

# CWD Update 121

November 05, 2018

## International Updates

### Norway

The following release was issued by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority on October 24, 2018 ([https://www.mattilsynet.no/dyr\\_og\\_dyrehold/dyrehold/nye\\_tilleggskrav\\_ved\\_import\\_av\\_hoy\\_og\\_halm\\_til\\_dyrefor\\_fra\\_land\\_utenfor\\_eosomraadet.32670](https://www.mattilsynet.no/dyr_og_dyrehold/dyrehold/nye_tilleggskrav_ved_import_av_hoy_og_halm_til_dyrefor_fra_land_utenfor_eosomraadet.32670)) (English translation by Google Translate):

### **New additional requirements for imports of high [hay] and straw for animal feed from countries outside the EEA**

- **Several animal health requirements have been introduced for high [hay] and straw imported to animal feed from countries outside the EEA. The new additional requirements apply immediately.**

The new additional requirements for high [hay] and straw for animal feed imported to Norway from countries outside the EEA area are:

- The products must be accompanied by a confirmation from the manufacturer that the product has been stored for at least two months in the country of dispatch and that the product has been harvested from farms where fertilizer has not been fertilized during the last two years.
- The products must be accompanied by a certificate from the official veterinarian in the sender country that the product has been harvested from farms where no restrictions are imposed on contagious animal disease.
- High [hay] and straw from the United States and Canada must also be accompanied by a certificate from a public veterinarian that the product has been harvested in states or provinces where no Chronic Wasting Disease has been detected in deer animals.

### **Always a risk of imported feed**

The background for the new additional requirements is the crop weight after the drought this summer. It meant that many farmers and others who keep pets need to supplement with purchased hay and straw. Purchasing coarse feed from abroad will always entail a risk of introducing unwanted contaminants and plants, which can cause a health hazard to humans, animals and plants.

"The new additional requirements for high [hay] and straw from non-EEA countries will help us maintain the good animal health we have in Norway. Some countries in Europe, and countries outside Europe, have serious contagious animal diseases that can accompany the loss on imports of high [hay] and straw. The Norwegian Food Safety Authority is therefore concerned that the

import of coarse feed must take place in as safe a way as possible, says Anne Marie Jahr, section head of animal health in Mattilsynet.

### **New regulations have immediate effect**

Based on the risk assessments by the Veterinary Institute this summer about the import of high [hay] and straw, the authorities need to introduce specific requirements for high and straw. The purpose has been to prevent the spread of contagious animal diseases when importing these products. The Norwegian Food Safety Authority has considered that plant health is well-preserved through existing regulations and that there is no need to introduce additional requirements for plant health.

"The new additional requirements for high [hay] and straw from non-EEA countries will help us maintain the good animal health we have in Norway. Some countries in Europe, and countries outside Europe, have serious contagious animal diseases that can accompany the loss on imports of high [hay] and straw. The Norwegian Food Safety Authority is therefore concerned that the import of coarse feed must take place in as safe a way as possible, says Anne Marie Jahr, section head of animal health in Mattilsynet.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food provided the new supplementary requirements on October 22, 2018, and announced on October 23. The new regulation is [known as the October 22, 2018 No. 1599 supplementary requirement for imports of high and straw for animal feed](#).

Although the new additional requirements apply only to coarse feed from countries outside the EEA, it is important to note that there are also some basic requirements for high [hay] and straw from the EEA.

It is those who import, sell on or feed for the animals responsible for ensuring that the feed is safe. The Norwegian Food Safety Authority has provided an overview of where it is safest to collect feed, and this information is available on our website. The Norwegian Food Safety Authority encourages everyone to use Norwegian feed primarily to prevent communicable diseases, says Anne Marie Jahr.

### **State and Provincial Updates:**

#### **Arkansas**

The following press release was issued by the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission on October 30, 2018 (<https://www.agfc.com/en/news/2018/10/30/cwd-positive-deer-found-in-johnson-county/>):

#### **CWD-positive deer found in Johnson County**

CLARKSVILLE – Chronic wasting disease has been found in Johnson County. A hunter-harvested white-tailed deer harvested north of Clarksville recently tested positive for the disease, according to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

The 2½-year-old buck was confirmed as CWD-positive by the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Madison.

Johnson County was previously placed within the CWD management zone after deer tested positive in surrounding counties. This latest detection will not add any counties to that CWD zone. The CWD management zone includes Benton, Boone, Carroll, Crawford, Franklin, Johnson, Logan, Madison, Marion, Newton, Pope, Searcy, Sebastian, Van Buren, Washington and Yell counties.

CWD was first detected in Arkansas Feb. 23, 2016, when a hunter-harvested elk in Newton County tested positive. The first Arkansas deer with CWD was verified March 3, 2016, also in Newton County. Since the first detections, AGFC has sampled and tested over 10,000 deer and elk from around the state. To date, there have been 391 deer and elk have tested positive for the disease in Arkansas.

CWD was first documented among captive mule deer in Colorado in 1967, and has been detected in 24 states and three Canadian provinces. It's been found in the wild in 20 states and among captive cervids in 15 states.

The Commission has taken several steps to prevent the disease, which strikes cervids (deer, elk and moose), from entering the state. A moratorium on live cervid importation began in 2002, and the importation of cervid carcasses was banned in 2005. Moratoriums on permits for commercial hunting resorts and breeder/dealer permits for cervid facilities were put in place in 2006. Capturing white-tailed deer by hand was banned in 2012.

