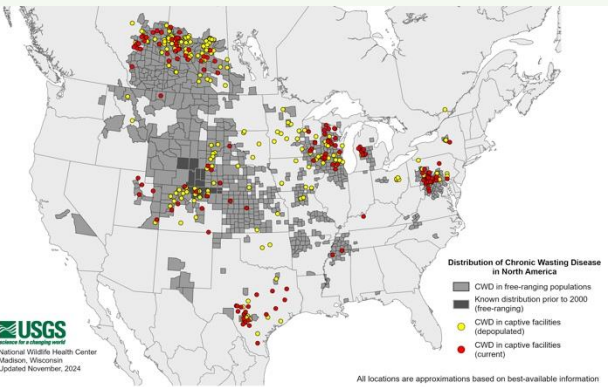
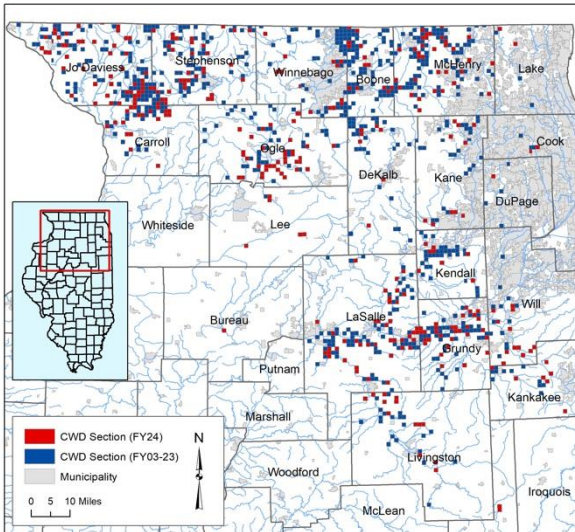


CWD in North America



Identified in wild cervids in 36 states, captive cervids in 22 states, and wild and captive cervids in 5 Canadian provinces.



In 2002, CWD was first detected in Illinois. As of July 2024, CWD has been identified in 21 counties in Illinois.

Map by IDNR (July 2024).

For more information visit: Illinois Department of Natural Resources. CWD Management.



Field dressing & processing deer

- Wear gloves, and wash hands and knives after field dressing.
- Minimize handling of the brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, and lymph nodes.
- Bone out the meat from the animal.
- Cooking does not inactivate CWD. Avoid consuming deer that has tested positive for CWD.

How can you help?

- Regulated and ethical hunting keeps the deer population healthy, lowers disease transmission, and protects food and habitats for other species.
- Report sick animals to your local IDNR District Wildlife Biologist Office or the Springfield Wildlife Office at 217-782-6302.
- Take action by donating samples from adult deer for CWD testing.

