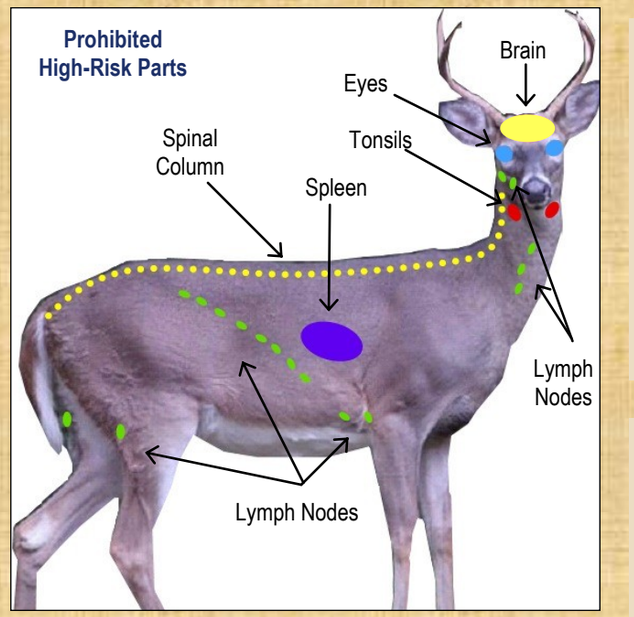
Ban on the Importation of Cervid Parts

To help prevent CWD from being spread within the state, the Game Commission has banned the importation of specific carcass parts from states and Canadian provinces where CWD exists including any Disease Management Areas within the state. A list of states and provinces affected by the ban is available at www.pgc.state.pa.us or by calling your PGC region office.

Only the following low-risk parts of any deer, elk, or moose taken from any other state, province, or country within areas designated as positive for CWD may be imported into Pennsylvania.



Permitted Low-Risk Parts

- **Edible portions with no part of the spinal column or head attached**
- **Cleaned hides without the head**
- **Skull plate and/or antlers cleaned of all meat and brain tissue**
- **Upper canine teeth without soft tissue**

What can I do to help?

Stop supplemental feeding programs. Concentrating deer and elk helps spread diseases like CWD. Express concerns about CWD to your political representatives. Support increased financial assistance for wildlife and agricultural agencies to combat CWD. Encourage officials at all levels of government to support the steps necessary to slow the spread of CWD across Pennsylvania.

What is being done in PA to manage CWD?

Several state and federal agencies, including the Game Commission, Pennsylvania departments of Agriculture (PDA), Health (PDH), and Environmental Protection (DEP), and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) completed a response plan which details methods of prevention, surveillance, and response designed to manage CWD. Activities designed to reduce the risks associated with this disease are ongoing. Surveillance for CWD and other diseases has been ongoing in Pennsylvania since 1998 and will continue in order to understand the prevalence and distribution of the disease.

Pennsylvania Game Commission

Northwest Region	814-432-3187
Southwest Region	724-238-9523
Northcentral Region	570-398-4744
Southcentral Region	814-643-1831
Northeast Region	570-675-1143
Southeast Region	610-926-3136

www.pgc.state.pa.us

Where can I learn more?