Biologists believe a protein particle called a prion is transmitted through feces, urine and saliva, and can survive for years in soil and plants. CWD can have an incubation period of at least 16 months, which means infected animals may not show symptoms immediately.

CWD affects an animal's nervous system. Prions transform normal cellular proteins into abnormal shapes that accumulate until neural cells cease to function. Infected animals begin to lose weight, lose their appetite and develop an insatiable thirst. They tend to separate from their herds, walk in repetitive patterns, carry their head low, salivate, urinate frequently and grind their teeth.

Visit [www.agfc.com/cwd](http://www.agfc.com/cwd) for more information.

## **Mississippi**

The following press release was issued by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks on October 30, 2018 (<https://www.mdwfp.com/media/news/wildlife-hunting/chronic-wasting-disease-confirmed-in-pontotoc-county/>):

### **Chronic Wasting Disease Confirmed in Pontotoc County**

PONTOTOC – The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) received confirmation from the National Veterinary Services Laboratory that a white-tailed deer

collected in Pontotoc County on October 8, 2018 tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). MDWFP has established the Pontotoc CWD Management Zone that includes Pontotoc and Union counties and all portions of Lee County west of Hwy 45. For any MDWFP-defined CWD Management Zone it is unlawful to:

- Supplemental feed;
- Establish new mineral sites or add supplements to existing sites;
- Remove certain portions of cervid carcasses from the zone ([carcass regulations](#)); or
- Trap wild hogs without a permit from MDWFP.

To monitor CWD in the Pontotoc Zone, MDWFP will rely on hunter-harvested deer during the 2018–19 hunting season. Hunters can submit deer for testing at established drop-off locations or MDWFP-staffed check stations.

MDWFP will host a public meeting to discuss Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) at North Pontotoc Attendance Center on Thursday, November 8 at 6:00 PM. Presentations by MDWFP staff will be on the status of CWD and planned monitoring activities. Biologists and Law Enforcement officials will be available to answer questions.

For more information about Chronic Wasting Disease visit [www.mdwfp.com/cwd](http://www.mdwfp.com/cwd). Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/mdwfp](http://www.facebook.com/mdwfp) or on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline](http://www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline).

## **Missouri**

The following press release was issued by the Missouri Department of Conservation on October 25, 2018 (<https://mdc.mo.gov/newsroom/mdc-reports-deer-tests-positive-cwd-oregon-county>):

### **MDC Reports Deer Tests Positive for CWD in Oregon County**

OREGON COUNTY – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) reports that an adult female deer in Oregon County has tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). A landowner found a dead deer on their property and was concerned. MDC was notified, and staff collected a sample and had it tested for CWD.

This is the first deer found dead in Missouri that has tested positive for CWD. The nearest confirmed CWD positive is over 70 miles away in Arkansas. This new CWD positive case brings the total number of CWD cases detected in free ranging deer in Missouri to 76 since 2012.

“We will be working cooperatively with hunters and landowners in the coming months to test more deer in this area and assess the extent of the disease in Oregon County,” MDC Wildlife Disease Coordinator Jasmine Batten said.

CWD is a fatal disease that effects deer and other members of the deer family, called cervids. There have been no cases of CWD infecting humans, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that hunters harvesting deer in areas known to have CWD to get their deer tested before consuming meat.

Hunters in or around Oregon County can have their deer tested during normal business hours at the Ozark Regional Office in West Plains. Hunters can bring the entire deer -- preferably field dressed -- or the head with at least 6 inches of the neck in place to the office and MDC staff will take a sample to have it tested for CWD.

Hunters that harvest deer outside of business hours can remove the head, keep it cool, and bring it to the office during business hours. Additional sampling opportunities can be found online at <https://bit.ly/2SgjUqH>.

“Sampling deer that show possible signs of CWD is one important piece of our surveillance efforts, and we greatly appreciate the public’s assistance,” Batten said.

For more information about CWD visit [mdc.mo.gov/cwd](http://mdc.mo.gov/cwd).

The following press release was issued by the Missouri Department of Conservation on April 06, 2018 (<https://mdc.mo.gov/newsroom/mdc-reports-33-cwd-positives-out-nearly-24500-samples-tested>):

### **MDC Reports 33 CWD Positives Out of Nearly 24,500 Samples Tested**

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) reports 33 new cases of chronic wasting disease (CWD) have been found following the testing of 24,486 free-ranging Missouri deer through its 2017-2018 sampling and testing efforts. The new cases were from the following counties:

- Adair: 3
- Cedar: 1
- Franklin: 4
- Jefferson: 1
- Linn: 7
- Macon: 3
- Perry: 1
- Polk: 3
- St. Clair: 4
- Ste. Genevieve: 6

Of the 33 new cases, 16 were from hunter-harvested deer, one was from a road-killed deer, and 16 were from MDC’s post-season targeted culling efforts in the immediate areas around where previous cases have been found.

This year’s findings bring the total number of free-ranging deer in Missouri confirmed to have CWD to 75. For more information, visit [mdc.mo.gov/cwd](http://mdc.mo.gov/cwd) under “CWD in Missouri.”

“For a third year in a row, we found no CWD-positive deer in central Missouri, where a single case was confirmed in early 2015,” said MDC Wildlife Disease Coordinator Jasmine Batten. “Additionally, we found no cases of CWD on the Missouri-Arkansas border, despite the high level of CWD in northwest Arkansas.”

