



# Chronic Wasting Disease- *where it is*

## What is Chronic Wasting Disease?

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a contagious, fatal brain disease affecting wild and farmed cervids such as deer, moose, elk, caribou, and reindeer. The disease is caused by prions, protein material within a deer, that, when folded incorrectly, becomes infectious. Prions survive for long periods of time in the environment, and they are spread through an infected animal's saliva, blood, feces, urine, and antler velvet. The remains of an animal that dies with CWD can also become a source for new infections.

## Where is CWD found?

As of July 2020, CWD in wild and farmed cervids has been reported in 26 states in the United States, as well as in Canada, Norway, Finland, Sweden, and South Korea. For an up-to-date record of where CWD has been found in North America, visit the USGS National Wildlife Health Center website at [www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov).

CWD is spreading throughout the upper Midwest including North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. CWD was first identified in Minnesota in farmed elk in 2002 and wild white-tailed deer in 2010. CWD continues to be identified in cervids across Minnesota, becoming endemic in the wild white-tailed deer population in southeastern counties.

## What is being done to stop the spread of CWD?

Experts from the University of Minnesota are currently working on developing faster diagnostic tests, researching the way CWD spreads, and analyzing the ecological impacts of the disease.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Board of Animal Health are surveying and managing CWD in Minnesota and working to limit its spread in wild and farmed cervids across the state.

## What should I do if I see a sick deer in MN?

Please report any sick deer by calling 888-646-6367.

## Additional Contacts - MNPRO

Email: [mnpro@umn.edu](mailto:mnpro@umn.edu)

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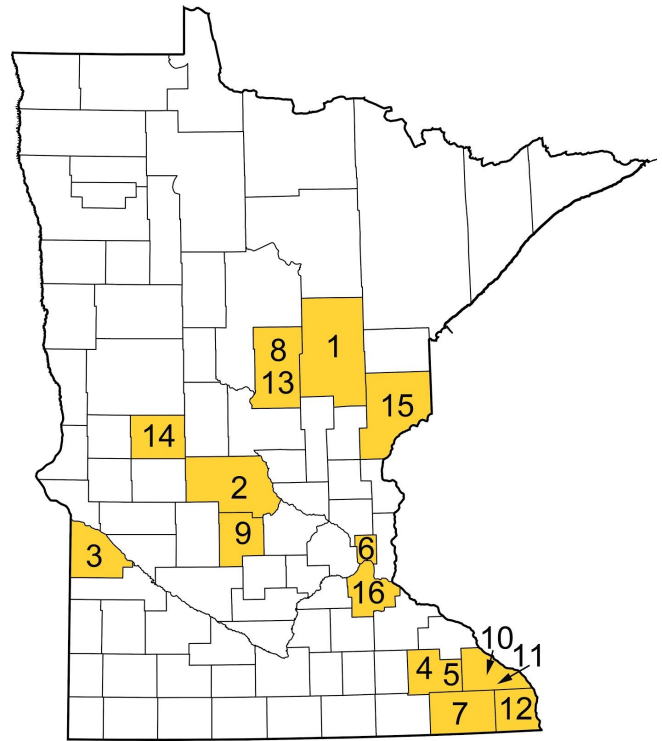
Marc Schwabenlander, Manager: 651-216-1240

See the CWD Transmission and Progression booklet in animated form: <https://youtu.be/1utScxaceNg>



## Location of CWD detections in Minnesota.

Animals from all positive farms have been removed.



1. 2002 - Aitkin County elk farm
2. 2003 - Stearns County elk farm
3. 2006 - Lac Qui Parle County mixed deer/elk farm
4. 2009 - Olmsted County elk farm
5. 2010, 2019 - Olmsted County wild white-tailed deer
6. 2012 - Ramsey County European red deer farm
7. 2016-20 - Fillmore County wild white-tailed deer
8. 2016, 2018 - Crow Wing County deer farm
9. 2017 - Meeker County deer farm
10. 2017 - Winona County deer farm
11. 2018-20 - Winona County wild white-tailed deer
12. 2018-19 - Houston County wild white-tailed deer
13. 2019 - Crow Wing County wild whitetail deer
14. 2019 - Douglas County deer farm
15. 2020 - Pine County deer farm
16. 2020 - Dakota county wild white-tailed deer



# Chronic Wasting Disease- *what you can do*

## For all - *get informed*

### What is Chronic Wasting Disease?

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### What's happening in Minnesota?

Stay up-to-date on CWD in Minnesota through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH), and the Minnesota Center for Prion Research and Outreach (MNPRO).

- DNR - <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/cwd/index.html>
- BAH - [https://www.bah.state.mn.us/news\\_release/](https://www.bah.state.mn.us/news_release/)
- MNPRO - <https://mnpro.umn.edu/>

## For venison consumers - *know the risks*

### Can CWD be transmitted to humans?

Currently, there is no evidence that CWD poses a risk for humans; however, public health officials at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommend that we do not consume meat from animals known to be infected. Because we do not yet know the full risk that CWD poses to humans, it is important that we avoid eating CWD contaminated meat. Determine if the venison you consume was harvested in a CWD management area. If so, wait for CWD "not detected" test results before consuming the meat or avoid consuming the meat if the deer was not tested. The prions that cause CWD are very resistant to heat and freezing temperatures. Cooking or freezing the meat will not remove prions from any infected meat.

## For landowners - *be good stewards*

### What if CWD is found on my property?

Cooperate with Minnesota DNR and/or BAH officials to better understand the extent of disease on the landscape. The 3D shape of CWD prions makes them almost indestructible. This durability facilitates the spread of prions in the surrounding environment through many avenues, including water, soil, and plants. MNPRO is initiating cutting-edge research on the spread of CWD in the complex ecosystems across Minnesota.

## For hunters - *reduce the spread*

### What are the CWD regulations?

Minnesota DNR's CWD regulations are an important part of reducing the risk of disease spread across Minnesota and into other states. The CWD regulations fluctuate from year to year as information is obtained about the state of the disease. Carefully read the regulations prior to every hunting season. Current regulations for testing, carcass movement, and feeding bans can be found at licensing centers and the DNR's CWD webpage: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/cwd/index.html>

### What precautions should be taken?

#### Identification

Most CWD-positive wild deer appear normal. It may take over a year before an infected deer develops symptoms, which can include drastic weight loss (wasting), stumbling, inactivity, and loss of fear of humans. Specifically, deer become thin, drink and urinate excessively, have poor balance & coordination, lack body fat, have drooping ears, and difficulty swallowing. Inability to swallow leads to pneumonia and death. Please report any sick deer by calling 888-646-6367.

#### Processing

Consider having your deer processed and wrapped individually, either privately or commercially, so not to mix CWD-positive and CWD-"not detected" deer meat. When processing your deer, it is important to identify and remove lymph nodes. Lymph nodes accumulate pathogens including prions, the disease causing agent of CWD. A video from Dr. Grant Woods highlights this at segments beginning at 3:41 and 7:18. <https://youtu.be/H2UsVd9d8vl>

#### Testing

Consider having your deer tested, even if it's not mandatory in your hunting zone. Consider not eating your deer meat until CWD test results are determined to be "not detected."

#### Disinfection

CWD prions can be removed from stainless steel surfaces (i.e., knife blades, processing tables, etc.) by using a 1:1 water to household bleach solution and a 5 minute soak. Always follow the appropriate safety precautions when handling bleach.

#### Further information:

<https://cahfs.umn.edu/cwd-watch-hunters-toolkit>

