

## **DEER HUNT 2018 – Chronic Wasting Disease in Wisconsin**

### ***For more general information:***

- [CWD webpage](#)
- [CWD sampling webpage](#)
- [CWD prevalence and surveillance webpage](#)
- [Carcass movement webpage](#)
- [Carcass disposal webpage](#)

### **Carcass Transportation in CWD-affected Counties and Captive Cervid Fencing Requirements (DNR contact: Scott Karel, 608-267-2452)**

- On Aug. 8, 2018, the Natural Resources Board adopted an emergency rule to restrict deer carcass transportation in CWD affected counties and require enhanced fencing on all captive white-tailed deer facilities in Wisconsin. This emergency rule went into effect Oct. 1, 2018
- The Wisconsin State Legislature's Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules voted to suspend the portions of the rule pertaining to carcass transportation Oct. 1, 2018. The enhanced white-tailed deer farm fencing requirements remain in place.
- Carcass transport regulation changes accomplished by the emergency rule no longer have effect, and the regulations regarding deer carcass transport revert to rules from 2017. Find more information at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keywords "[carcass movement](#)."
- It remains illegal to transport whole wild deer carcasses and certain parts of those carcasses from CWD-affected counties to areas outside of CWD-affected counties, unless these deer carcasses or parts are being transported to an adjacent county or to a licensed taxidermist or licensed meat processor within 72 hours of the deer being registered. This restriction applies to all CWD-affected counties, even where a baiting and feeding ban is no longer in effect.
- This emergency rule will be in effect for 150 days with the opportunity for two 60-day extensions for a total of 270 days. During this timeframe the department will develop permanent rules.

### **CWD in Wisconsin - General Overview (DNR contact: Tami Ryan, 608-266-3143)**

- CWD is a nervous system disease of deer, moose, & elk. It belongs to the family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) or prion diseases.
- CWD occurs only in members of the cervid or deer family, both wild and captive.
- There are currently 55 CWD-affected counties in Wisconsin.
- DNR staff will continue testing harvested deer for CWD this year as part of the DNR's ongoing efforts to monitor the status and spread of the disease in Wisconsin.

### 2018 Sampling Overview

- CWD sampling efforts are utilized to assess the prevalence and distribution of the disease - DNR staff will continue to sample deer within the Southern Farmland Zone and at select locations in other CWD-affected counties.
- New for 2018 is surveillance in the entire West Central District encompassing 19 counties in western WI.
- Sampling efforts are utilized to assess the prevalence and distribution of the disease in each area.
- No targeted surveillance will occur in the 4-county surveillance area surrounding the Washburn County CWD positive. There have been no additional positives detected since 2011. Based on six years of sampling, all information has indicated CWD is not widespread in the area and occurs at a very low prevalence rate. Hunters will still have opportunities to have their adult deer tested within the 4-county area.
- We will continue to provide hunter service testing, free of charge, for adult deer anywhere in the state.
- As always, hunter cooperation has been outstanding and hunter service testing remains a priority.
- CWD Surveillance Permits will again be available to landowners in select areas of the state. Surveillance permits allow for added surveillance and sample collection in known areas of disease and interest.

### **Testing Turnaround Time**

- The average statewide turnaround time for test results during the 2017 deer season was just over 14 days (weekends included).
- The turnaround time increased by a couple days last deer season due to a nationwide outage of testing kits at the diagnostic lab where Wisconsin wild deer samples are tested.
- The department will continue efforts to lower the turnaround time.
- CWD test results will be provided via e-mail to hunters with e-mail addresses in the GoWild system. If no email address is available, hunters are notified via mail. This will be nearly instant notification when test results are received by the DNR.

### CWD self-service kiosks and Adopt-a-Kiosk and Adopt-a-Dumpster programs

- DNR staff will continue to utilize CWD self-service sampling kiosks. The main goal of these kiosks is to enhance sampling numbers, ease, and options for hunters in the world of electronic registration - kiosks offer a 24/7 sampling option for hunters. For more information regarding kiosks, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search keywords "[CWD sampling](#)."
- Overall feedback from hunters show they appreciate the option of having a kiosk available for CWD sample submission.
- New for 2018 is an opportunity for local individuals or groups to "adopt-a-kiosk" (AAK) - participants volunteer to monitor a self-service CWD kiosk.
- Also new for the 2018 deer hunting seasons is an opportunity for individuals or groups to "Adopt-a-Dumpster" (AAD).