Batten added that where CWD has been found in Missouri, the numbers of positives remain relatively low.

“It is encouraging that cases of CWD are still pretty low overall, and MDC remains committed to monitoring the disease and taking actions to limit its spread,” she said. “We encourage hunters and landowners to continue participating in our CWD monitoring and management efforts.” Batten added that these efforts are vital in limiting the spread of the disease.

“If we do nothing, areas affected by CWD will increase in size and many more deer will become infected by the disease,” she explained. “Over time, this would lead to significant long-term population declines.”

### **MDC will continue CWD sampling this fall and winter**

MDC will again require mandatory sampling of deer harvested during the opening weekend of the fall firearms deer season, Nov. 10 and 11, in and around counties where the disease has been recently found. MDC will again also offer voluntary CWD sampling during the entire fall and winter hunting season of deer harvested in and around counties where the disease has been recently found.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend hunters in areas known to have CWD test their deer before consuming the meat.

More information on specific counties, sampling locations, and requirements will be published in MDC’s “2018 Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information” booklet, and online at [mdc.mo.gov/cwd](http://mdc.mo.gov/cwd), starting in July.

### **More on targeted culling**

After the close of deer season, MDC staff work with landowners on a voluntary basis to cull additional deer within an area of 1 to 5 miles of where recent cases of CWD have been found. Collecting additional samples helps MDC scientists better understand how many deer in the area may be infected and where they are in the area. Targeted culling also helps limit the spread of CWD by removing potentially infected deer from an area.

“Targeted culling has proven to be very useful in finding cases of CWD and in reducing the spread of the disease by removing additional CWD-infected animals,” explained Batten. “We found about half of the new CWD cases this year through targeted culling. Without targeted culling, those 16 infected deer would have continued to spread the disease.”

She added that targeted culling is the only tested method of slowing the growth of CWD in a local deer population.

“The state of Illinois has been successful in stabilizing levels of CWD through the use of a sustained targeted culling program over many years,” Batten said. “In contrast, states such as

Wisconsin that have not used targeted culling, or that have only implemented targeted culling for a short period of time, have seen levels of CWD climb steadily.”

Of the more than 101,000 deer MDC has tested for CWD since 2001, about 4,500 have been harvested through targeted culling, including 1,485 from the past season.

“This accounts for about 4% of all CWD samples collected so far, but has resulted in finding about 49% of CWD cases in Missouri,” Batten explained.

Learn more about targeted culling through this video: [youtube.com/watch?v=7VitlahG5Do](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VitlahG5Do)

For more information on CWD, visit [mdc.mo.gov/cwd](https://mdc.mo.gov/cwd).

## **Michigan**

The following press release was issued by the Michigan Department of Natural resources on October 18, 2018 ([https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79137\\_79770\\_79780-481070--\\_00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79137_79770_79780-481070--_00.html)):

### **Deer tests positive for CWD in Dickinson County**

A 4-year-old doe killed on a deer damage shooting permit in Dickinson County’s Waucedah Township has tested positive for chronic wasting disease, marking the first confirmation of the incurable deer disease within Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

The finding was verified by Michigan State University’s Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in East Lansing and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa.

The deer was shot on an agricultural farm about 4 miles from the Michigan-Wisconsin border. “We remain committed to maintaining healthy Michigan wildlife for the residents of, and visitors to, this great state, now and into the future,” said Michigan Department of Natural Resources Director Keith Creagh. “Fortunately, over the past few years, with the help of hunters, the U.P. CWD Task Force, DNR staffers and others, we are far better prepared to respond to threats posed by chronic wasting disease in the U.P.”

Chronic wasting disease is a fatal nervous system disease found in deer, moose and elk. The disease attacks the brain of infected animals, creating small lesions, which result in neurologic symptoms. The disease is always fatal in animals that contract it.

To date, there have been no reported cases of CWD infection in humans.

“We are taking immediate action to address this situation in the Upper Peninsula. In the short term, stepped-up testing and active surveillance is the priority to better understand where the disease exists,” said Russ Mason, chief of the DNR’s Wildlife Division. “To do this, we need to

step up our efforts to collect deer heads for testing in this area. We need to determine if this deer is an individual outlier or whether there are more deer infected in the area.”

The DNR has tested hundreds of deer from Upper Peninsula counties bordering Wisconsin. This year alone (as of Oct. 11) a total of 625 deer-damage permit, roadkill and hunter-killed deer have been tested from Dickinson, Gogebic, Menominee and Iron counties.

“It was our surveillance efforts that revealed the disease in this particular deer,” said Kelly Straka, state wildlife veterinarian. “It is now especially important that these efforts continue.” Chronic wasting disease has been found in free-ranging deer in six additional counties in Michigan – Clinton, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson, Kent and Montcalm. A total of 63 deer within these counties have tested positive for the disease.

The DNR recognizes that deer movements, densities and habitat vary from the U.P. into the Lower Peninsula. DNR officials will review Michigan’s CWD Surveillance and Response Plan and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies’ CWD Best Management Practices in considering additional measures going forward.

“For next hunting season and beyond, the DNR will discuss possible response actions with U.P. hunters and other stakeholders to determine the best approach to fighting CWD in the region,” said Chad Stewart, DNR deer management specialist.

A conference call with stakeholder groups is scheduled for early next week.

A roughly 10-mile core area has been set up, centered on Waucedah Township. Within this area, the DNR has set a goal to test a minimum of 600 deer to better determine the extent of possibly infected deer.

