

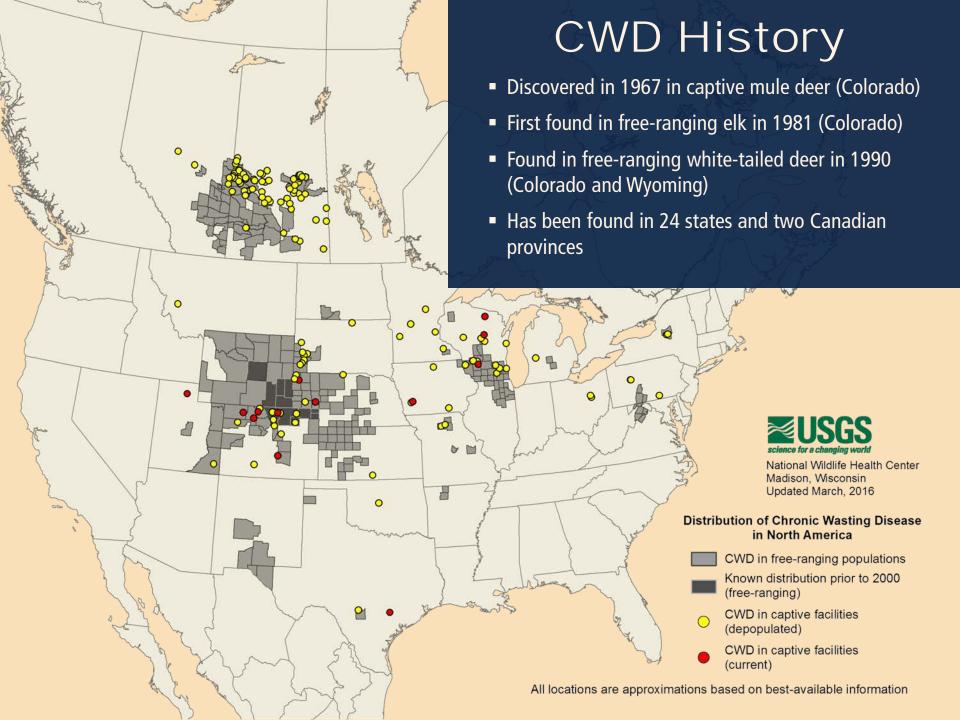


Chronic Wasting Disease

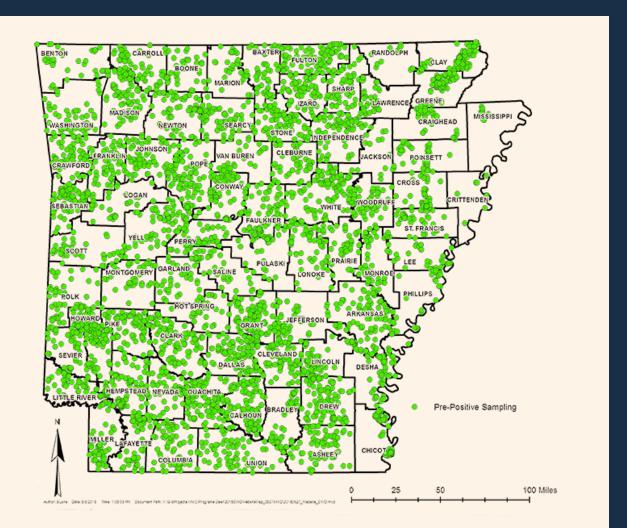
What is CWD?

- Fatal neurological disease similar to mad cow disease, but only found in cervids (deer, elk, moose and caribou).
- Not spread by a virus, bacteria or fungus, but by a type of mutated protein (prion) that withstands chemicals, enzymes, time and extreme temperatures.
 - Prions are found in saliva, feces, urine, blood and decaying carcasses of infected animals.
 - Once in a location, disease is present indefinitely.
 - Prions can be shed within six months of infection, but clinical symptoms typically don't appear until 18-60 months after infection.





What has AGFC Done to Test for and Prevent CWD in Arkansas?



- Prohibited importation of live cervids and cervid carcasses into the state, beginning in 2002
- More than 8,387 deer samples have been taken since 2003.
- Extensive testing done from 2003-2010, with no CWDpositive cases.
- Search method refined to concentrate tests on most likely sources of disease introduction

CWD Detected in Arkansas





2.5-year old female elk harvested Oct. 6, 2015 CWD sample tested as part of annual surveillance

2.5-year old female deer found near Ponca Feb. 2, 2016



Response Phase I

March 14-24

Determine how prevalent CWD is where it was discovered

- 266 animals randomly tested in 125,000-acre focal area
- 23% observed prevalence rate

FULTON GREENE MISSISSIPPI CRAIGHEAD WASHINGTON NDEPENDENCE CLEBURNE FRANKLIN POINSETT CRITTENDE ST. FRANCIS SCOTT PRAIRIE MONTGOMERY MONROE LONOKE POLK ARKANSAS HOWARD GRANT LINCOLN DESHA HEMPSTEAD NEVADA **CWD Samples OUACHITA** DREW BRADLEY CALHOUN Positive Negative Submitted CHICOT ASHLEY COLUMBIA 100 Miles

Response Phase II

March 25-Present

Determine how far CWD has spread geographically

- Ongoing roadkill and targeted sample testing (more than 1,300 samples so far)
- CWD detected in Boone, Carroll, Madison, Newton and Pope counties.

