

Chronic Wasting Disease in Deer

What hunters should know and how to get involved

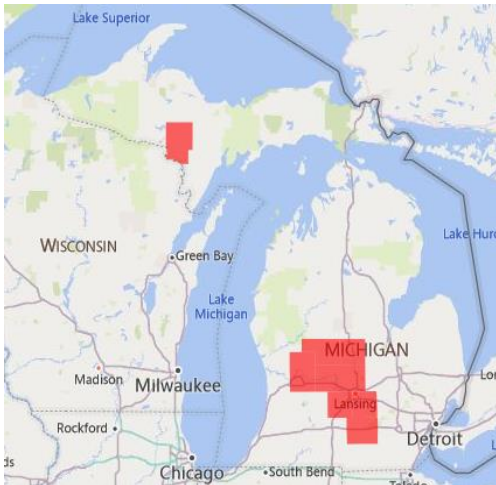
LRBOI Wildlife Program

231-723-1594

What is chronic wasting disease (CWD)?

A deadly disease in cervids, such as deer and moose, that affects the brain and nervous system, caused by a contagious, misshapen protein (prion).

- Similar to mad cow disease, scrapie in sheep, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans.
- It spreads from direct contact, body fluids and antler velvet, and can stay in the environment for years.



CWD in Free Ranging Deer (Map: MDNR)



How do you know if a deer has CWD?

You often can't. It can take 2-5 years for a deer to look sick, they can appear healthy and still carry CWD.

Symptoms can include:

- Being very skinny, loss of muscle
- Drooling or salivating a lot
- Unusual behavior such as:
 - Not being afraid of people
 - Stumbling, trembling
 - Drooping head or ears

Are people at risk for CWD?

It is unclear if people can get CWD, but currently it is NOT recommended to eat venison from sick or CWD positive deer

The riskiest parts of a deer include:

- Brain
- Spinal cord
- Spleen
- Lymph nodes

Wear gloves and avoid these organs as much as possible!

LRBOI members can have your deer tested for CWD, to protect your family and help monitor the health of our deer.

In exchange, you will be given a **free box of copper ammunition**. Contact NRD Wildlife Program for more details.

Making the Switch to Copper Bullets:

Protecting your family and our environment from lead poisoning

What happens when you hunt using lead or copper bullets?

- Lead bullets shatter on impact, spreading tiny fragments through most of the animal's body, including the meat and guts
- Copper bullets stay together and mushroom out on impact, and will more easily go through bones



X-ray of an animal shot with lead, notice how far the bright white spots of metal spread in the body (Photo: The Scavenger Hunt)

How are eagles hurt by lead?

Eagles will scavenge gut piles left behind by hunters, and are very sensitive to lead



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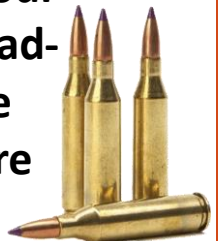
A copper bullet on the left and a lead bullet on the right after a shooting demonstration (Photo: Paul A. Smith / Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)

What happens if your family eats lead fragments in meat?

- At certain levels in the blood, lead can be very toxic to people
- During pregnancy it can cause low birth-weight babies, premature births, miscarriages, and stillbirths
- In babies and children under 6, even small amounts can cause lifelong learning disabilities, and stunted growth

There's no safe amount of lead during pregnancy or for children under 6

LRBOI Deer hunters: bring us your deer heads for a FREE box of lead-free copper bullets. Contact the LRBOI Wildlife Program for more details



CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE



**Testing now
available**

All testing is FREE, and samples can be exchanged for a box of ammo. Contact NRD Wildlife Program for more details

**DEER HEADS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE
LRBOI NRD OFFICE:**

**310 9th Street
Manistee, MI 49660**

CONTINUES THROUGH THE ENTIRE 2021/22 SEASON