“We need hunters to help us reach this goal, by voluntarily submitting entire deer heads for testing. Hunters can keep the venison,” Mason said. “At this point, we are not establishing a mandatory deer check in the area, but that may become necessary, if we don’t reach our goal.” Several actions will be taken by the DNR including:

- Providing additional drop boxes for deer heads within the area, especially in convenient, high-traffic places.
- Offering disease control permits to interested landowners who have more than 5 acres of land and are within 2 miles of the center of the surveillance area.
- Allowing baiting for deer to continue for the rest of this year. Future decisions on feeding deer will be based on the results of the surveillance efforts.
- An ongoing DNR U.P. deer migration study will be adjusted to include the affected area within its boundaries. Deer will be collared in the area to better understand the movements of deer.

“The actions of hunters matter in battling CWD,” Stewart said. “Keep hunting and get your deer checked. Responsibly transport, process and dispose of your deer carcass. Visit the website to learn about proper carcass transportation into Michigan from out of state. Please pass these tips on to other hunters.”



In North America, a total of 25 states and three Canadian provinces have confirmed the presence of chronic wasting disease in free-ranging or captive deer, elk or moose, or both.

More information on chronic wasting disease – including Michigan’s CWD Surveillance and Response Plan, locations of deer check stations, fact sheets and testing data – is available at [michigan.gov/cwd](http://michigan.gov/cwd).

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state’s natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

The following press release was issued by the Michigan Department of Natural resources on June 21, 2018 (<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-86469-471315--,00.html>):

### **First case of chronic wasting disease suspected in Jackson County**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources announced today that a 3-year-old doe in Spring Arbor Township (Jackson County) is suspected positive for chronic wasting disease. CWD is a fatal neurological disease that affects white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk and moose.

Earlier this month, landowners in Jackson County contacted the DNR after a very ill-looking deer died on their property. DNR staff examined the deer to determine the cause of death and submitted tissue samples to Michigan State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. After initial tests were positive for CWD, samples were forwarded to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Veterinary Services Laboratory for confirmation. The DNR is awaiting those results.

Over 31,000 deer have been tested for the disease since May 2015. If confirmed by the federal lab, this would be the 58th CWD-positive deer in Michigan and the first in Jackson County. Chronic wasting disease already has been confirmed in Clinton, Ingham, Ionia, Kent and Montcalm counties.

"We are committed to maintaining healthy Michigan wildlife for current and future generations," said DNR Director Keith Creagh. "One of our chief goals is to slow the spread of chronic wasting disease to other areas of the state. That’s why we’ve taken strategic action, in partnership with local communities, hunters and others, to best address CWD in Michigan’s deer population."

The DNR will be working with surrounding landowners, farmers, local governments and hunters to better understand this new finding.

"Strong public awareness and cooperation from residents and hunters are critical for a rapid response," said Kelly Straka, state wildlife veterinarian. "We’d like to thank the individuals who called the DNR; without their help, we would not be aware that CWD may be within Jackson County."

The DNR is asking for help from hunters and the public in reporting deer that are:

- Unusually thin, lethargic, with drooping head and ears.
- Exhibiting unusual behavior (for example, acting tame around humans and allowing someone to approach).

To report a suspicious-looking deer, call your [local DNR field office](#) or fill out and submit the [online observation report](#) found on the DNR website.

Although this latest finding involves a free-ranging deer, deer farms in the area will be notified as well.

“We are working with owners of deer farms within all counties touched by a 15-mile radius around the suspect deer to ensure they are meeting CWD testing requirements,” said State Veterinarian James Averill, DVM.

To date, there have been no reported cases of CWD infection in people. However, as a precaution, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that infected animals not be consumed as food by either humans or domestic animals.

More information about CWD – including [Michigan’s CWD surveillance and response plan](#), fact sheets, and testing data – is available at [michigan.gov/cwd](http://michigan.gov/cwd).

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state’s natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

## **Wisconsin**

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection issued the following press release on June 25, 2018

([https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News\\_Media/CWDSaukCounty.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News_Media/CWDSaukCounty.aspx)):

### **DATCP Confirms CWD-Positive Elk in Sauk County**

MADISON – The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) confirms that an elk from a breeding farm in Sauk County has tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD). The National Veterinary Services Laboratory confirmed the test results and the farm has been quarantined. A quarantine means no animals may move in or out of the farm.

The 5-year-old cow died while giving birth. The fenced farm has 15 elk, according to the owner’s most recent registration. The farm has been licensed since 1997 and is not enrolled in the CWD Herd Status Program. More information about CWD testing requirements for farms enrolled and non-enrolled in the program can be found on the [DATCP website](#).

DATCP’s Animal Health Division will investigate the animal’s history to try to determine how it was exposed to CWD.

CWD is a fatal, neurological disease of deer, elk, and moose caused by an infectious protein that affects the animal's brain. Testing for CWD can only be performed after the animal's death. For more information about CWD visit [DATCP's website](#). DATCP regulates deer farms for registration, recordkeeping, disease testing, movement, and permit requirements. To learn more about deer farm regulations in Wisconsin, visit DATCP's [farm-raised deer program](#). The Department of Natural Resources also provides [resources for CWD](#) and monitors the state's wild white-tailed deer for CWD.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection issued the following press release on June 18, 2018

([https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News\\_Media/180618CWDMarinetteCty.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News_Media/180618CWDMarinetteCty.aspx)):

### **DATCP Confirms CWD-Positive Deer in Marinette County**

MADISON – The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) confirms that a white-tailed deer from a breeding farm in Marinette County has tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD). The National Veterinary Services Laboratory confirmed the test results and the farm has been quarantined. A quarantine means no animals may move in or out of the farm.

