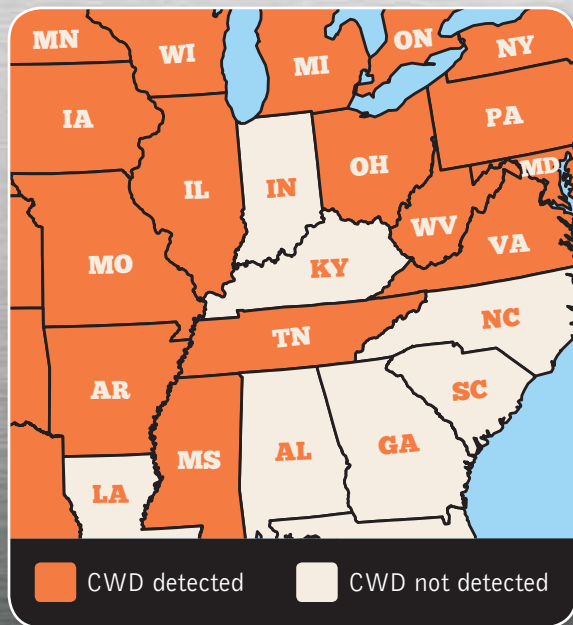


What you should know about Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal brain disease caused by abnormal proteins called prions. This disease, which affects deer, elk, moose and caribou, is spreading across the country.

Since 2002, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has CWD-tested more than 30,000 deer and elk from every county in the state. Hunters contributed the majority of animals for testing. Chronic wasting disease has not been detected in Kentucky.



Updated 2019



If you see sick deer or elk:

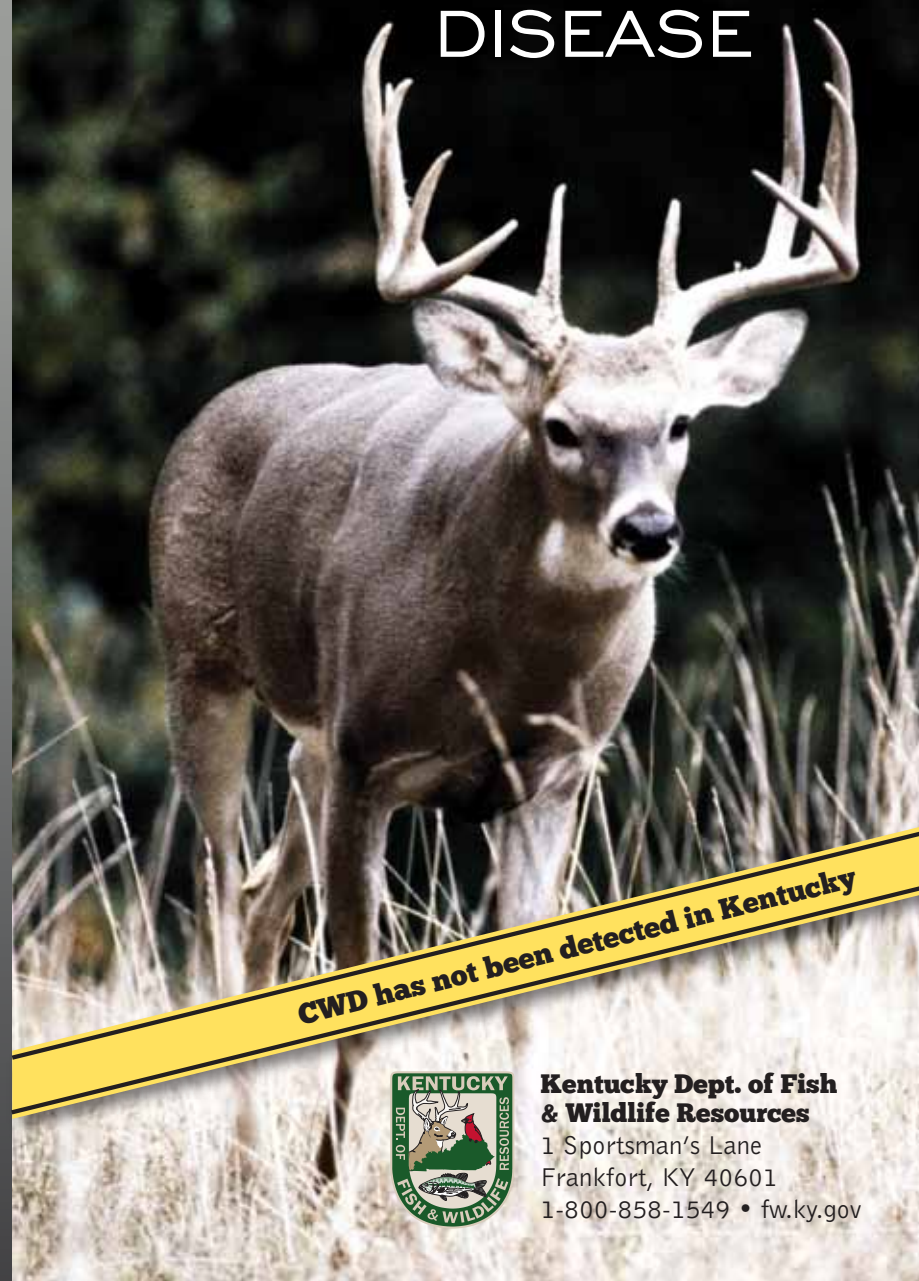
Report animals acting strangely or appearing ill to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources at 1-800-858-1549. Business hours are 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Eastern), Monday-Friday, excluding holidays. Outside of business hours, call 1-800-25-ALERT. Do not harvest or handle these animals.

