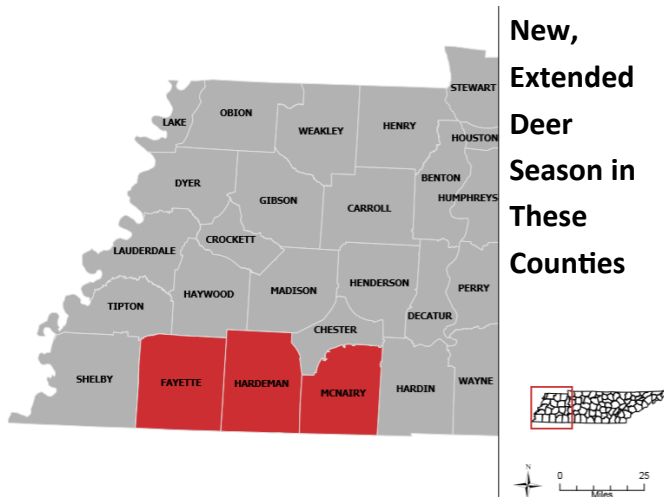




# Chronic Wasting Disease in Tennessee

## What is being done to manage CWD in Tennessee?

The Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission (TFWC) has made regulatory changes in response to the confirmation of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in deer in Fayette and Hardeman counties in December of 2018. The commission voted to establish a CWD management zone which currently includes Fayette, Hardeman, and McNairy counties. The high risk area of the CWD management zone includes counties within a 10-mile radius of the location of a confirmed CWD positive deer. Another change for the CWD management zone is the creation of a new deer hunting season. An archery/muzzleloader/gun deer season was established in the CWD management zone for Jan. 7-31, 2019. During this extended season, hunters will be required to bring in all animals harvested to check stations for testing on weekends and encouraged to drop off samples at freezer locations during the week (all locations listed at [CWDinTennessee.com](http://CWDinTennessee.com)). This extra testing will allow TWRA to better determine exactly where this disease is and better understand it.



## What is chronic wasting disease?

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a progressive, fatal disease of the nervous system of white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk and moose. It belongs to a family of diseases known as Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs), or prion diseases. Although CWD shares certain features with other TSEs, like bovine spongiform encephalopathy (or mad cow disease), scrapie in sheep and goats, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in

humans, it is a distinct disease affecting only deer, elk and moose. It causes damage to portions of the brain; creating holes in the brain cells and causing a sponge-like appearance.

## How is CWD transmitted?

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.

## Can people get CWD?

Currently, there is no evidence that CWD poses a risk to people; but, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that meat from an animal that tests positive for CWD should not be consumed.

## How can I tell if an animal has CWD?

CWD is a slowly progressing disease; signs typically are not seen until the animal is 12-18 months old and may take as long as 3 years or more. CWD attacks the brains of infected animals, causing them to become emaciated, display abnormal behavior, lose bodily functions, become weak and eventually die. Signs include excessive salivation, loss of appetite, weight loss, excessive thirst and urination, listlessness, teeth grinding, lowering of the head and drooping ears.

## What if I'm hunting in a confirmed CWD area?

Follow these guidelines to prevent the spread of CWD:

- Be familiar with the regulations and guidelines for transporting harvested game where you are hunting, as well as the Tennessee Cervid Parts Importation Ban.
- Bone out the meat from your animal.
- Have your animal processed in the area in which it was harvested so high-risk parts can be disposed of properly.
- Ask your butcher to process your meat individually, without meat from other animals.
- Only bring low-risk parts back to Tennessee.
- While transporting, store all portions of the animal in a container such as a cooler, bin, or bag that will not leak fluids into the environment.