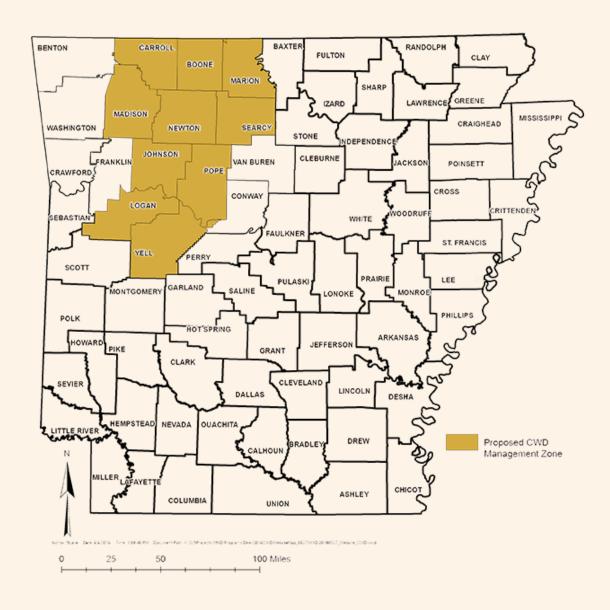
	Not Detected	POSITIVE	Totals	Prevalance
Doe	152	37	189	20%
1-1.5	13	3	16	19%
2-2.5	52	12	64	19%
3-3.5	22	10	32	31%
4-4.5	16	2	18	11%
5-5.5	33	6	39	15%
Fawn	16	4	20	20%
Bucks	52	25	77	32%
1-1.5	9	3	12	25%
2-2.5	16	12	28	43%
3-3.5	6	1	7	14%
4-4.5	1	1	2	50%
Fawn	20	8	28	29%
Grand Total	204	62	266	23%

Causes for Concern

- No state has been able to stop or eliminate CWD, just slow its spread
- CWD found in 20% of female fawns and 29% of male fawns in focal area
 - These deer could die from CWD before reproducing
- Extremely few bucks 4.5 years and older in focal area
 - Possibility that CWD is already impacting buck segment
- Uncharted territory
 - Only agency to start at such a high local prevalence rate
 - Only agency in East with CWD-positive wild elk and deer

Goals for Managing CWD

- Reduce concentrations of deer to slow the rate the disease spreads
- Reduce overall deer density to slow the rate the disease spreads
- Encourage hunters to harvest deer and elk that are the most likely to disperse and spread disease naturally
- Reduce chances of people moving the disease to new areas
- Increase monitoring to determine effectiveness of efforts



Proposals to Slow Spread of CWD

- 1. Establish a CWD management zone where CWD is confirmed or likely.
- a. Landowners within zone will be issued extra tags to help decrease deer density.
- b. Landowners will be required to submit samples of harvested deer for testing.
- c. Deer and elk killed in zone must remain within zone, except deboned meat, cleaned skull plates, hides, teeth and taxidermy products.



