

My name is Robert Villarreal, I have been hunting since I was 14 years old, I'm also raising my children to be hunters. I have family and friends that travel here every year to hunt. I believe baiting should be legal and here's a couple reasons why.

-Without feed plots or baiting allowed we are risking putting our hunting heritage and herds in jeopardy of overpopulation.

-We are teaching our children and their children that they can just drive around and shoot whatever from the roads, there is no hard work in that. I want my children to learn to bait, learn what the animals like to eat, learn what they don't, learn their habits and their travel trajectories. Teach them how to sit in a stand and be patient, teach them that feeding our family and other families doesn't come easy.

- I do not want to drive around and shoot animals from the road when we see them run by. Every year I have new hunters that drive up and down our roads trying to scare anything and everything out of the trees for an easy kill. They shoot towards our farm, they shoot towards our livestock. We are posted up as tight as we can be but someone always tries to get by.

-If we keep baiting and food plots illegal, we are likely to cause the herds to travel more, crossing highways more, crossing herds over herds, changing core territories. We are risking more travel for all herds to find food when it could just be at every farm, in every quarter, deer would travel less, less cross contamination from herds who carry diseases. You're not going to stop the deer from eating together.

- Please tell me what the difference is between the deer eating on the millions of acres of corn fields already, the alfalfa hay that farmers have to stack in their fields, the crab apples from the tree rows at farmsteads and if I were able to bring feed in or plant a food plot. All the same herds will be eating together. I have watched over the years as the deer in my area all return and every year we lose some and we gain new ones. It is never the same herds, why wouldn't we allow those who wish to feed, feed and make sure the herd that has claimed their land is healthy and not starving. They eat together no matter what, you're not going to stop that.

-If I cannot buy seed or feed aren't you doing more damage to our already struggling economy? As mentioned before I have friends and family that travel here and buy out of state tags so they can enjoy a North Dakota hunt. If we can't feed and bait then we're wasting their time and money and we're just hoping something comes in, we're just hoping they can fill their tags.

By continuing to make baiting illegal, you are ultimately accepting that some will bait and feed illegally just as the poach and trespass and majority will follow the laws and we will continue to watch as thousands of deer get killed crossing highways, eat and ruin farmers crop and livelihood.

In closing I would hope that you will do your research and look at the statistics of other surrounding states who allow baiting and how it has helped their hunting heritage and how it does not cause more harm than good.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration.

Robert Villarreal