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

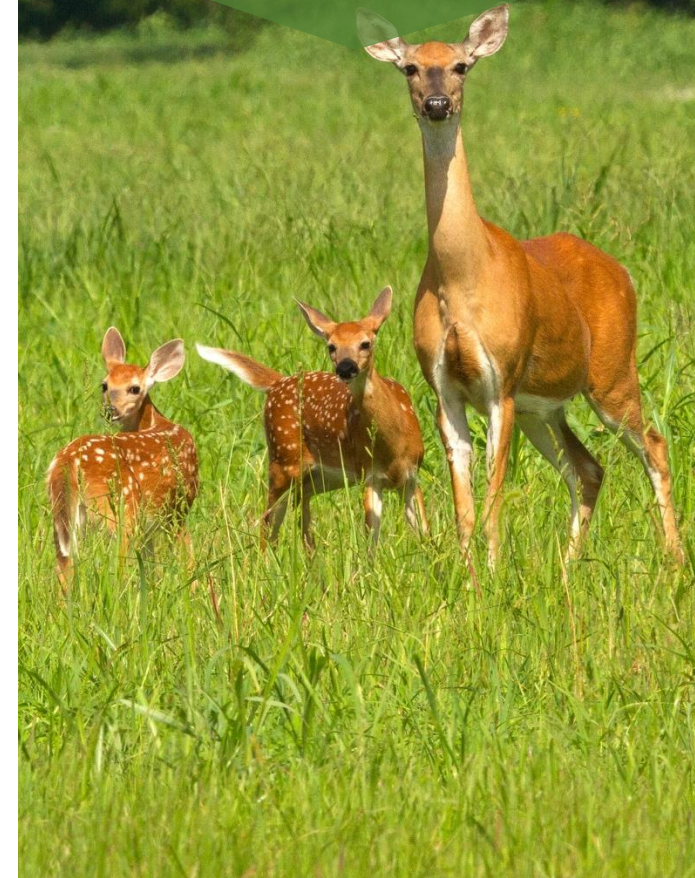


Wildlife Veterinary Epidemiology Laboratory



Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

A threat to the health of the Illinois deer herd



Wildlife Veterinary Epidemiology Laboratory
Illinois Natural History Survey
Prairie Research Institute

What is CWD?

- Chronic Wasting Disease is a progressive disease that damages the brain and central nervous system. It is **always fatal**.
- CWD is caused by a **prion**, an infectious protein that affects cervids (deer, moose, caribou, and elk).
- Although cooking kills most pathogens, it **does not inactivate prions**. Only incineration temperatures of 1,832 °F will inactivate CWD prions.

Hunter's collaboration

Hunters and landowners can help monitor CWD spread, identify CWD-positive animals, and support management efforts.

Please test your deer.

Do not create artificial points of animal congregation by feeding deer. This contributes to CWD transmission.



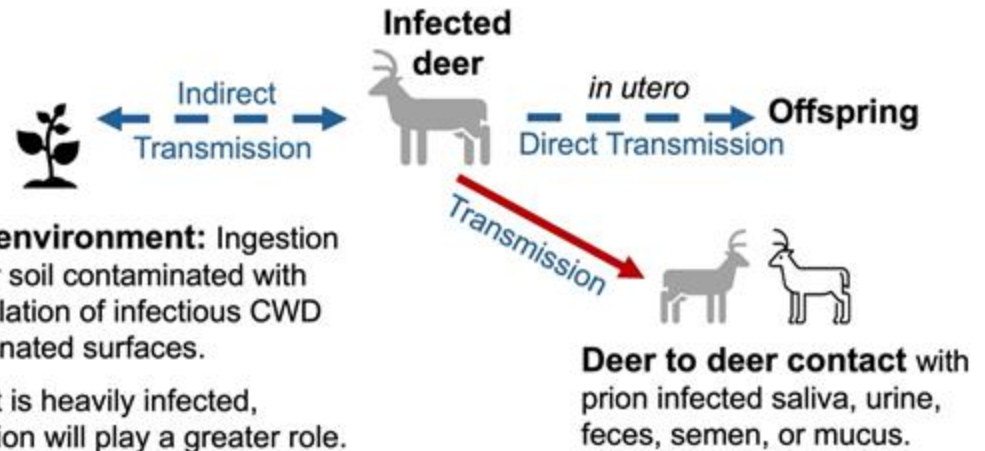
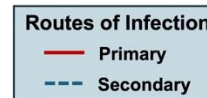
Photo by Bill Marchel (StarTribune)

Signs of advanced CWD

- Difficulty eating and drinking
- Progressive weight loss
- Excessive salivation, thirst, and urination
- Lack of fear of people
- Walking with the head down; difficulty moving and loss of balance

**Some signs can occur in other diseases.*

CWD transmission



CWD diagnosis

- Deer with CWD can not be accurately diagnosed visually.
- Retropharyngeal lymph nodes are collected post-mortem and tested using an approved diagnostic test.

Is CWD a risk to humans?

- There are no records of CWD transmission to humans. However, concerns remain since CWD is the most infectious of all known prion diseases.
- Mad cow (a prion disease) jumped from cattle to humans, prompting efforts to determine if CWD could be transmitted to humans.
- Avoid eating meat from CWD-infected animals.

Fun facts

- Prions are the smallest infectious particles
- Prions cannot be inactivated by cooking