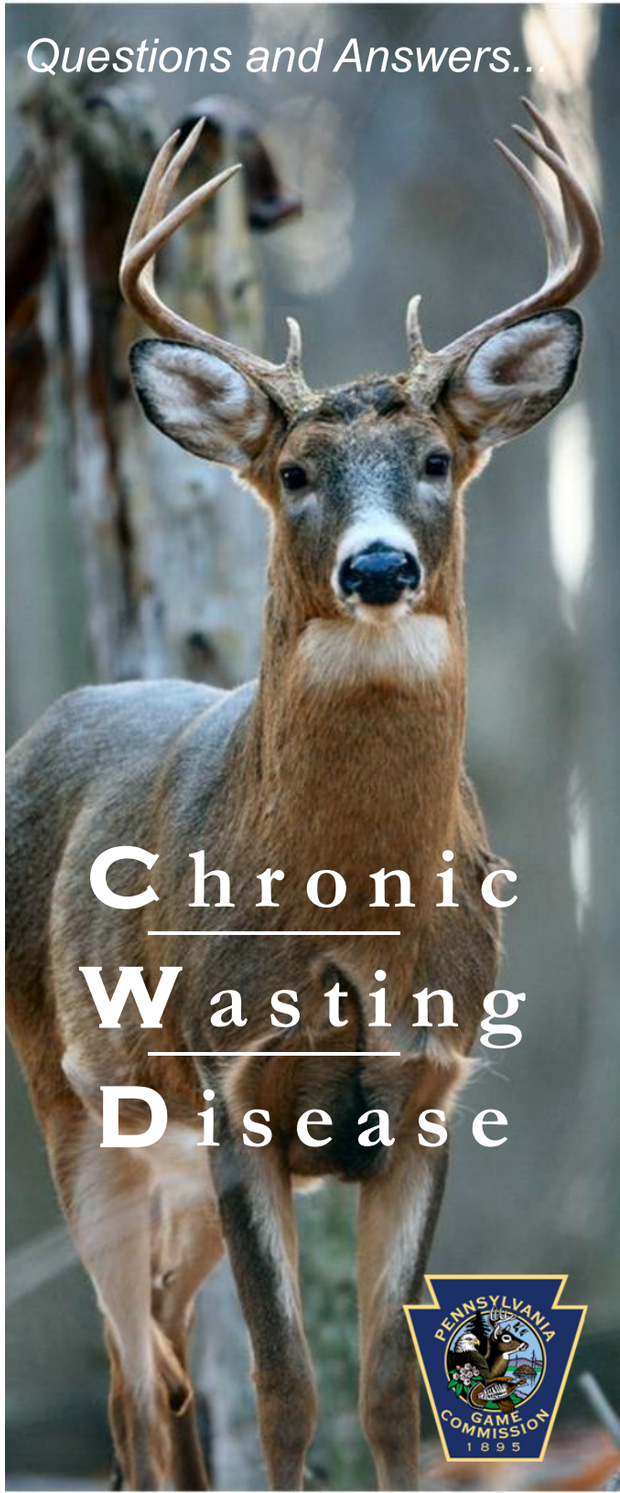
PA Department of Agriculture
www.agriculture.state.pa.us

Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance
www.cwd-info.org

Center for Disease Control
www.cdc.gov

World Health Organization
www.who.int/en

Revision Date 7/7/14



What is Chronic Wasting Disease?

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD) is a member of the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) family of diseases that includes Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or Mad Cow Disease in cattle; Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) in humans; and Scrapie in sheep and goats. It was first recognized in Colorado deer in 1967. The specific cause of CWD is believed to be an abnormal prion that is found in the brain, the nervous system, and some lymphoid tissues of infected animals. It causes death of brain cells, and on a microscopic level, holes in the brain tissue.

How is it spread?