The two-year-old doe was born on the 230-acre farm and died during fawning. The fenced farm has 320 whitetail deer, according to the owner's most recent registration. The farm had not been enrolled in the CWD Herd Status Program since May 2017. Previously, the farm was enrolled in the CWD Herd Status Program since 2002. More information about CWD testing requirements for farms enrolled and non-enrolled in the program can be found on the [DATCP website](#).

DATCP's Animal Health Division will investigate the animal's history and trace movements of deer onto and off the farm to determine whether other herds may have been exposed to the CWD-positive deer.

CWD is a fatal, neurological disease of deer, elk, and moose caused by an infectious protein that affects the animal's brain. Testing for CWD can only be performed after the deer's death. For more information about CWD visit [DATCP's website](#). DATCP regulates *deer farms* for registration, recordkeeping, disease testing, movement, and permit requirements. To learn more about deer farm regulations in Wisconsin, visit DATCP's [farm-raised deer program](#). The Department of Natural Resources also provides [resources for CWD](#) and monitors the state's *wild* white-tailed deer for CWD.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection issued the following press release on June 11, 2018

([https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News\\_Media/180611IACtyDeerFarmCWDResults.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News_Media/180611IACtyDeerFarmCWDResults.aspx)):

### **DATCP Confirms Chronic Wasting Disease at Depopulated Iowa County Deer Farm**

MADISON – The National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) confirmed that 21 whitetails from a deer farm in Iowa County tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD). On May 18, a team comprised of Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and U.S. Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service veterinarians and animal health technicians humanely depopulated the farm’s 103 whitetail deer. CWD testing was done for 79 of those deer that were 16 months or older.

The deer farm had been quarantined since October when DATCP confirmed a deer shot on a hunting ranch in Waupaca County tested positive for CWD and was traced back to the farm. Since then, 10 additional deer harvested from the Waupaca County hunting ranch tested positive for CWD and were traced back to the Iowa County deer farm. State and federal indemnity payments are in the process of being determined.

CWD is a fatal, neurological disease of deer, elk, and moose caused by an infectious protein that affects the animal’s brain. Testing for CWD can only be performed after the deer’s death. For more information about CWD visit [DATCP’s website](#). DATCP regulates deer farms for registration, recordkeeping, disease testing, movement, and permit requirements. To learn more about deer farm regulations in Wisconsin, visit DATCP’s [farm-raised deer program](#). The Department of Natural Resources also provides [resources for CWD](#) and monitors the state’s wild white-tailed deer for CWD.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection issued the following press release on June 01, 2018  
([https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News\\_Media/20180601CWDDaneRichlandQuar.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/News_Media/20180601CWDDaneRichlandQuar.aspx)):

### **DATCP Quarantines Dane County Deer Farm and Richland County Elk Farm due to Positive CWD Results**

MADISON – The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has quarantined a deer farm in Dane County and an elk farm in Richland County due to chronic wasting disease (CWD). This is a result of the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, IA confirming on May 31 that samples from a 15-year old whitetail doe and a 2-year old elk cow were positive for CWD.

The 10-acre Dane County deer farm has six whitetail deer that have been registered with DATCP since 2003. The farm has been double-fenced since 2009. Since 2010, the farm has had 20 deer sampled for CWD.

Since March, the 20-acre Richland County elk farm has had 11 elk and there have been no elk purchases or sales on the farm in the past five years. Since 2007, the farm has had 25 elk sampled for CWD.

CWD is a fatal, neurological disease of deer, elk, and moose caused by an infectious protein that affects the animal’s brain. Testing for CWD can only be performed after the deer’s death. For more information about CWD visit [DATCP’s website](#). DATCP regulates *deer farms* for registration, recordkeeping, disease testing, movement, and permit requirements. To learn more

about deer farm regulations in Wisconsin, visit DATCP's [farm-raised deer program](#). The Department of Natural Resources also provides [resources for CWD](#) and monitors the state's *wild* white-tailed deer for CWD.

The following press release was issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on April 20, 2018 (<https://dnr.wi.gov/news/releases/article/?id=4506>):

### **Baiting and feeding ban renewed in Oneida County following new CWD detection**

MADISON - The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has confirmed that a wild deer has tested positive for chronic wasting disease in Oneida County, in the Crescent Township. As required by law, this finding will renew Oneida County's existing baiting and feeding ban for another three years. Additionally, this positive will renew the two-year baiting and feeding ban in Langlade County.

The CWD-positive one-year-old doe was harvested on a disease surveillance permit issued within a 10-mile radius of the recent Lincoln County positive detection. This is Oneida County's first CWD-positive wild deer.

"This Oneida County detection is a direct result of our surveillance efforts put in place in response to the Lincoln CWD positive," said Eric Lobner, DNR Bureau Director for the Wildlife Management program. "We will continue to work with local communities to promote CWD surveillance and awareness in the area."

