Chronic Wasting Disease

This buck was harvested within the Wayne County Deer Management Zone and while it appears totally healthy, it tested positive for chronic wasting disease. The Iowa DNR is committed to fighting the spread of this 100 percent fatal disease and harvesting infected deer is the best way to slow its spread. Infected deer may not display signs of illness, and testing is the only way to know if a deer is infected.
Partnersing to Fight Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic wasting disease is an always fatal disease impacting deer, elk, moose and caribou, and has been confirmed in every state bordering Iowa. First detected in Allamakee County in 2013, chronic wasting disease has been slowly increasing its footprint to include 12 counties and 163 positive wild deer.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) had been monitoring for the disease since 2002, then increased its effort in the immediate area surrounding any positive detections to help determine the presence and prevalence of the disease. A dynamic quota system has been used to focus increased sample collection in areas near where deer have tested positive, while still securing samples state-wide.

Hunters play a key role in the surveillance by supplying tissue samples to be tested. Lymph nodes near the tonsils from deer at least 1-1/2 years of age are needed. A video showing the collection is available at https://youtu.be/DS1GcDHotsI. Hunters willing to provide a sample are encouraged to contact their local wildlife biologist to arrange for the collection.

The Iowa DNR has created a number of special deer management zones that offer opportunities for hunters who are willing to harvest deer in specific areas.

These deer management zones (right) allow hunters additional opportunities to hunt in a priority area. Licenses purchased from the quota issued to each of these zones do not count against any other statewide or season-specific license choices, which allows hunters to hunt during more seasons. These deer management zone licenses are bonus tags, meaning they are in addition to any other deer season the hunter participates in.

A few areas within these management zones have January incentive hunts. Hunters must pre-certify to participate and purchase tags (see pages 4, 6 & 9). Certified hunters who harvest a minimum of three female deer during one of the January Incentive Zone Hunts earn an any-sex tag for their 2023 regular deer season of choice. Shed bucks, button bucks and spike bucks with no visible fork are legal quarry but will not count towards an incentive license. Hunters must provide tissue samples.

Hunters interested in having their deer tested after the sample quotas are met, or have a fawn or other lower priority deer, have the opportunity to get it tested on their own. Step by step instructions are available at https://www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Deer-Hunting/Deer-Health/Chronic-Wasting-Disease/Hunter-Submission-Pathway. Hunters will need to contact their local wildlife staff (p. 12) to begin the process.
The DNR will collect and submit the sample on their behalf. Hunters will need to complete the submission form online at https://vdl.iastate.edu/portal/Submission/CWD. There is a $25 fee for the laboratory to run the test. Results should be available within seven days.

Though testing for chronic wasting disease is not a food safety test, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends when hunting in areas with chronic wasting disease to strongly consider having the deer tested before eating the meat. If the animal tests positive, do not eat that animal. For further recommendations, refer to information provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Hunters are encouraged to hold the deer meat separately until the test results are back.

**All hunters play a critical role in the management of chronic wasting disease**

- Work with landowners and neighbors to manage deer densities on private lands through legal hunting.
- Submit samples from deer harvested near previously positive detections to make informed consumption decisions.
- Never concentrate deer around feed or minerals.
- Dispose of carcasses in a landfill or at the site where it was harvested.
- Continue to hunt safe, sharing your passion and knowledge.

**Working with Taxidermists**

It is possible to collect a sample from a deer that has been caped and skull capped by the taxidermist. Be sure to let the taxidermist know you are willing to provide a sample.

**Other ways hunters can help**

As a temporary measure, hunters can cover old mineral licks with pallets and surround them with fences to exclude deer. Permanent mitigation requires excavation and soil replacement.


DUBUQUE/JACKSON/JONES DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE – 600 Antlerless Licenses - 2022-23
Regular Deer Seasons. Licenses: Bait Shack 563-582-9395, Tri State Outdoors, 563-582-8514, Silker’s Store 563-876-5575, Kueter True Value 563-872-4459, McDermott Oil, 563-852-3510; or at the Wallace State Office Building in Des Moines.
Successful hunters must call 563-929-6001 regarding tissue sample collection.
Wayne County Deer Management Zone
Corydon Incentive Zone

WAYNE DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE - 50 Antlerless Licenses - 2022-23 Regular and Population Management January Antlerless Deer Seasons. Licenses: Corydon Hy-Vee 641-872-1564, the Wayne County Recorder’s Office 641-872-1676; or Wallace State Office Building in Des Moines. Successful hunters must call 641-203-2970 or email helga.offenburger@dnr.iowa.gov regarding tissue sample collection.

WOODBURY DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE - 200 Antlerless Licenses – 2022-23 Regular Deer Seasons
Successful hunters must call 712-420-2437 or email doug.chafa@iowa.dnr.gov regarding tissue sample collection.
FREMONT / MILLS DEER MANAGEMENT ZONE - 100 Antlerless Licenses – 2022-23 Regular Deer Seasons
Licenses: Mills County Recorder, 712-527-9315, Fremont County Recorder, 712-374-2631, Meg’s Burgers and Brews in Tabor, 712-629-1185 or at Wallace State Office Building in Des Moines. Successful hunters must call 712-350-0147 or email matt.dollison@iowa.dnr.gov regarding tissue sample collection.
1. BLACK HAWK UNIT .......712-661-9726
2. CEDAR-WAPSI UNIT ......319-213-2815
3. CLEAR LAKE UNIT ..........641-425-2814
4. GRAND RIVER UNIT .......515-238-5708
5. GREAT LAKES UNIT ........712-330-4543
6. IOWA RIVER UNIT ..........319-330-7013
7. MAQUOKETA UNIT .........563-357-2035
8. MISSOURI RIVER UNIT ..712-420-2437
9. NISHNABOTNA UNIT ....712-350-0147
10. ODESSA UNIT ..............319-551-8459
11. PRAIRIE LAKES UNIT ...712-330-2563
12. RATHBUN UNIT ..........641-535-6765
13. RED ROCK UNIT ..........515-238-6936
14. SAYLORVILLE UNIT ......712-330-6685
15. SUGEMA UNIT .............641-799-0793
16. UPPER IOWA UNIT ........563-379-5725
For questions concerning wildlife damage to private property, contact the depredation staff for your county, listed on the map below.
For an updated status of CWD testing and results, go to  [www.iowadnr.gov/cwdresults](http://www.iowadnr.gov/cwdresults)
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
Federal and State law prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, mental and/or physical disability, gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation in employment and public accommodation. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 1-800-457-4416, or write to:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management,
MS: ODIWM, Attention: Public Civil Rights,
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, Virginia 22041
(or via email at publiccivilrights@fws.gov)

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS & ALTERNATIVE FORMATS
If you need accommodations to access the DNR’s programs or services because of a disability, requests may be made by contacting your local field office or the department’s ADA coordinator at 515-725-8200.

This information is available in alternative formats upon request by contacting the DNR at 515-725-8200. TTY users - Contact Relay Iowa at 800-735-2942.