

Rules and Regulations

Rule 40-13-2-.01(6): "Farmed Deer" means fallow deer (*Dama dama*), axis deer (*Axis asix*), sika deer (*Cervus Nippon*), red deer and elk (*Cervus elaphus*), reindeer and caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*), and hybrids between these farmed species raised for the commercial sale of meat and other parts or for the sale of live animals.

Rule 40-13-4-.16(1): All farmed deer over six months of age that die other than by slaughter must have samples submitted to an approved veterinary diagnostic laboratory for CWD testing. This surveillance may be at the expense of the owner or agent unless supplementary funds are made available.


Rule 40-13-4-.16(2): Farmed deer slaughtered in licensed meat establishments must be made available for sample collection and submission to an approved veterinary diagnostic laboratory for CWD testing. This surveillance may be at the expense of the owner or agent unless supplementary funds are made available.

Rule 40-13-4-.16(3): Farmed deer may not be offered for sale or trade in interstate or intrastate commerce unless the herd participates in a CWD surveillance program approved by the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

Rule 40-13-4-.16(4): Penalties for any violations of this Rule shall be in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia as expressed in GDA Rule 40-13-8-.06.



Contact Us Animal Health Office

 (404) 656 - 3667

animalhealth@agr.georgia.gov

 agr.georgia.gov

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Farmed Cervidae

Animal Health | Livestock and Poultry



agr.georgia.gov
(404) 656 - 3667

What is Chronic Wasting Disease?

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal neurodegenerative (brain and nervous system) disease that affects multiple deer species including whitetail, elk, moose, mule deer, and others.

Transmission of CWD can occur through direct contact (animal to animal) or indirectly by contacting infected saliva, urine, feces, and other contaminated materials in the environment.

Clinical signs may include weight loss, behavior changes, excessive salivation, excessive thirst and urination, lack of coordination, and loss of fear for humans.

Animals may be infected for months or years before showing clinical signs of CWD.

There is no treatment or vaccine.

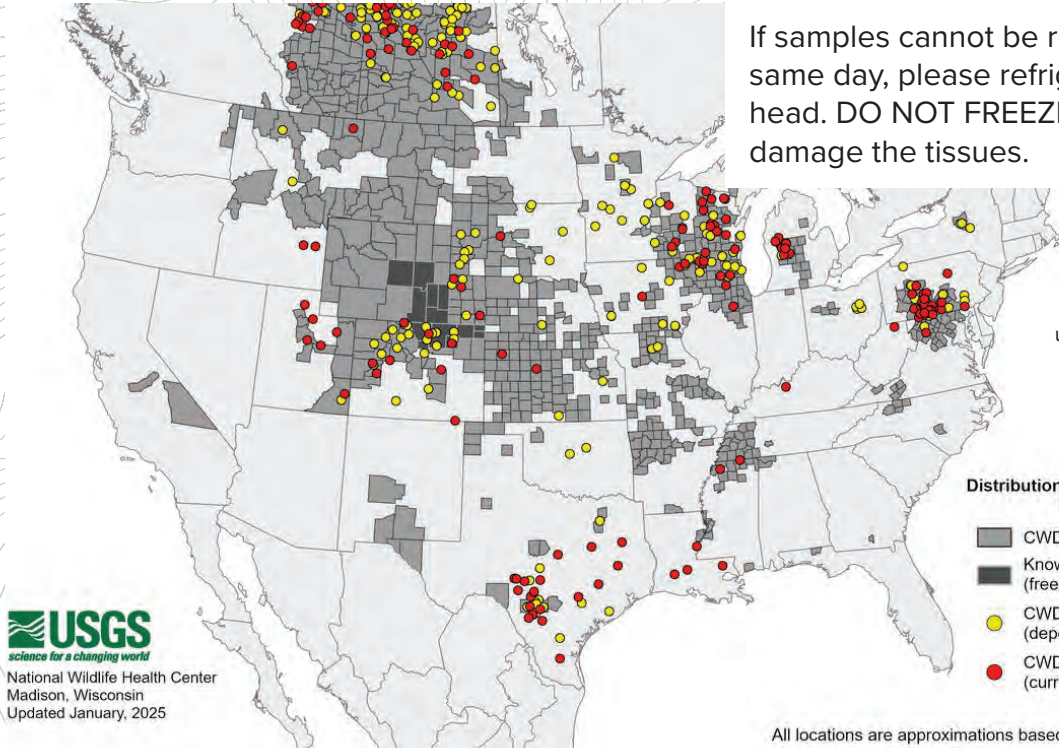
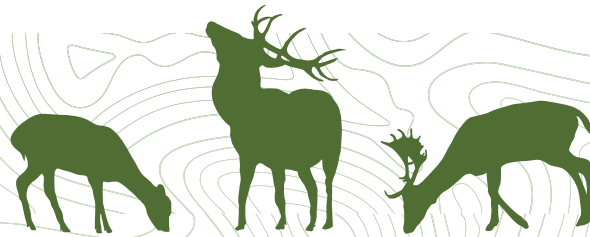
Is there a human health risk?

There is no known transmission of CWD to humans. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that hunters harvesting a deer, elk, or moose from an area where CWD is known to be present have their animal tested for CWD prior to consuming the meat and do not consume the meat if the animal tests positive.

Is CWD in Georgia?

In 2025, the first case of CWD in Georgia was detected in a free-ranging white-tail deer found in Lanier County.

In order to help prevent the spread, Georgia DNR asks citizens to report any illegal importation of live deer. Be sure to dispose of carcasses properly, and do not bring carcasses across state lines.



USGS
science for a changing world
National Wildlife Health Center
Madison, Wisconsin
Updated January, 2025

CWD Sampling

Farmed cervids older than 6 months of age that die or are harvested for meat, are **REQUIRED** to be tested for CWD.

Call the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) Animal Health Office to report any dead or recently harvested animals. The GDA will coordinate sampling efforts.

Phone: (404) 656-3667

If you know that an eligible animal is scheduled to be harvested, contact the GDA in advance so fresh samples can be obtained the same day of harvest.

If samples cannot be retrieved the same day, please refrigerate the entire head. **DO NOT FREEZE**; freezing can damage the tissues.

usgs.gov/media/images/distribution-chronic-wasting-disease-north-america-0

Distribution of Chronic Wasting Disease in North America

- Grey square: CWD in free-ranging populations
- Black square: Known distribution prior to 2000 (free-ranging)
- Yellow circle: CWD in captive facilities (depopulated)
- Red circle: CWD in captive facilities (current)

All locations are approximations based on best-available information