In response to the detection of this new CWD positive deer, the department will take the following steps:

- Continue to work with the local County Deer Advisory Council members in disease surveillance around this positive location.
- Conduct surveillance activities to assess disease distribution and prevalence including:
  - Encourage reporting of sick deer
  - Sample vehicle-killed adult deer
  - Sample adult deer harvested under agricultural damage permits
  - Sample adult deer harvested under urban deer hunts in the area
- Establish additional CWD sampling locations prior to the 2018 deer seasons.

These actions are very important for assessing the potential geographic distribution of the disease and if other animals in proximity to the new positive test are infected.

As has been demonstrated in the past in other parts of the state, local citizen involvement in the decision-making process as well as management actions to address this CWD detection will have the greatest potential for success.

For more information regarding baiting and feeding regulations and CWD in Wisconsin, and how to have adult deer tested during the 2018/2019 hunting seasons, visit the department's website, [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), and search "[baiting and feeding](#)" and "[CWD sampling](#)" respectively. To report a sick deer on the landscape, search keywords "[sick deer](#)" or contact a local wildlife biologist.

The following press release was issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on April 18, 2018 (<https://dnr.wi.gov/news/releases/article/?id=4501>):

### **CWD detection in a wild deer in Eau Claire County will result in a renewal of the baiting and feeding ban**

MADISON - The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has confirmed that a wild deer has tested positive for chronic wasting disease in western Eau Claire County, near the town of Brunswick.

As required by law, this finding will renew Eau Claire County's existing three-year baiting and feeding ban, effective May 1, 2018. Because this new CWD-positive result is located within 10 miles of Buffalo, Chippewa, Dunn, Pepin and Trempealeau counties, these counties will now be designated as CWD-affected counties. Additionally, two-year baiting and feeding bans for these five counties will be enacted on May 1.

The department collected a two-year-old doe in response to a sick deer call from a landowner and submitted samples for testing. This CWD positive animal is the first confirmed wild deer to test positive for the disease in Eau Claire County.

"While this latest detection is disheartening and is certainly cause for concern in Eau Claire and the surrounding counties, it demonstrates the importance of local involvement in our monitoring efforts," said DNR Secretary Dan Meyer. "Receiving the sick deer call from this concerned landowner allowed us to apply our sick deer response protocol and respond quickly to investigate a potential new CWD detection.

In response to the detection of this new CWD positive deer, the department will take the following steps to respond:

- Convene a meeting with the local County Deer Advisory Council members from the 6 counties impacted by this detection to decide on future management actions specific to this detection.
- Establish a 10-mile radius disease surveillance area around this positive location
- Conduct surveillance activities to assess disease distribution and prevalence including:
  - Encourage reporting of sick deer
  - Sample vehicle-killed adult deer
  - Sample adult deer harvested under agricultural damage permits
  - Sample adult deer harvested under urban deer hunts in the area
- Establish additional CWD sampling locations prior to the 2018 deer seasons

These actions are very important for assessing the potential geographic distribution of the disease and if other animals in proximity to the new positive test are infected.

As has been demonstrated in the past in other parts of the state, local citizen involvement in the decision-making process as well as management actions to address this CWD detection will have the greatest potential for success.

For more information regarding baiting and feeding regulations and CWD in Wisconsin, and how to have adult deer tested during the 2018/2019 hunting seasons, visit the department's website, [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), and search "[bait and feeding](#)" and "[CWD sampling](#)" respectively. To report a sick deer on the landscape, search keywords "[sick deer](#)" or contact a local wildlife biologist.

## **West Virginia**

The following press release was issued by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources on June 25, 2018 (<http://www.wvdnr.gov/2018news/18news063.shtm>):

### **Additional actions taken to combat CWD in West Virginia deer**

SOUTH CHARLESTON — Effective July 1, 2018, two eastern panhandle counties will be added to three that already have restrictions on the disposal and transport of deer carcasses. The restrictions are designed to combat the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD). Berkeley and Mineral counties have been added to Hampshire, Hardy and Morgan counties as areas where restrictions apply.

Current research indicates that the abnormal protein which causes CWD, called a prion, is concentrated in the spinal cord and brain of infected deer. As a result, certain carcass parts have the potential to spread the disease.

“As part of our agency’s ongoing efforts to detect the presence of CWD and focus on disease management actions, a larger portion of West Virginia’s eastern panhandle has been added to the current area where restrictions apply,” said Stephen McDaniel, director of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

This expansion is in response to the detection of CWD in two road-killed deer in Berkeley County and one sick deer in Mineral County. Since 2005, CWD has been detected in 340 deer in Hampshire County, six deer in Hardy County, two deer in Berkeley County, and one deer in Mineral County.

Hunters are reminded that dead deer or their parts may not be transported beyond the boundary of Berkeley, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, and Morgan counties except for the following: meat that has been boned out, quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached, cleaned hide with no head attached, clean skull plate (no meat or tissue attached) with antlers attached, antlers with no meat or tissue attached, and finished taxidermy mounts. Hunters may transport deer carcasses that were not killed inside the containment area through the containment area.

Research also indicates supplemental feeding and baiting of deer increases the chance of disease transmission far above the normal clustering of deer on natural and agricultural feeding areas. Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral and Morgan counties have been under a ban on baiting or feeding deer since 2015. Reducing the number of times infected and non-infected animals congregate by prohibiting supplemental feeding and baiting are generally accepted management practices for slowing the spread of an infectious disease among wildlife.



The West Virginia DNR will continue to update management actions designed to control the spread of this disease and prevent further introduction to new areas as information from deer testing within West Virginia is gathered and scientists across the country provide more information on how to combat CWD in white-tailed deer.