- The main goal of the AAD program is to provide hunters an option for appropriate deer carcass waste disposal, especially in areas where carcass disposal options are very limited or not already available
- Participants in the AAD program will provide a dumpster at a location that is agreed upon with the DNR, and the AAD participant is responsible for all costs associated with the dumpster.

### 2017 Sampling Overview

- Over 9,800 deer were sampled for CWD statewide in 2017, with 602 positive detections, primarily within the endemic area in southern Wisconsin.
- Our sample total in 2017 increased by over 3,500 samples from 2016.
- In addition to the endemic area, CWD was detected in the wild deer herd in Vernon, Milwaukee, Dodge, Oneida, Eau Claire, and Lincoln counties for the first time during the 2017 deer season.
- DNR staff would like to thank hunters and citizens of the state for their continued role in providing samples for testing throughout Wisconsin.
- 2017 CWD Sampling Year ended March 31, 2018
- 2018 CWD Sampling Year began April 1, 2018

### CWD Replacement Harvest Authorizations

- For any positive result received prior to the 9-day gun deer season, the hunter will receive a replacement harvest authorization added to their GoWild account within 1-2 days of CWD-positive result notification.
- For any positive results received during or after the 9-day, the hunter will receive a replacement harvest authorization which will be sent in late summer prior to the next deer hunting season. The harvest authorization will be added to the GoWild account when it is created (there is a chance a hunter sees the harvest authorization before receiving notification from DNR).
- **Replacement harvest authorizations are only good for one year and are not weapon specific.** A CWD positive buck will receive a statewide harvest authorization and a CWD positive doe will receive an antlerless harvest authorization for the unit and land type that was used to harvest the positive deer.
- **A current deer hunting license must be purchased to use the replacement harvest authorization.**

### **Baiting and Feeding (DNR contact: Kevin Wallenfang, 608-261-7589)**

- Under current law, the Department designates counties as CWD affected areas when and where CWD-positive deer are detected, including counties within a ten-mile radius of the CWD-positive animal's location. As a result of this designation, a county is subject to a prohibition on baiting and feeding for deer.
- The same prohibition on deer baiting and feeding also occurs from positive tests for bovine tuberculosis.
- These outcomes apply equally to CWD positive results from free-roaming or captive deer.

- DATCP will immediately notify DNR of all CWD or Bovine Tuberculosis detections on captive cervid farms to assist the department with compliance.
- Baiting and feeding prohibitions enacted under these wildlife disease provisions are subject to a sunset date as a result of AB41
- More information regarding current baiting and feeding rules in response to CWD detections can be found at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keyword “bait”

### WI State Statute

Current statutes (29.336 (2) (b) and 29.336 (2) (c)) have been amended and do the following:

- remove deer baiting and feeding prohibitions in counties where 36 months have passed since any confirmed positive test for chronic wasting disease or bovine tuberculosis within the county; and
- remove deer baiting and feeding prohibitions in adjacent counties where 24 months have passed since any confirmed positive test for chronic wasting disease or bovine tuberculosis within a 10-mile radius of the county.
- ***The 24/36-month period would start over again with each new positive test result.***
- Since the end of the 2017 deer season, Milwaukee, Lincoln, Washington, Marinette, Langlade, Florence, Chippewa, Dunn, Pepin, Buffalo, Trempealeau, Dodge, Fond du Lac, & Sheboygan counties have been added to the ban.
- Wood County which was previously subject to a ban on deer baiting and feeding has reverted back to regulated deer baiting and feeding
- With no new CWD positive detections, Marquette County is scheduled to be lifted from the ban in December 2018.
- No other counties will have the ban lifted during any of the 2018 deer seasons.
- A baiting and feeding ban is in place for 43 of Wisconsin’s 55 CWD-affected counties.
- In counties where baiting and feeding bans are in place, individuals may still feed birds and small mammals provided feeding devices are within 50 yards of a human dwelling and at a sufficient height or design to prevent access by deer.