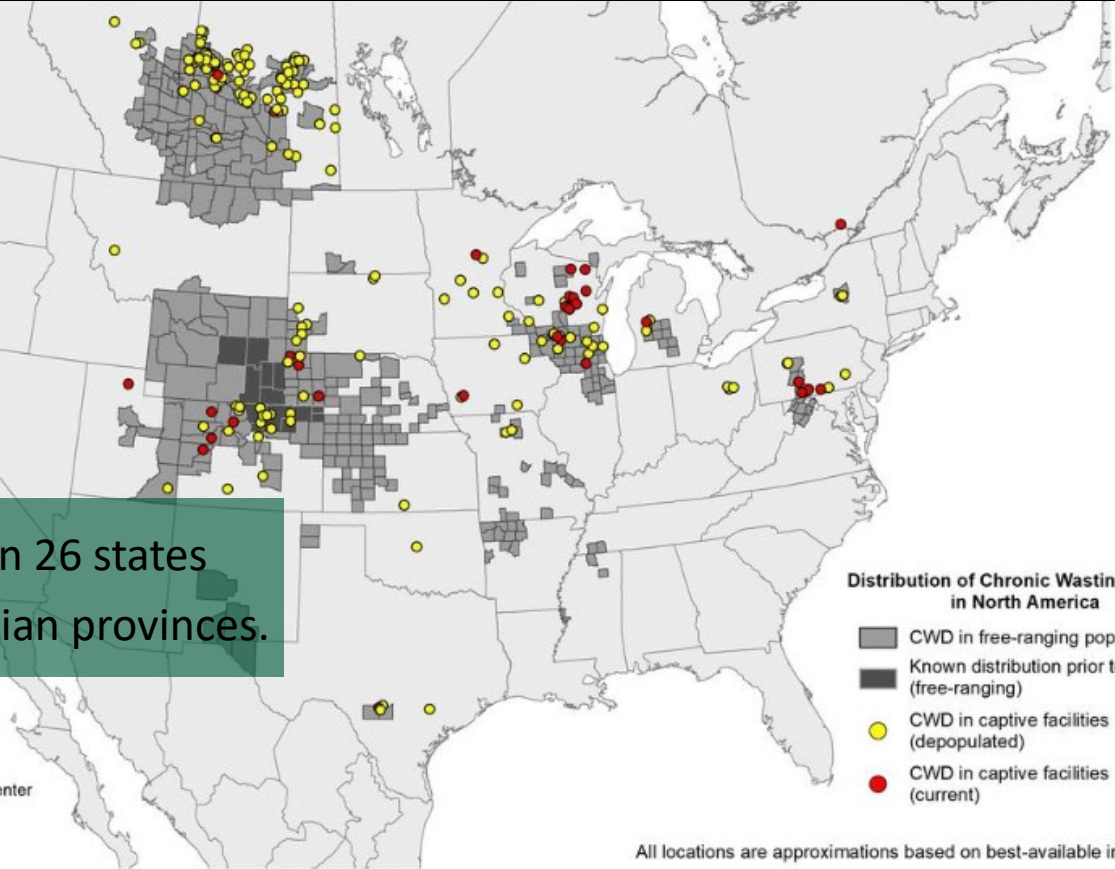


# Chronic Wasting Disease in Tennessee

CWD exists in 26 states and 3 Canadian provinces.



National Wildlife Health Center  
Madison, Wisconsin  
Updated December, 2018



Distribution of Chronic Wasting Disease in North America

- CWD in free-ranging populations
- Known distribution prior to 2000 (free-ranging)
- CWD in captive facilities (depopulated)
- CWD in captive facilities (current)

All locations are approximations based on best-available information

## Hunter's Best Practices:

- Avoid sick animals. Do not handle, or consume any animal that appears sick, and contact your wildlife agency.
- Wear rubber/latex gloves when field dressing carcasses.
- Minimize handling the brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils and lymph nodes of any deer or elk. Normal field dressing coupled with boning out a carcass will remove most, if not all, of these body parts.
- Thoroughly wash hands, knives and other tools used to field dress the animal. Disinfect tools by soaking them in a solution of 50 percent unscented household bleach and 50 percent water for an hour. Allow them to air dry.
- Bones and unprocessed remains should be disposed of through burial, landfill or incineration.
- Do not consume meat from deer that have tested positive for CWD.

**Cervid Parts Importation Ban:** To help prevent CWD from being spread within the state, the TWRA has banned the importation of specific carcass parts from states and Canadian provinces where CWD exists.

**These cervid parts may be safely transported:**

- Meat with all bones removed
- Cleaned hides without the head
- Skull plates and/or antlers cleaned of all brain tissue
- Upper canine teeth without soft tissue.
- Finished taxidermy mounts

**Attention Processors & Taxidermists:** If you are presented with deer, elk, or moose body parts harvested in CWD-infected areas, please contact the nearest TWRA Regional office for guidance. A TWRA representative may collect tissue samples, discuss proper processing and disposal procedures, and provide information to hunters.

## Where can I learn more?

TWRA | [CWDinTennessee.com](http://CWDinTennessee.com) or [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org)

Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance | [cwd-info.org](http://cwd-info.org)

Center for Disease Control | [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency State Headquarters

P.O. Box 40747 Nashville, TN 37204 |(615) 770-6500

Region Offices

Region I: (731) 423-5725 Region II: (615) 781-6622 Region III:  
(931) 484-9571 Region IV: (423) 587-7037