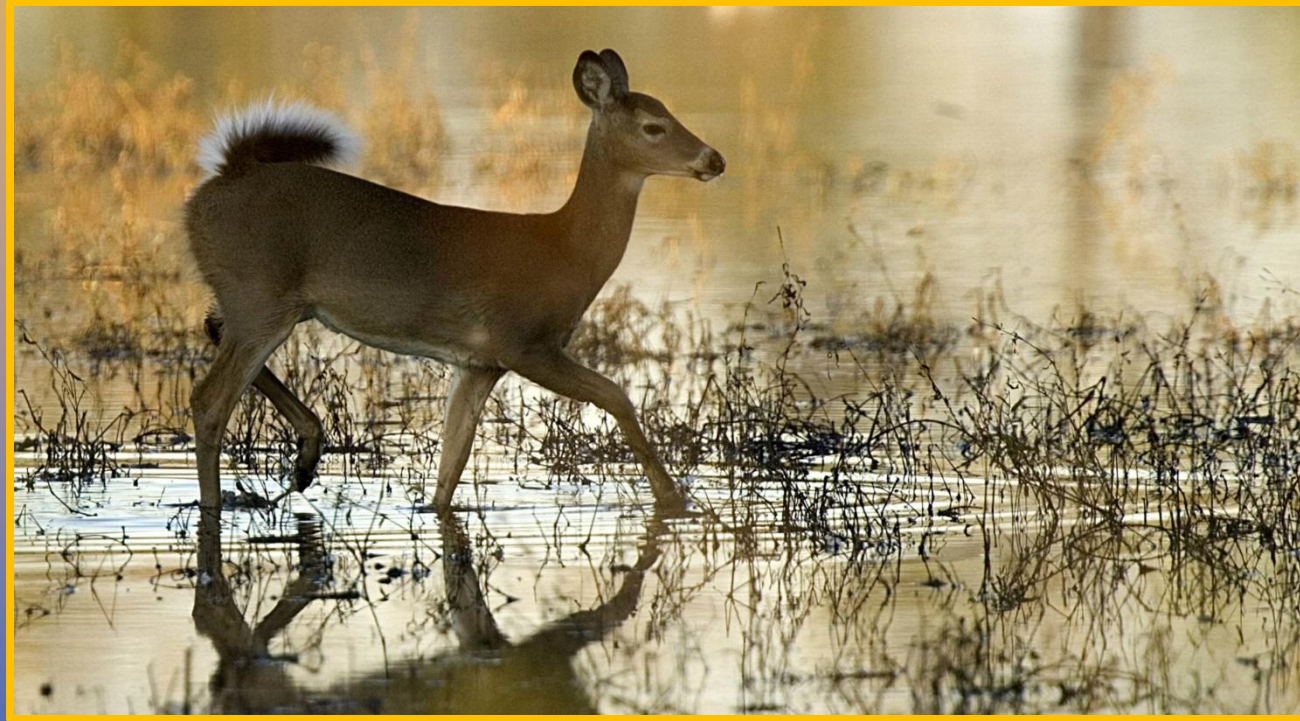


# Chronic Wasting Disease

## *Information for Connecticut Hunters*



Provided through a partnership between the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



# What is CWD?

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**CWD is a progressive neurological disease that attacks the brains and spinal cords of cervids (deer, elk and moose) producing small lesions that eventually result in death.**

