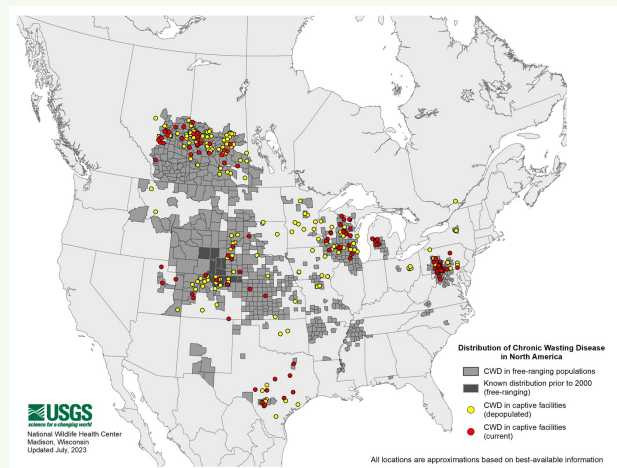
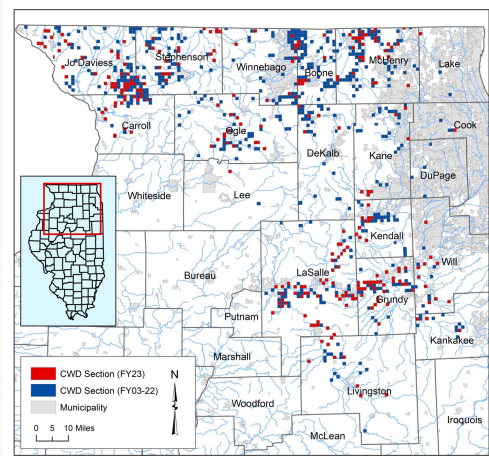


# Where can CWD be found?



- **In the USA:** wild cervids in 31 states, in captive cervid facilities in 18 states.
- **In Canada:** in captive and wild cervids in four Canadian provinces.



*Distribution  
of CWD  
cases by  
July 2023.  
Courtesy of  
IDNR*

In Illinois and Wisconsin, CWD was first detected in 2002. The first case in IL was in Boone county. By 2023, CWD was confirmed in 19 IL counties. IL has sustained a management program since the first case was detected.

### For more information visit:

Illinois Department of Natural resources

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/programs/CWD/Pages/default.aspx>

## Field dressing and processing deer

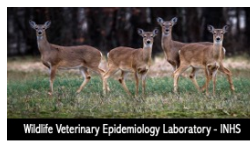
- Wear gloves and wash hands and instruments thoroughly after field dressing.
- Minimize handling of the brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, and lymph nodes.
- Avoid consuming these types of tissue from CWD Positive deer.
- Cooking does not inactivate CWD.
- Bone out the meat from the animal.

## How can you help?

- Regulated and ethical hunting keeps the deer population at healthy levels, protects food and cover for other species, and lowers losses of deer to CWD. Your efforts are valuable to conservation.
- Report sick animals. Call your local IDNR District Wildlife Biologist office or the Springfield Wildlife Office at 217-782-6302.
- Help fight CWD: Allow CWD diagnostic samples to be taken from harvested adult deer.

*The Illinois Department of Natural Resources receives Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, and the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you need more information, please write to: Chief, Public Civil Rights Office of Civil Rights U.S. Department of the Interior 1849 C Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20240. This information may be provided in an alternative format if required. Contact the DNR Clearinghouse at 217/782 7498 for assistance*

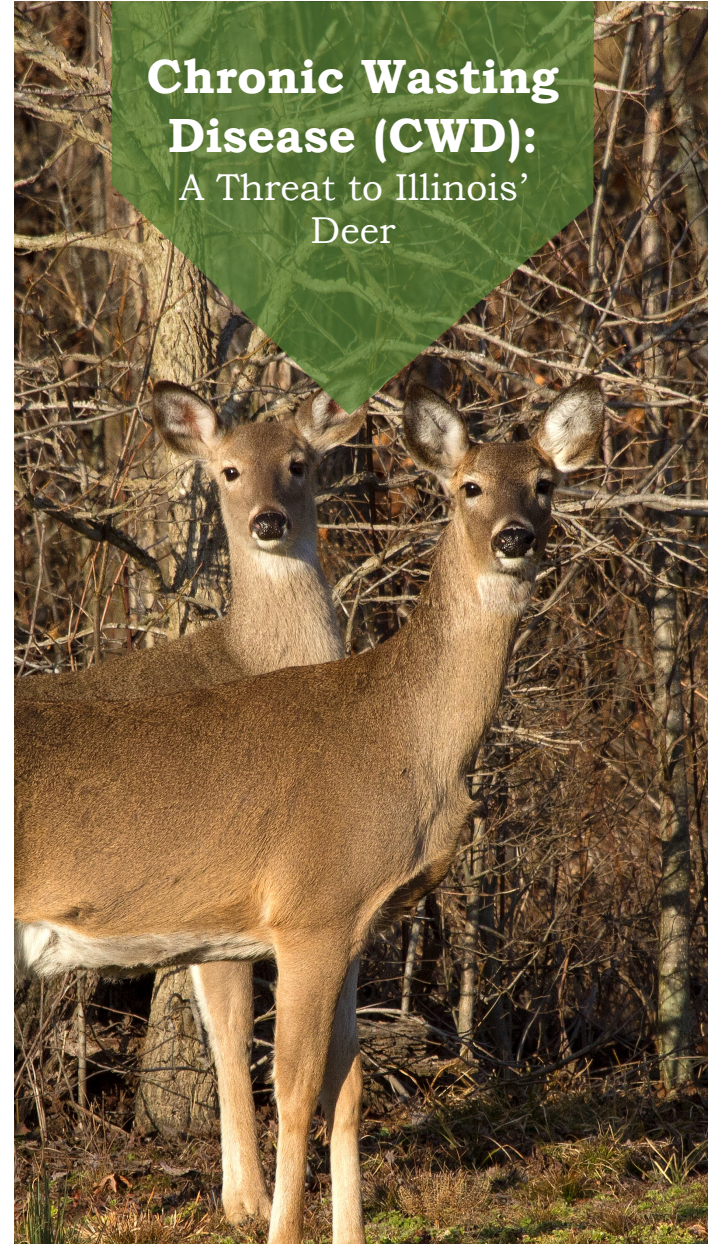
*Coverage design: Drs. Nelda A. Rivera and Nohra E. Mateus-Pinilla.  
Cover Photo courtesy of Michael Jeffords and Susan Post - INHS*



