

Chronic Wasting Disease

What Is CWD?

Chronic wasting disease is a fatal neurological disease that affects members of the deer/elk family (cervids). It was first described in 1967 in Colorado and has spread to 30 additional states, Canada, Finland, South Korea, Norway and Sweden. CWD is similar to scrapie in sheep/goats and “mad cow disease” in cattle. These diseases are caused by misshapen proteins called prions, which accumulate in the tissues of affected animals, especially the brain, spinal cord and lymph nodes. Infected animals will not show signs of disease for a long time, but late in the disease process they will be thin and may demonstrate weakness, abnormal behavior, excessive thirst or drooling. Animals generally die soon after the onset of these signs. For additional information visit www.agfc.com/cwd.

Can CWD Spread to Humans or Livestock?

There is no scientific evidence of CWD transmission to humans, pets or livestock under natural conditions. However, feeding domestic animals meat from sick or diseased wildlife is not recommended. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend having your deer tested for CWD when hunting areas where the disease occurs. For more information from the CDC, visit www.cdc.gov.

Where in Arkansas Has It Been Found?

AGFC has been conducting CWD surveillance in elk since 1998 and in deer statewide since 2002; however the disease was not detected until February 2016. CWD has been detected in or near Ashley, Baxter, Benton, Boone, Bradley, Carroll, Crawford, Franklin, Independence, Jackson, Johnson, Logan, Madison, Marion, Newton, Pope, Randolph, Scott, Searcy, Sebastian, Stone, Union, Van Buren and Washington counties. AGFC continues statewide surveillance and encourages Arkansans to report all sick deer and elk, 1-800-482-9262.

What Can Be Done to Manage CWD?

Research suggests the CWD prion can be passed through contact with feces, urine, saliva, CWD-infected carcasses or contaminated soil. Practices that unnaturally congregate cervids (e.g. baiting and feeding) and improper disposal of carcasses can increase CWD transmission. Steps to reduce the spread and environmental accumulation of CWD prions include: avoiding activities that congregate deer and elk, reducing deer and elk densities, limiting the movement of potentially infected carcasses, and limiting the dispersal of infected animals.

Chronic Wasting Disease Regulations

Statewide Regulations:

- It is unlawful to use scents or lures that contain natural deer and elk urine or other biofluids.
- It is unlawful to rehabilitate deer or elk.

CWD Management Zone Regulations (Page 7)

Ashley, Baxter, Benton, Boone, Bradley, Carroll, Crawford, Franklin, Independence, Jackson, Johnson, Logan, Madison, Marion, Newton, Pope, Randolph, Scott, Searcy, Sebastian, Stone, Union, Van Buren, Washington and Yell counties:

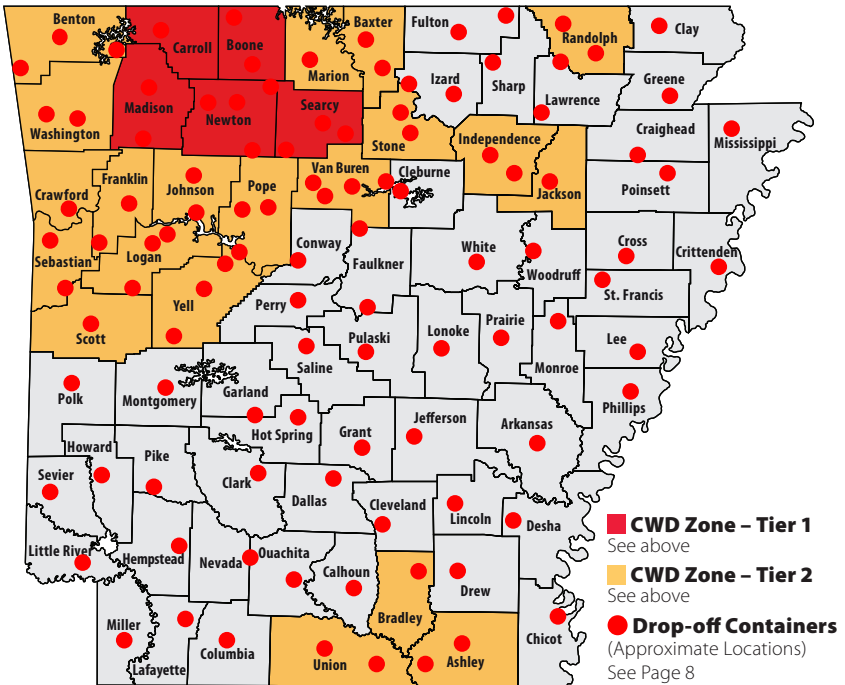
- Any buck may be legally harvested; Three-Point Rule has been removed.
- Bag limit has been liberalized. Reference Deer Zone bag limits on pages 42-47.
- Refer to pages 78-126 for WMA- and NWR-specific regulations.