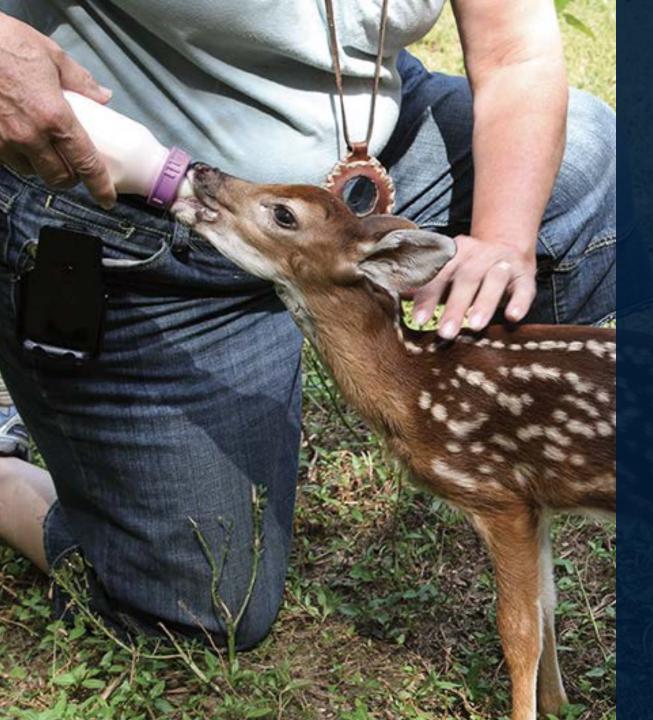
Proposals to Slow Spread of CWD

- 2. Prohibit feeding of wildlife within CWD management zone, except:
- a. Allow baiting for deer on private land from Oct. 1-Dec. 31 for hunting
- b. Allow food plots
- c. Allow incidental feeding of wildlife during active livestock operations
- d. Allow backyard bird feeding
- e. Allow grain scattered or distributed from normal agricultural practices or soil stabilization practices
- f. Allow feeding of wildlife by hand (i.e. ducks at the pond)
- g. Allow bait placed for AGFCapproved management, research and control of wildlife



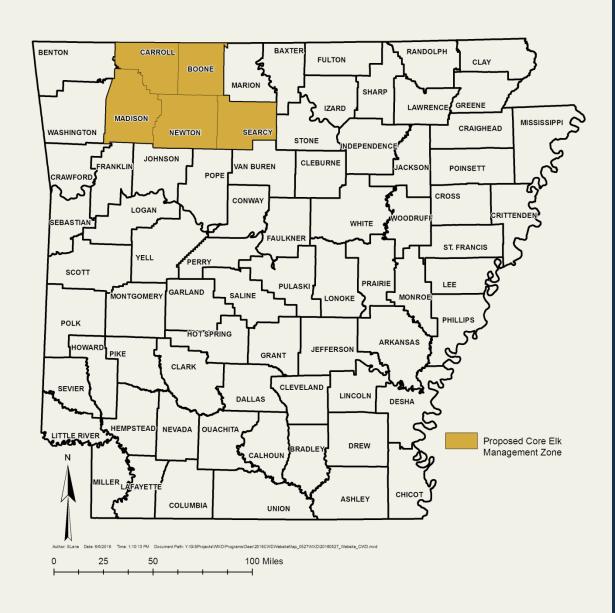
Proposals to Slow Spread of CWD

- 3. Liberalize season structure on public and private land where CWD is present
- a. Increase bag limits to encourage more harvest.
- b. Remove antler restrictions to encourage more harvest.



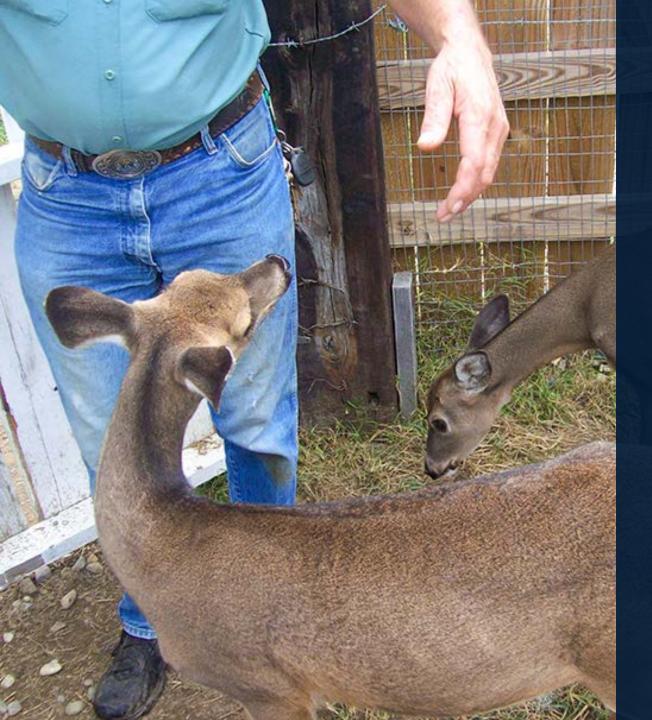
Proposals to Prevent New Areas with CWD

- 4. Prohibit the use of scents and lures containing natural deer urine statewide
- 5. Prohibit rehabilitation of deer statewide



Proposals to Prevent New Areas with CWD

- 6. Create core elk management zone
- a. Boone, Carroll, Madison, Newton and Searcy counties
- b. Allow hunters outside of zone to take any elk they see during deer seasons with a limit of one elk, either sex.
- c. Require all harvested elk inside and outside of zone to be submitted for testing.
- d. Increase elk quota on private land within core elk zone to decrease elk density.



Proposals to Increase CWD Monitoring

- 7. Create a non-commercial hunting enclosure permit for high-fence deer facilities
- a. Require CWD samples for all deer that die within facility
- b. Require annual inspections
- c. Require accurate harvest records
- d. No new facilities permitted after July 1, 2017