Get the latest news about chronic wasting disease online at fw.ky.gov/cwd

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Chronic Wasting Disease



CWD has not been detected in Kentucky



Kentucky Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Resources
1 Sportsman's Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601
1-800-858-1549 • fw.ky.gov

What we know about CWD

- It is always fatal.
- There is no vaccine or treatment.
- Deer and elk may be infected for years before they show symptoms.
- CWD cannot be eliminated once it contaminates an area.
- Deer and elk can contract the disease from plants and soil in contaminated areas.
- There are no reliable tests for live animals.
- The latest research indicates CWD is not transmissible to people or livestock.
- CWD is spread through direct contact between animals (bodily fluids).
- Infected deer can transmit the disease, even if they do not exhibit symptoms.
- CWD has spread to more than half the states in the country since it was first recorded in Colorado in the 1960s.



How could CWD impact Kentucky?

- Deer and elk hunting contribute an estimated \$550 million to Kentucky's economy each year. Other states show an initial 10-percent drop in hunter participation following the detection of CWD. Not only could it impact our state's economy, but it could hinder deer management efforts in the short term.
- The spread of CWD in western states caused declines in deer and elk numbers.



Symptoms include weight loss, listlessness, lowered head, blank stare, excessive salivation and staggering or circling.

Photo courtesy Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

There is no evidence that CWD affects humans, but it's still important to take common-sense precautions such as those listed below:

Precaution Suggestions

	Hunters	Taxidermists	Deer Processors
Do not harvest or handle animals that appear sick or unhealthy	✓		✓
Wear latex or rubber gloves to minimize exposure	✓	✓	✓
Bone out all meat and avoid severing bones	✓		✓
Minimize handling of brain, tonsils, spinal cord, and lymph glands	✓	✓	✓
Thoroughly clean hands and sanitize tools	✓	✓	✓
Do not consume brain, spinal cord, and lymph glands (may be found in fatty tissue)	✓		
Process deer individually, and add no meat from other animals	✓		✓
Do not split the backbone	✓		✓
Designate one tool for removal of head	✓		✓

How can you help prevent the spread of CWD into Kentucky?

- If you see any deer or elk that appear sick, report them to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife by calling 1-800-858-1549 (or 1-800-25-ALERT outside of business hours).
- It is illegal to bring into Kentucky any carcass of any species of deer, elk, caribou or moose harvested outside of the state. More than a dozen other states have similar bans in place.
- Quartered or boned-out meat from these species may be brought into Kentucky.

- Report illegal importation of deer, elk and related species, or their carcasses, to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-25-ALERT or 1-800-858-1549.
- Donate the head of Kentucky-harvested deer or elk to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife for testing. The department tests nearly 2,000 hunter harvested animals for CWD each year.