It is unlawful to feed wildlife within the CWD Management Zone, except:

- Bait may be used to hunt deer and elk on private land from Sept. 1-Dec. 31 during an open season.
- Food plots may be used year-round.
- Baiting bears, see Page 39.
- Hunting or trapping furbearers with the use of bait during open furbearer trapping seasons on private land.
- Incidental feeding of wildlife from livestock operations.
- Normal agricultural, gardening or soil stabilization practices are allowed.
- Attracting or feeding birds and squirrels with birdfeeders, bird baths and grain completely submerged in water.
- Baiting for management, research or nuisance wildlife control with approval by the AGFC Chief of Wildlife Management.

Deer and Elk Carcass Movement

- It is unlawful to possess in Arkansas any portion of deer, elk, moose or caribou harvested outside the state (see Page 25 for carcass importation restrictions), except the following low-risk materials:
 - Antlers and/or antlers attached to clean skull plates or cleaned skulls (where no meat or tissue is attached to skull)
 - Meat with bones removed
 - Finished taxidermy products
 - Cleaned teeth
 - Hides and tanned products
- It is unlawful to possess any deer or elk harvested within the CWD Management Zone outside the management zone, except the low-risk items listed above.
- It is unlawful to possess any deer or elk harvested within Tier 1 of the CWD Management Zone (red) in Tier 2 (orange), except the low-risk materials listed above; please note:
 - Intact carcasses harvested in a Tier 1 (red) county may be moved freely between the Tier 1 counties, but only low-risk materials may be moved into Tier 2 (orange) counties or outside the CWD Management Zone.
 - Intact carcasses harvested in a Tier 2 (orange) county may be moved freely between the Tier 2 counties or into Tier 1 counties, but only low-risk materials may be moved outside the CWD Management Zone.



Landowners within the CWD Management Zone may contact their local private lands biologist to apply for deer tags to harvest additional deer. Visit www.agfc.com/cwd for more information.

Special Elk Regulations:

- Any elk outside the Core Elk Management Zone (Boone, Carroll, Madison, Newton and Searcy counties) may be harvested by a hunter who is legally hunting for deer with a weapon legal for that season. Seasonal bag limit, one elk of either sex.
- All elk harvested statewide must be checked and sampled. Samples from checked elk must be submitted for CWD testing. Hunters must call 1-800-482-9262 for instructions on checking elk and submitting samples.

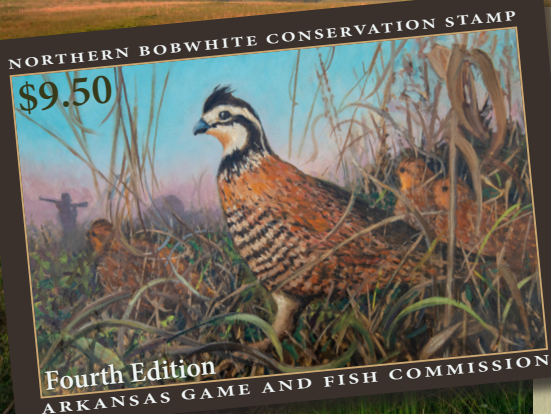
CWD Testing

AGFC is offering a variety of options to have harvested deer tested for CWD. For complete details and testing results, visit www.agfc.com/cwd.

- **CWD Testing Drop-off Containers:** A network of refrigerated drop-off containers is available during the 2022-23 deer season. Hunters can bring the head (antlers removed) with approximately 6 inches of neck attached from their harvested deer to one of these locations (details available at www.agfc.com/cwd). Deer submitted at these locations will be tested free of charge. Instructions will be at the containers.
- **Taxidermists:** Many taxidermists can collect CWD samples and submit for free testing throughout deer season. Please check www.agfc.com/cwd for the complete list and call ahead to verify availability.
- **AGFC Regional Offices:** Many AGFC offices can collect CWD samples for free. Hunters should call ahead to ensure a wildlife biologist is available to collect a sample. See Page 1 for a listing of AGFC offices or visit www.agfc.com/cwd.
- **Veterinarians:** Many veterinarians are offering CWD sampling at a cost. Please visit www.agfc.com/cwd for a list of participating veterinarians or contact your local veterinarian to determine if they are participating.

Please refer to www.agfc.com/cwd for any CWD updates.

SAVE THE BOBWHITE



Show your support of the AGFC's effort to bring back the northern bobwhite to huntable numbers throughout the state by purchasing the Northern Bobwhite Conservation Stamp. Proceeds from this stamp will go directly to habitat enhancement work in Arkansas. Purchase yours when you get your license at www.agfc.com. For more information on bobwhite quail restoration, visit www.agfc.com/quail.

Check Your Deer Test Your Deer **FREE**



Testing your deer for CWD is free, easy, and it can win you a lifetime of hunting memories in Arkansas. Thanks to the Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation, two randomly selected resident hunters who submit samples from their deer will receive a free \$1,000 Arkansas Resident Lifetime Hunting and Fishing Sportsperson's Permit, drawn at the conclusion of the 2022-23 Arkansas deer season.



CWD Testing Coolers

throughout the state