

Chronic Wasting Disease

This month's Missouri Conservation Magazine has an article on the feeding ban which explains how feeding deer helps to spread the disease.

A few years ago we lost about half of our local herd to the hemorrhagic disease (blue tongue). One of the ways it was being spread was people putting out salt blocks for the deer. This practice does two things. One is obvious one infected deer licks the salt and leaves germs and a healthy deer licks it and gets infected. The other is the salt or other deer food causes deer to congregate closer to each other than they would normally would and a disease gets spread through insects or other means. Mother nature has created a system where each of her animals have a territory and it is usually based on the amount of food source in a given geographical area. When we add some really desirable and easily attainable food we upset that balance. When we upset that balance there are consequences and they are usually negative.

Chronic Wasting Disease is a horrible disease the animal slowly deteriorates and dies. It is fairly new to Missouri. A wildlife farm in northern Missouri brought in some animals from the western part of the country and they were infected and escaped from the farm and infected their local wild herd. Now it is spreading across the state. The MCD is doing what they can to slow down the spread but need the public's help. This advisory is just one part of that effort.

The following bulletin was published by the MCD last month.

Chronic Wasting Disease

MDC expands deer feeding ban to 41 counties in response to CWD

Placing food or minerals for deer is now prohibited in 12 more counties starting July 1 to help limit the spread of chronic wasting disease.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has expanded restrictions on feeding deer and placing minerals for deer from 29 to 41 counties throughout the state, effective July 1. The goal of the expanded feeding ban is to help limit the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD). The 41 counties comprise MDC’s CWD Management Zone. MDC designates counties in and around where CWD has been found as part of its CWD Management Zone.

The 12 new counties are: Barry, Benton, Cedar, Dade, Hickory, Ozark, Polk, St. Clair, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Stone, and Taney. They were added in response to finding CWD in Jefferson and St Clair counties during MDC’s sampling efforts last season, and the finding of CWD last year in hundreds of deer in northwest Arkansas near the Missouri border.

According to the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*, the placement of grain, salt products, minerals, and other consumable natural and manufactured products used to attract deer is prohibited year-round within counties of the CWD Management Zone. Exceptions are feed placed within 100 feet of any residence or occupied building, feed placed in such a manner to reasonably exclude access by deer, and feed and minerals present solely as a result of normal agricultural or forest management, or crop and wildlife food production practices.

The 12 new counties join these 29 existing counties of the Department’s CWD Management Zone: Adair, Boone, Callaway, Carroll, Chariton, Cole, Cooper, Crawford, Franklin, Gasconade, Jefferson, Knox, Linn, Livingston, Macon, Miller, Moniteau, Morgan, Osage, Putnam, Randolph, Schuyler, Scotland, Shelby, St. Charles, St. Louis, Sullivan, Warren, and Washington.

“CWD is spread from deer to deer and the potential for transmission increases when deer gather in larger, concentrated numbers,” said MDC Wildlife Disease Coordinator Jasmine Batten. “Feeding deer or placing minerals for deer unnaturally concentrates the animals and can help spread the deadly disease.”

Fall Mandatory Sampling in 25 Counties

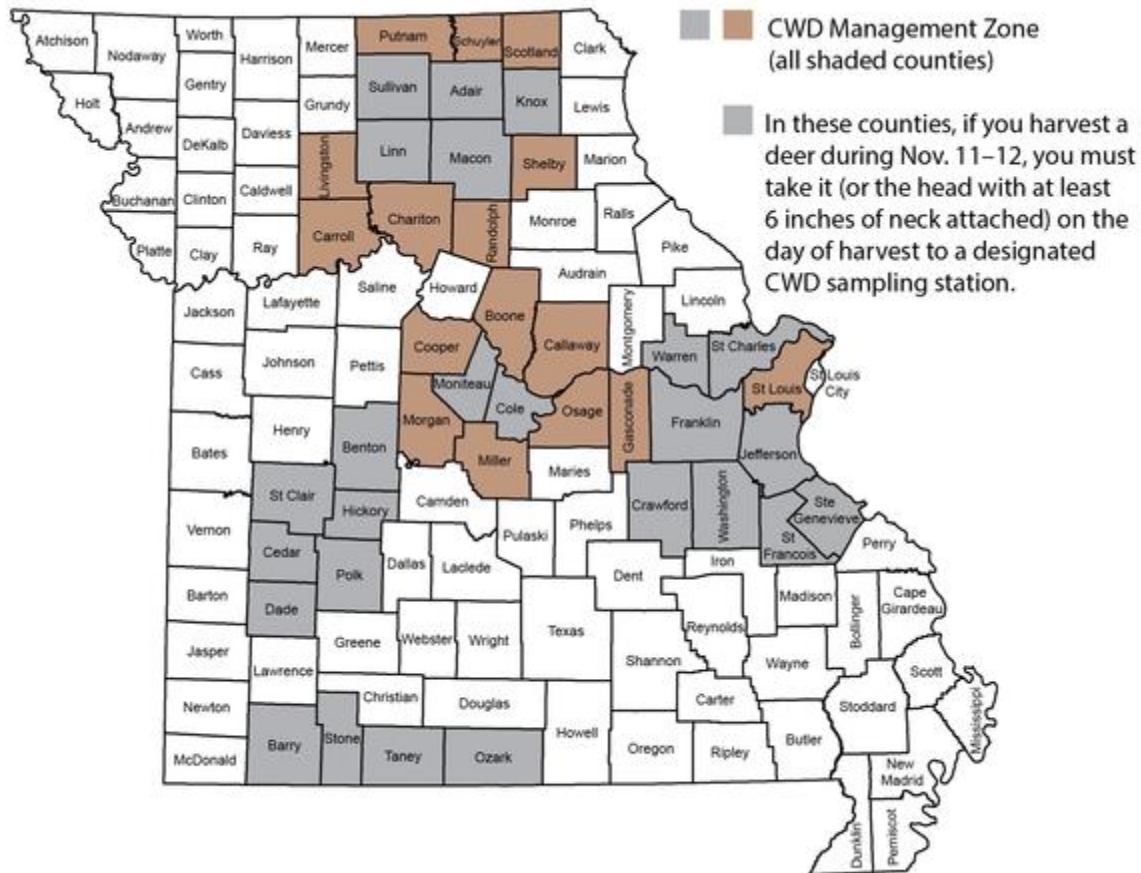
As part of its efforts to find and limit the spread of CWD, MDC will again require hunters who harvest deer in any of 25 select counties of the CWD Management Zone during the opening weekend of the November portion of the firearms deer season (Nov. 11 and 12) to present their harvested deer at one of 56 MDC sampling stations so tissue samples can be taken to test the animals for CWD.

The 25 mandatory CWD sampling counties include new counties added to the CWD Management Zone, counties with previous CWD positives, and counties very near previous positives. They are: Adair, Barry, Benton, Cedar, Cole, Crawford, Dade, Franklin, Hickory, Jefferson, Knox, Linn, Macon, Moniteau, Ozark, Polk, St. Charles, St. Clair, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Stone, Sullivan, Taney, Warren, and Washington.

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MDC will also continue to offer voluntary CWD sampling opportunities throughout the 2017-2018 deer hunting season at more than 55 participating taxidermists and designated MDC offices around the state.

Additional information is available in MDC's *2017 Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information* booklet, available starting in July where permits are sold and online at mdc.mo.gov.



MDC has expanded restrictions on feeding and placing minerals for deer to 41 counties. MDC will also require mandatory sampling of deer harvested during opening weekend of the November portion of the firearms deer season. It will be limited to 25 counties and is being done to collect tissues samples for CWD testing.