Addressing conservation challenges, such as CWD, requires active involvement of those with a passion for our rich natural resources. A primary goal of CWD response and management efforts is to determine the geographic extent and prevalence of the disease. MDWFP asks hunters to aid in this effort by submitting deer for testing during the 2020–2021 white-tailed deer hunting season. The test used to determine the presence of CWD requires a portion of the deer’s brainstem or lymph nodes. Harvested animals should remain cool or be frozen until testing to reduce decomposition and provide accurate results.

Further, hunters and landowners can help monitor for CWD by actively looking for and reporting potential diseased or sick deer. For more information, visit MDWFP.com/cwd.
CWD Best Management Practices

The following Best Management Practices (BMP) are recommended for minimizing potential environmental and human exposure to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) while handling carcasses and processing the meat from white-tailed deer. These BMPs are established on a foundation of abundant caution given the many unknowns regarding CWD. For more information about CWD, please visit mdwfp.com/cwd.

Supplemental Feeding and Carcass Transportation Ban

• Supplemental feeding is banned in any CWD Management Zone (salt licks, mineral licks, and feeders).
  Direct contact with prions is the most effective means of transmitting CWD. Research indicates saliva may have the highest concentration of prions. Thus, to minimize concentration of deer and potential spread of CWD, supplemental feeding is banned within any CWD Management Zone.
• Carcasses may not be transported outside of any CWD Management Zone.
  Research has shown that decomposed carcasses of infected animals can also contribute to transmission when prions bind to soil and plant material. Thus, movement of carcasses may introduce CWD into previously uninfected areas. Only the below products may leave the CWD Management Zone:
  - Cut/wrapped meat (commercially or privately)
  - Deboned meat
  - Hides with no head attached
  - Finished taxidermy
  - Antlers with no tissue attached
  - Cleaned skulls or skull plates (no brain tissue)

General Precautions

• Inspect body condition of each deer at the time of harvest. Do not consume any part of animals exhibiting clinical symptoms of CWD, including extreme weight loss, excessive salivation, or erratic behavior.
• Please report any deer that appears to be diseased by completing a diseased deer report at mdwfp.com/cwd or call 1-800-BE-SMART.
• Avoid using natural deer urine attractants, as they may carry prions from infected deer. Hunters who prefer to use lures or attractants may wish to select an artificial or food based scent.
• To minimize direct contact with infectious prions, it is recommended to not establish feeders, bait sites, mineral sites, or otherwise cause unnatural concentration of deer.

Cleaning and Processing a Harvested Deer

Field Dressing:
• Wear rubber or latex gloves when handling carcasses.
• When field dressing an animal, leave internal organs and inedible parts at the site of harvest.
• Avoid sawing through bone, spinal cord, brain, lymph nodes, or spleen.
• Store all portions of the animal to be transported in a container such as a cooler, bin, or bag that will not leak bodily fluids into the environment.

Meat Processing:
• Do not process a deer that appears to be diseased.
• Process all deer individually, package separately, and label uniquely.
• Debone meat from deer and remove all fat, connective tissue, and lymph nodes.
• Avoid sawing through bone, spinal cord, brain, lymph nodes, or spleen.
• Avoid eating/handling the eyes, brain, spinal cord, spleen, and lymph nodes.
• Limit the amount of bodily fluids going to an area, such as a floor drain, that cannot be properly sanitized after use.

Disposal:
• Deer parts should not be rendered for use in feed for other animals, or used as compost.
• Recommended disposal methods for unwanted portions of carcasses (bones, organs, etc.) are:
  • Leave at the harvest site;
  • Double-bag and send to an approved, lined landfill; or
  • Deep burial (8 feet or deeper).

Equipment Cleaning:
• Clean processing equipment between each deer.
• Thoroughly sanitize all equipment and workstations with a 50:50 solution of bleach and water.
• Soak tools for one hour in the bleach solution, and then rinse thoroughly with hot water.
North Mississippi CWD Zone includes:
- Alcorn, Benton, Carroll, Desoto, Grenada, Lafayette, Lee, Leflore, Marshall, Panola, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Quitman, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tippah, Union, and Yalobusha counties

If you observe a deer you suspect may be sick, report it to MDWFP at 1-800-BE-SMART or visit MDWFP.com/cwd.
MDWFP has established collection sites across the state for the general public to deposit deer heads for testing. All season long, freezers will be at each site for depositing deer heads.