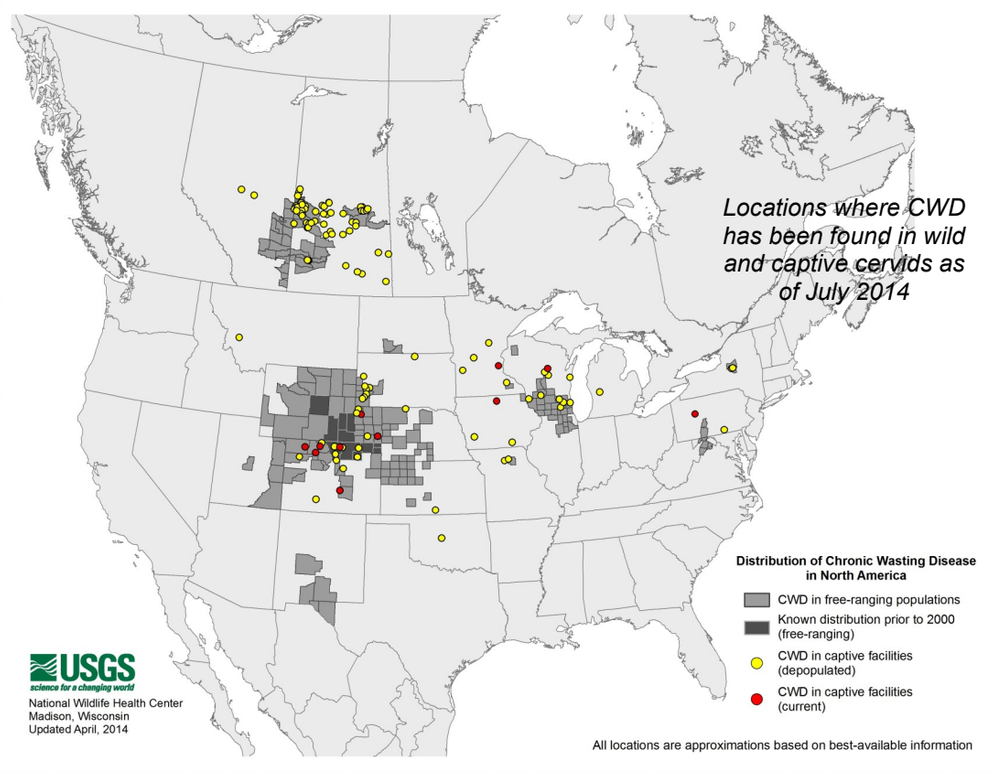
CWD IS TRANSMITTED both directly through animal-to-animal contact and indirectly through food and soil contaminated with bodily excretions including feces, urine, and saliva. Contaminated carcasses or high-risk carcass parts may also spread the disease indirectly through environmental contamination, which lasts for years, if not decades.

How can I tell if an animal has CWD?

ANIMALS INFECTED WITH CWD do not show signs of infection for 12 or more months. Late stage symptoms of CWD-infected animals include an extreme loss of body condition; excessive drinking, urination, salivation, and drooling; and behavioral and neurologic changes such as repetitive walking patterns, droopy ears, a wide-based stance, and listlessness. Some animals lose their fear of humans and predators. There is no known cure. It is important to note that these symptoms are characteristic of diseases other than CWD.

Dr. Mike Miller, CO Division of Wildlife

Where has CWD been found?



What if I'm hunting in an area where CWD is known to exist?

Follow these guidelines to prevent the spread of the disease:

- Be familiar with the regulations and guidelines for the transportation of harvested game where you are hunting as well as the Pennsylvania Cervid Parts Importation Ban (see back panel).
- Bone out the meat from your animal.
- Minimize the handling of brain and spinal tissues.
- Have your animal processed in the area in which it was harvested so high-risk parts can be disposed of properly. It is illegal to import high-risk parts into Pennsylvania from areas covered by the Cervid Parts Importation Ban or out of Disease Management Areas (DMAs) within Pennsylvania.
- Ask your butcher to process your meat individually, without meat from other animals; or process your own meat.
- Only bring low-risk parts back to Pennsylvania or out of a DMA.
- Have your animal tested.
- Do not consume parts of any animal testing positive for CWD.

What precautions should hunters take?

HUNTERS SHOULD ONLY harvest animals that appear healthy, and take common-sense precautions like wearing gloves while field dressing an animal and washing hands and equipment thoroughly when finished. If you see an animal that is sick, do not attempt to disturb, kill, or remove the animal. Accurately document the location of the animal and immediately contact the nearest Game Commission Region Office.

Where can I have my animal tested?

HUNTERS CAN SUBMIT their harvested deer to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) for testing at a cost of $77.00. PDA's Chronic Wasting Disease Submission Form can be found on their website, www.agriculture.state.pa.us.

Processors and Taxidermists

IF YOU ARE presented with deer, elk, or moose body parts harvested in CWD-infected areas, please contact the nearest Game Commission Region Office for guidance. A PGC representative may collect tissue samples, discuss proper processing and disposal procedures, and provide information to hunters.