**There is currently no vaccine or cure, and the disease is always fatal.**

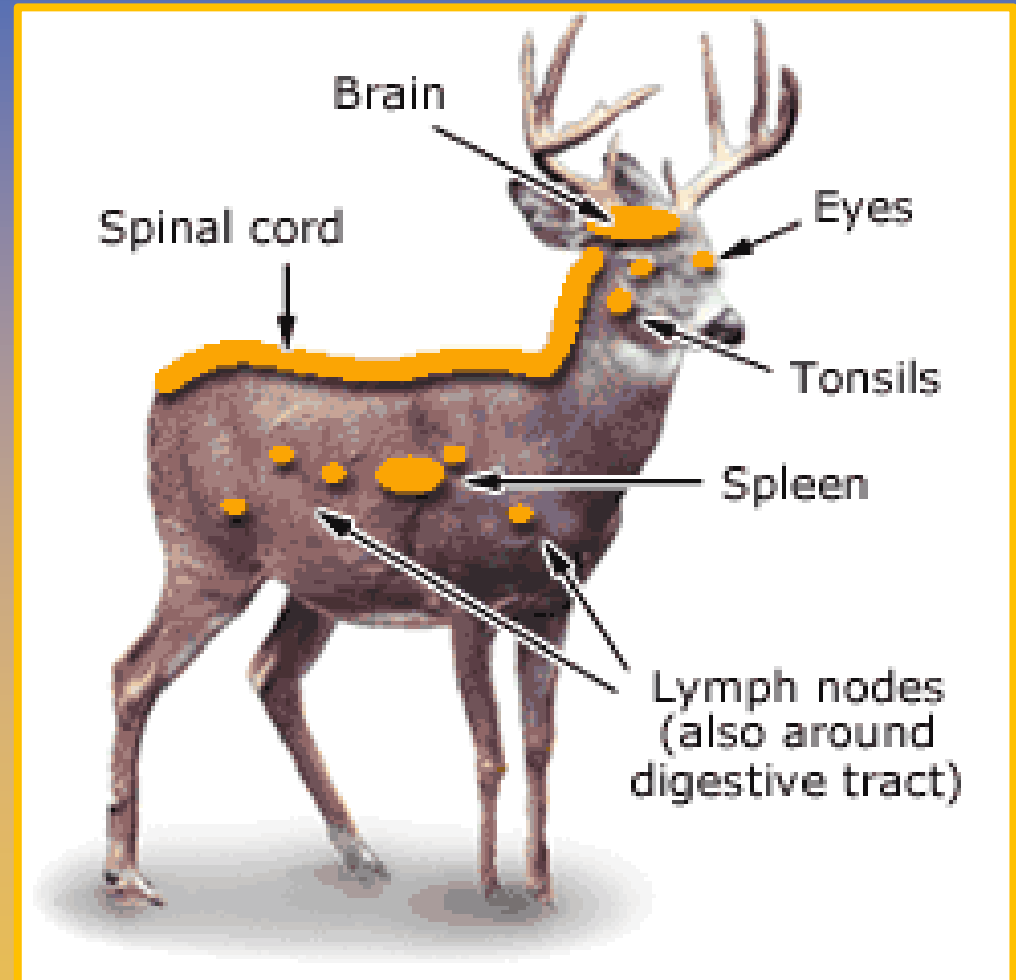


# The Effects of CWD

## *Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs)*

- Mad Cow in cattle
- Scrapie in sheep
- Kuru and Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease

These are caused by abnormal proteins (*prions*) that form lesions in nervous and lymphoid tissue



Areas of infection, courtesy of Utah DWR

# Transmission of CWD

## Direct Transmission

- Animal to animal via saliva, urine, feces
- Artificial feeds with mammalian proteins

## Indirect Transmission

- Soil/Surface to animal

**There is no evidence  
CWD is transmissible to  
humans or livestock**



Photos courtesy of NYDEC

# Signs of CWD

- Weight loss
- Increased salivation,  
drinking & urination
- Behavioral changes
- Lack of coordination
- Droopy head and shoulders
- Pneumonia