Hunters should preserve the head with at least 6 inches of neck attached. Antlers and skull plate may be removed without affecting the lymph nodes used for testing. If antlers are not removed, they cannot be returned to the hunter.
During the 2020–2021 hunting season, all deer harvested in the respective counties and dates listed below must be submitted for CWD sampling by 10 p.m. on the day of harvest.

Permanent freezers will be available during these weekends, as well as the below respective temporary freezer sites and physical check stations.

Hunters should preserve the head with at least 6 inches of neck attached. Antlers and skull plate may be removed without affecting the lymph nodes used for testing. If antlers are not removed, they cannot be returned to the hunter.

### CWD ZONES
Nov. 21–22, 2020

**TEMPORARY FREEZERS**

1. Prentiss County Ag Center
   2901 N 2nd Street
   Booneville, MS 38829

2. Tate County Barn
   18670 Hwy 4
   Senatobia, MS 38668

3. Fire Department #4
   308 MS Hwy 7
   Greenwood, MS 38930

4. USFS Office
   68 Frontage Rd
   Rolling Fork, MS 39159

**CHECK STATIONS**

1. Byhalia VFD
   114 MS-309 N
   Byhalia, MS 38611

2. North Benton VFD
   3491 Hwy 7
   Lamar, MS 38642

3. Batesville Civic Center
   290 Civic Center Dr
   Batesville, MS 38606

4. Ecru Fire Department
   154 Main Street
   Ecru, MS 38841

5. MDOT Maintenance HQ
   32950 Hwy 32
   Tillatoba, MS 38961

6. Communications Specialist
   760 Hwy 61 North
   Vicksburg, MS 39183

### SW REGION
Jan. 2–3, 2021

**TEMPORARY FREEZERS**

1. Canemount WMA
   17059 Redney Rd
   Port Gibson, MS 39150

2. Brookhaven Building
   1154 Belt Line Rd
   Brookhaven, MS 39601

3. Southwest Event Center Arena
   29 Hwy 48 East
   Tylertown, MS 39667

**CHECK STATIONS**

1. James Givens Ag Building
   1S65 FE Sellers Hwy
   Monticello, MS 39654

2. Auto Repair Shop
   4215 Hwy 24
   Liberty, MS 39645

### SE REGION
Jan. 16–17, 2021

**TEMPORARY FREEZERS**

1. Emergency Operations Center
   615 Court St
   Waynesboro, MS 39367

2. Lake Perry
   281 Lake Perry Rd
   Beaumont, MS 39423

3. Marion County WMA
   652 Game Reserve Rd
   Columbia, MS 39429

4. MSU Extension Office
   7128 Hwy 198
   Lucedale, MS 39452

5. USFS Experiment Station
   23332 Success Road
   Saucier, MS 39574

**CHECK STATIONS**

1. Byhalia VFD
   114 MS-309 N
   Byhalia, MS 38611

2. North Benton VFD
   3491 Hwy 7
   Lamar, MS 38642

3. Batesville Civic Center
   290 Civic Center Dr
   Batesville, MS 38606

4. Ecru Fire Department
   154 Main Street
   Ecru, MS 38841

5. MDOT Maintenance HQ
   32950 Hwy 32
   Tillatoba, MS 38961

6. Communications Specialist
   760 Hwy 61 North
   Vicksburg, MS 39183

7. MSU Extension Office
   68 Collins Industrial Park Drive
   Collins, MS 39428

8. FC Multi-purpose Center
   962 Sullivan Dr.
   Hattiesburg, MS 39401

9. MSU Extension Office
   214 N. Critz St.
   Wiggins, MS 39577
CWD MANDATORY
SAMPLING DATES
2020/2021 DEER SEASON

- CWD ZONES Nov. 21-22, 2020
- SW REGION Jan. 2-3, 2021
- SE REGION Jan. 16-17, 2021
CWD is one of many conservation challenges that has arisen over the last century. Hunters are vital to successfully managing CWD and ensuring healthy white-tailed deer herds for future generations. MDWFP thanks all hunters for continuing to stay actively engaged in this conservation effort!

Front cover photography: Paul T. Brown