Visit our lab website



## Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD): A Threat to Illinois' Deer



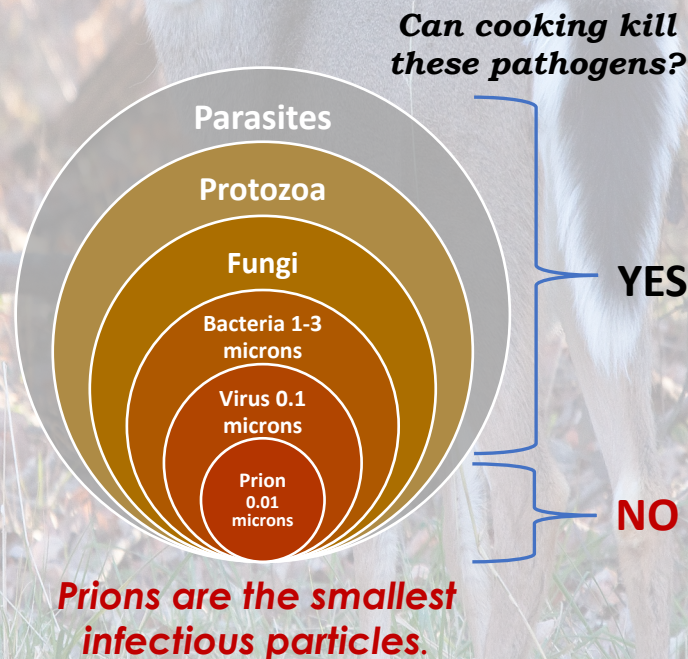
Wildlife Veterinary  
Epidemiology Laboratory  
Illinois Natural History Survey  
Prairie Research Institute



# What is CWD?

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a progressive disease that damages the brain and nervous system.

CWD is caused by an infectious protein called a **prion**, affects cervids (deer, moose, caribou, and elk), and is always fatal.

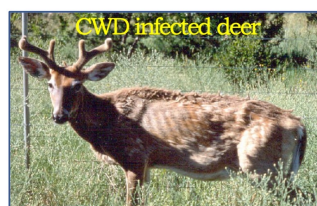


**Pictures:** Infected deer by Mike Miller; Fawn-in-grass by ForestWander; Deer at Paradise, Mount Rainier National Park, Washington Photo credit: Jeff P via Flickr; Deer eating grass by Iker Cortabarría. Deer feeding by Bill Marchel (StarTribune).

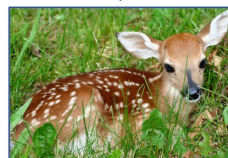
## What are the signs of disease?

- **Clinical:** excessive salivation, thirst, urination, progressive and irreversible weight loss.
- **Behavioral:** lack of fear, walking with the head down, trouble eating and drinking, appearing lost, lack of coordination, difficulty moving and losing balance while walking. Some signs of brain damage are more evident during the late stages of the disease.

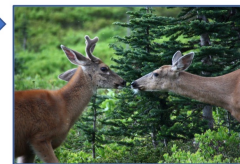
## How do white-tailed deer become infected?



In Utero

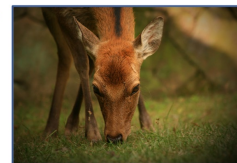


Offspring



Deer-To-Deer contact with *prion* infected:

Saliva  
Urine and  
Feces



Infection through the environment:

- By ingestion of grass, plants and/or soil contaminated with *prion* protein.
- By inhalation of infectious *prion* particles bound to the soil.



**Important:** Do not create artificial points of animal congregation by feeding deer.

## Is CWD a risk for humans?

There are no records of CWD transmission to humans. However, the concern exists. CWD is the most infectious prion disease known to date, and an animal prion disease, “*mad cow disease*”, has jumped from cattle to humans. There is ongoing surveillance to determine if humans can become infected with CWD. Much is still unknown. The recommendation is to test animals for CWD, minimize the spread of CWD and avoid eating CWD-infected and sick deer.