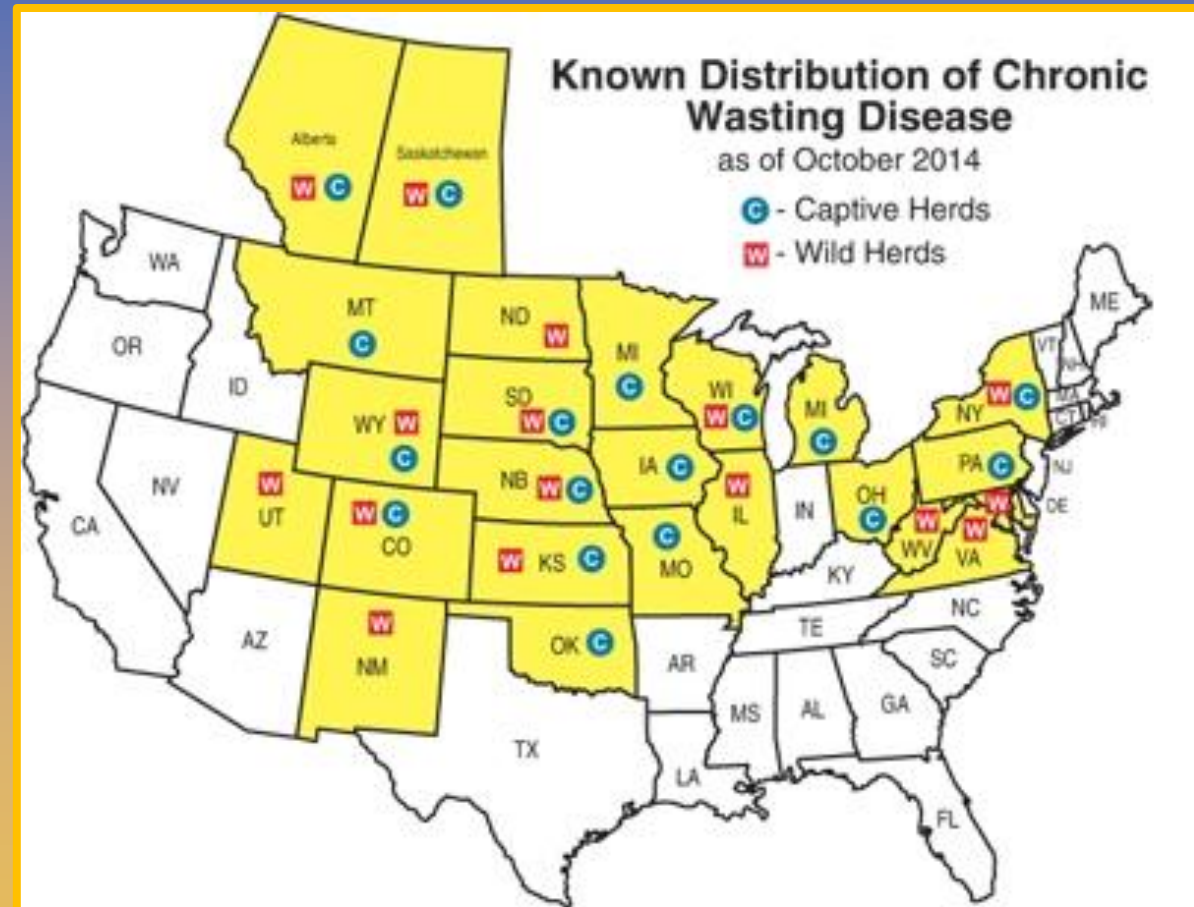


Photo courtesy of Wyoming Game and Fish

# The Spread of CWD

First found in Colorado in 1960, CWD initially spread to other western and mid-western states and to two Canadian provinces.

By 2012 the disease had been found on the east coast from Virginia to New York.