For additional information on deer baiting and feeding prohibitions and deer carcass transport restrictions, please see the 2018-2019 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary, soon to be available at DNR offices and license agents and at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov).

## **Pennsylvania**

The following press release was issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture on June 08, 2018 ([http://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/Agriculture\\_details.aspx?newsid=702](http://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/Agriculture_details.aspx?newsid=702)):

### **Two Deer on Blair County Hobby Farm, One on Lancaster County Breeding Farm Test Positive for Chronic Wasting Disease**

HARRISBURG - The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture today announced that three captive deer have tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Pennsylvania, bringing the total to 49 since the disease was discovered in Pennsylvania in 2012.

The disease was confirmed in two white-tailed deer on a small hobby farm in Greenfield Township, Blair County. These are the first CWD positives among captive deer in Blair County. The farm is now under quarantine.

A West Cocalico Township, Lancaster County deer also tested positive. The deer was among a herd that was euthanized after a deer tested positive in February 2018. It was the only positive result among 36 deer tested.

The department's Pennsylvania Veterinary Laboratory in Harrisburg tested the deer, which were later confirmed positive at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa. The deer were tested as required by the department's CWD program. Deer cannot be moved on or off these properties without permission from the department.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report no strong evidence that humans or livestock can contract CWD.

CWD attacks the brain of infected deer, elk and moose, producing small lesions that eventually result in death. Animals can get the disease through direct contact with saliva, feces and urine from an infected animal or contaminated environment.

Clinical signs include weight loss, excessive salivation, increased drinking and urination, and abnormal behavior like stumbling, trembling, and depression. Infected deer and elk may also allow unusually close approach by humans or natural predators. The disease is fatal and there is no known treatment or vaccine.



The infectious agent, known as a prion, tends to concentrate in the brain, spinal column, eyes, spleen, and lymph nodes. These high-risk parts must be properly handled and disposed of at the harvest location to prevent disease spread. Low-risk parts such as deboned meat, clean skull caps and capes present little risk and may be taken home.

The first cases of CWD in Pennsylvania were detected in white-tailed deer that died in 2012 on an Adams County deer farm, and wild, white-tailed deer in Blair and Bedford Counties.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture coordinates a mandatory surveillance program for the disease for 860 breeding farms, hobby farms and hunting preserves across the state. Since 1998, accredited veterinarians and certified CWD technicians have tested more than 27,000 captive deer in Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Game Commission collects samples from hunter-harvested deer and elk and wild deer that appear sick or behave abnormally.

Find more information about [Pennsylvania's captive deer CWD programs](#), and the department's broader efforts to safeguard animal health at [agriculture.pa.gov](http://agriculture.pa.gov).

## **Illinois**

The following press release was issued by the Illinois Department of Agriculture on June 08, 2018 (<https://www.agr.state.il.us/press.php?fn=chronic-wasting-disease-cwd-found-in-a-captive-reindeer-in-northern-il-2018>):

### **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Found in a Captive Reindeer in Northern Illinois**

SPRINGFIELD - Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been identified in one reindeer in a captive herd in northern Illinois. Affecting cervids (members of the deer family), CWD is a prion disease that causes brain and nerve issues and has proved to be fatal. A prion is an abnormally folded protein that can occur naturally or be acquired through contact with contaminated bodily fluids or a contaminated environment.

Symptoms include weight loss, stumbling, excessive thirst, drooling, and listlessness. An animal cannot be diagnosed with CWD by symptoms alone, as many of these are also indicators of other diseases. The only definitive way to diagnose CWD is through tissue testing after death. There is no USDA approved live animal test available to determine if an animal has CWD.

The affected reindeer was sampled on April 23 during a necropsy after the animal died unexpectedly. Tissues for CWD testing were submitted to the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for analysis and the diagnosis was confirmed at the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, IA on May 9. Samples were subsequently sent for DNA testing with confirmation received on June 5.

Prior to this detection, CWD had only been detected in one free-ranging reindeer herd in Norway in 2016. The susceptibility of reindeer to CWD had been much debated prior to this detection. This is the first known case of a reindeer being confirmed positive in North America.

The herd is a member of the IDOA's Illinois Chronic Wasting Disease Certified Herd Program and has been placed under quarantine. The Illinois Department of Agriculture is working closely with the herd owner and USDA Veterinary Services to manage the herd.

There is no evidence of CWD being infectious to humans and it does not appear to naturally affect cattle or other domesticated animals.

## **Alberta**

Alberta Environment and Parks released 2017 Surveillance Results on April 17, 2018 (can be viewed at the bottom of the “fall 2018 CWD update”: <http://aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/wildlife-diseases/chronic-wasting-disease/cwd-updates/default.aspx>):

### **2017 Fall CWD Surveillance Results**

In 2017/18 we received a total of 6429 heads, of which 6340 were suitable for testing. We detected CWD in 327 animals (5.2% of 6340; up from 3.5% in 2016/17). The positives included 326 deer (281 mule deer, 45 white-tail; 264 males, 62 females) and 1 female elk. As in previous years the majority of cases were mule deer (281 of 327; 86%), particularly mule deer bucks (220 of 327; 67%).

