finally, **no person may** hunt or train dogs over bait that is in violation of these regulations, unless the area is completely free of bait or feed material for at least 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, pursuing animals or dog training.

*Note: Removal of unlawfully placed bait or feed material does not preclude the issuance of a citation for the original placement of the unlawful baiting or feeding material.*

### Regulations on Feeding:

1. It is not legal to place or deposit feed for bears for purposes other than legal bear hunting or bear dog training.
2. If any bear begins to use a deer feeding site, the owner must stop the feeding and remove all feed for a period of not less than 30 days.

### Definitions:

**Animal part or animal by-product** means honey, bones, fish, meat, solid animal fat, animal carcass or parts of animal carcasses, but does not include liquid scents.

**Bait** means any material placed or used to attract wild animals, including liquid scent.

**Bait or feed site** means any location or area in which bait or feed is placed or deposited or that contains bait or feed material used to attract wild animals for hunting or dog training purposes.

**Feeding site** means any location or area in which bait or feed is placed or deposited or that contains bait or feed material used to attract wild animals for recreational or supplemental feeding purposes, not related to hunting or dog training.

**Hunt over** means hunting within 100 yards of any feeding site or sites where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area contains one or more feeding sites.

**Scent** means any material, except honey, used to attract wild animals solely by its odor.