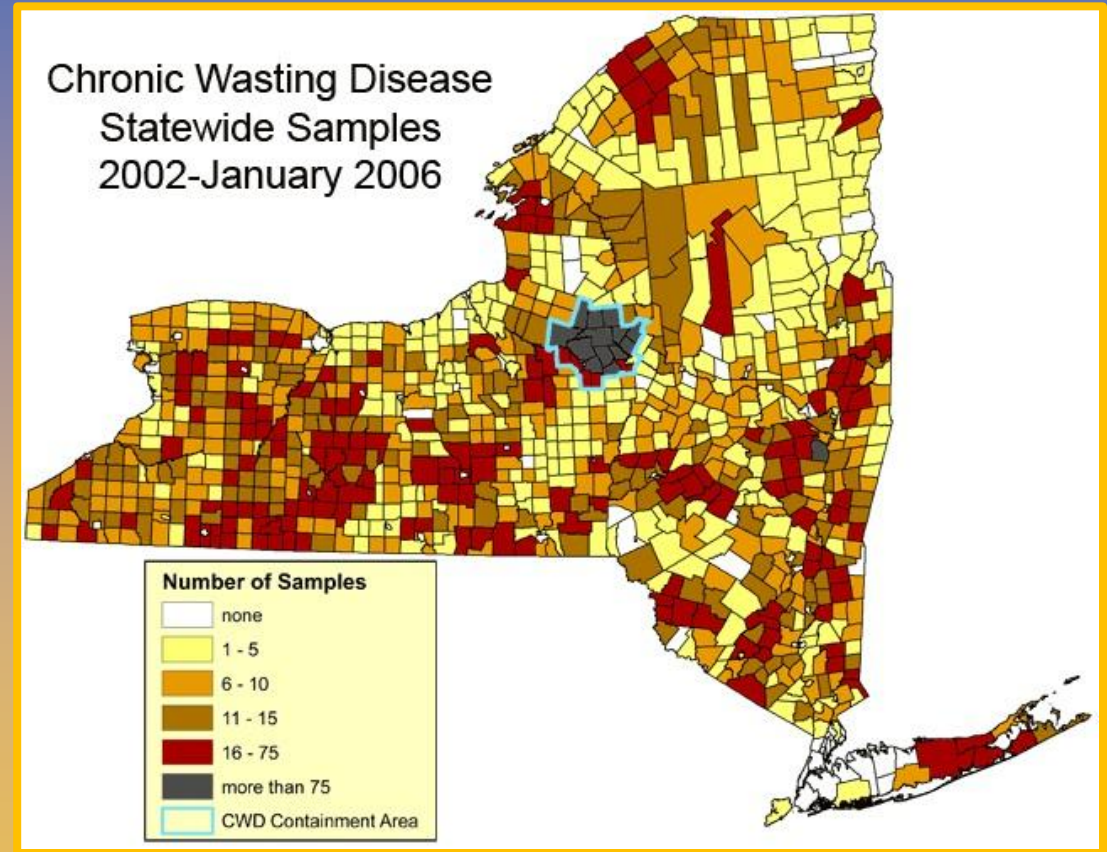


Areas of North America with CWD

# CWD Testing in NY

After finding CWD in their state in 2005, the New York DEC began aggressive surveillance and control of diseased animals.

There are still CWD-related restrictions in NY, but the disease has not been found there in more than five years.



Map courtesy of NYDEC

# CWD Prevention in CT

Like other states, Connecticut banned the movement of live cervids across state lines in the early 2000s.

After NYDEC found CWD in 2005, Connecticut banned all cervid carcasses and parts from states and provinces where the disease has been confirmed.





# CWD Testing in CT

**In the post-mortem CWD testing that CT DEEP has conducted for more than a decade, all results have been negative.**

**It seems that CWD prevention measures put in place by the state are working. But the surveillance and testing initiative is ongoing.**



# Hunting and CWD

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**Concern over CWD should not limit hunter willingness to take deer during the regulated season.**

**The possibility of encountering a CWD-infected animal in New England is highly unlikely. Still, hunters should take certain precautions when dealing with susceptible animals.**



# Hunting and CWD

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**Hunters should always do the following:**

- Avoid shooting, handling, or consuming any animal that is behaving abnormally or appears sick.**
- Wear latex or rubber gloves when field-dressing the animal.**
- Debone meat from the animal without cutting into the brain or backbone.**
- Do not handle or eat the brain, spinal cord, spleen, lymph nodes, tonsils or eyes of the animal.**
- Wash hands and instruments thoroughly after field dressing is complete. Instruments should be placed in a 1:1 bleach and water solution for an hour and left to air dry before reusing.**

# Hunting and CWD

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- To avoid possible introduction of high risk tissues from CWD-infected animals harvested outside of New England, hunters should return with only:

- boned-out meat
- antlers with cleaned skull caps
- hides without the head
- finished taxidermy mounts.

**\*Mandatory if the deer was taken from a state known to have CWD**

For a list of these states, go online to <http://goo.gl/ueYmEy>

- Dispose of carcasses by bringing them to landfills which accept carcasses.
- Call the CT DEEP's 24-hour hotline at 860-424-3011 to report suspected cases of CWD or other wildlife-related problems.

# How Hunters Can Help

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**Connecticut hunters and others with access to deer carcasses can help in a CWD study being conducted through a joint Federal/State partnership.**

**To donate a deer for testing, email [Andrew.Labonte@ct.gov](mailto:Andrew.Labonte@ct.gov) or call the CT DEEP Wildlife Division at 860-642-7239.**