Also as in previous years, species- and gender-specific differences are apparent, although the proportion of infected animals continues to rise in all categories (except moose) (compare to 2016 data):

In the 6340 heads tested, CWD was detected in:

- 8.2% of 3417 mule deer
- 1.8% of 2489 white-tailed deer
- 0.4% of 229 elk (primarily from CFB Suffield)
- 0 of 198 moose (primarily from CFB Wainwright)

In the 5903 deer for which gender/sex was reported, CWD was detected in:

- 12.4% of 1778 male mule deer
- 3.7% of 1639 female mule deer
- 2.5% of 1739 male whitetails
- 0.1% of 747 female whitetails

The disease continues to expand westward into central Alberta. It was detected in seven new Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in the Red Deer/South Saskatchewan/Bow watershed (102, 124, 138, 156) and Battle watershed (204, 206, 228). These units are adjacent to previous cases and indicate further geographic spread of CWD westward along major waterways. Of particular note, a cluster of cases was found near Tofield (WMU 242) and CWD was detected well up the Bow River east of Strathmore (southeast WMU 156).

We also detected CWD in a cow elk from WMU 732 (Canadian Forces Base Suffield). Since 2012, we tested 2117 elk from WMU 732 and detected CWD in two (0.1%). However, the disease is well-established in mule deer and white-tailed deer in areas outside the military base along the Red Deer and South Saskatchewan rivers.

To learn more about CWD Surveillance in Alberta, see:

- [CWD Surveillance & Response](#)

For past CWD surveillance results and a general timeline of CWD in Alberta, see:

- [CWD History in Alberta](#)

### **Recent Publications**

#### **Comparative analysis of prions in nervous and lymphoid tissues of chronic wasting disease-infected cervids**

Kristen A. Davenport, Jeffrey R. Christiansen, Jifeng Bian, Michael Young, Joseph Gallegos, Sehun Kim, Aru Balachandran, Candace K. Mathiason, Edward A. Hoover, Glenn C. Telling  
Journal of General Virology 99: 753-758, doi: [10.1099/jgv.0.001053](https://doi.org/10.1099/jgv.0.001053)

#### **Abstract:**

The prevalence, host range and geographical bounds of chronic wasting disease (CWD), the prion disease of cervids, are expanding. Horizontal transmission likely contributes the majority of new CWD cases, but the mechanism by which prions are transmitted among CWD-affected cervids remains unclear. To address the extent to which prion amplification in peripheral tissues contributes to contagious transmission, we assessed the prion levels in central nervous and lymphoreticular system tissues in white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), red deer (*Cervus elaphus elaphus*) and elk (*Cervus canadensis*). Using real-time quaking-induced conversion, cervid prion cell assay and transgenic mouse bioassay, we found that the retropharyngeal lymph nodes of red deer, white-tailed deer and elk contained similar prion titres to brain from the same individuals. We propose that marked lymphotropism is essential for the horizontal transmission of prion diseases and postulate that shed CWD prions are produced in the periphery.

<http://jgv.microbiologyresearch.org/content/journal/jgv/10.1099/jgv.0.001053>

#### **Modified Protein Misfolding Cyclic Amplification Overcomes Real-Time Quaking-Induced Conversion Assay Inhibitors in Deer Saliva to Detect Chronic Wasting Disease Prions**

Kristen A. Davenport, Clare E. Hoover, Nathaniel D. Denkers, Candace K. Mathiason, Edward A. Hoover

J Clin Microbiol 56:e00947-18. <https://doi.org/10.1128/JCM.00947-18>.

#### **Abstract:**

Chronic wasting disease (CWD), a fatal neurodegenerative prion disease of cervids, has spread across North America and has been detected in The Republic of Korea, Finland, and Norway.

CWD appears to spread by horizontal transmission, and prions shed in saliva, feces, and urine are thought to contribute. However, studies investigating the rapid spread of CWD have been hampered by assay inhibitors and a lack of consistent and sensitive means to detect the relatively low levels of prions in these samples. Here we show that saliva frequently contains an inhibitor of the real-time quaking-induced conversion assay (RT-QuIC) and that the inhibitor is a member of the mucin family. To circumvent the inhibitor, we developed a modified protein misfolding cyclic amplification (PMCA) method to amplify CWD prions in saliva that were undetectable or ambiguous by RT-QuIC. Our results reinforce the impact of saliva in horizontal CWD transmission and highlight the importance of detection optimization.

<https://jcm.asm.org/content/56/9/e00947-18>

### **Mineral licks as environmental reservoirs of chronic wasting disease prions**

Ian H. Plummer, Chad J. Johnson, Alexandra R. Chesney, Joel A. Pedersen, Michael D. Samuel  
PLoS ONE 13(5): e0196745. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0196745>

#### **Abstract:**

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal neurodegenerative disease of deer, elk, moose, and reindeer (cervids) caused by misfolded prion proteins. The disease has been reported across North America and recently discovered in northern Europe. Transmission of CWD in wild cervid populations can occur through environmental routes, but limited ability to detect prions in environmental samples has prevented the identification of potential transmission “hot spots”. We establish widespread CWD prion contamination of mineral licks used by free-ranging cervids in an enzootic area in Wisconsin, USA. We show mineral licks can serve as reservoirs of CWD prions and thus facilitate disease transmission. Furthermore, mineral licks attract livestock and other wildlife that also obtain mineral nutrients via soil and water consumption. Exposure to CWD prions at mineral licks provides potential for cross-species transmission to wildlife, domestic animals, and humans. Managing deer use of mineral licks warrants further consideration to help control outbreaks of CWD.

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0196745>