

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

Stephen M. Schmitt, D.V.M.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Disease Laboratory

&

Chad Stewart

Deer, Elk, and Moose Specialist, Wildlife Division

Michigan Department of Natural Resources



Wyoming deer



Colorado elk



History of Index Case

- On May 20, 2015, the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab received confirmation a skinny six year old whitetail doe was infected with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).
- The doe had been wandering unafraid of humans in a neighborhood in Meridian Township, Ingham County.
- This was the first confirmed CWD-positive wild deer in Michigan. A captive whitetail doe from Kent County was positive in 2008.



History of Index Case

- DNR had tested >34,000 deer, 1,600 elk and 70 moose prior to the positive deer, and they were all negative.
- Genetic tests at MSU suggest the positive wild doe was local.
- How the doe was infected is unknown, it's possible the disease was either brought in with an infected live deer, or in a contaminated carcass from out of state.
- Given CWD's long incubation, the deer was likely infected sometime in or before 2013.



CWD as a Disease

- CWD is a slowly progressive neurological disease occurring only in the deer family.
- It is related to, but distinct from, other transmissible spongiform encephalopathies like Mad Cow Disease in cattle, scrapie in sheep, and Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease in humans.
- Research to date has not shown it to be naturally transmissible to humans or other animals besides cervids.
- Like other TSEs, CWD is caused by prions, infectious proteins.



CWD as a Disease

- Prions can be transmitted directly by contact with an infected animal or its carcass, or indirectly from contact with items or areas contaminated by an infected animal.
- Once contaminated, prions stay infectious in the soil for years.
- Infected animals take 18 months or longer to show signs of sickness, but are infectious all that time.
- They always die, and currently there is no effective treatment or vaccine.



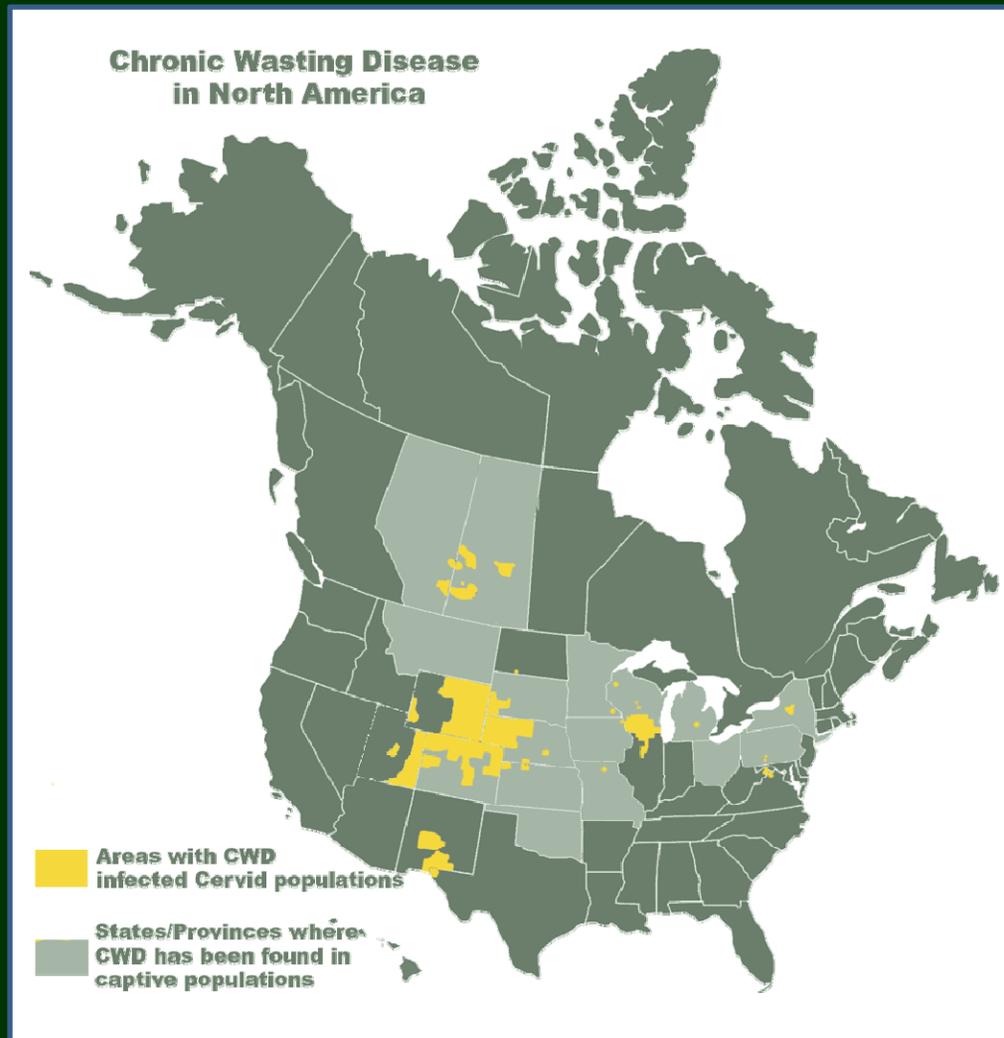
Management Prognosis

- Recent (March 2014) research from Wisconsin's established core outbreak area suggests that under current harvest management there, about half of adult bucks and 25% of adult does will likely be infected within 10 years.
- In Wisconsin, geographic spread is relatively slow (a little less than a mile per year).



Occurrences of CWD in North America

CWD has been found in:



Free-ranging wild cervids
20 States
2 Canadian Provinces

Privately owned captive
cervid facilities(POCs)
14 States
2 Canadian Provinces



Michigan's CWD Surveillance and Response Plan was created in 2002 and updated in 2012.

Fundamental Goals of the Plan:

1. Early identification of the disease.
2. Once found, limit further transmission.
3. We will immediately begin testing deer in Meridian Township to determine prevalence and distribution of the disease.
4. Then eradication of CWD if results of surveillance suggest that it is likely to be achievable.



Michigan's CWD Surveillance and Response Plan

Implementation of the Plan:

1. Complete a population survey
2. Establish a CWD Management Zone
3. Implement a deer feeding and baiting ban
4. Prohibit the movement of deer or deer parts from the CWD Management Zone
5. Intensify surveillance efforts on free-ranging deer within the zone, with mandatory check and CWD testing of all deer

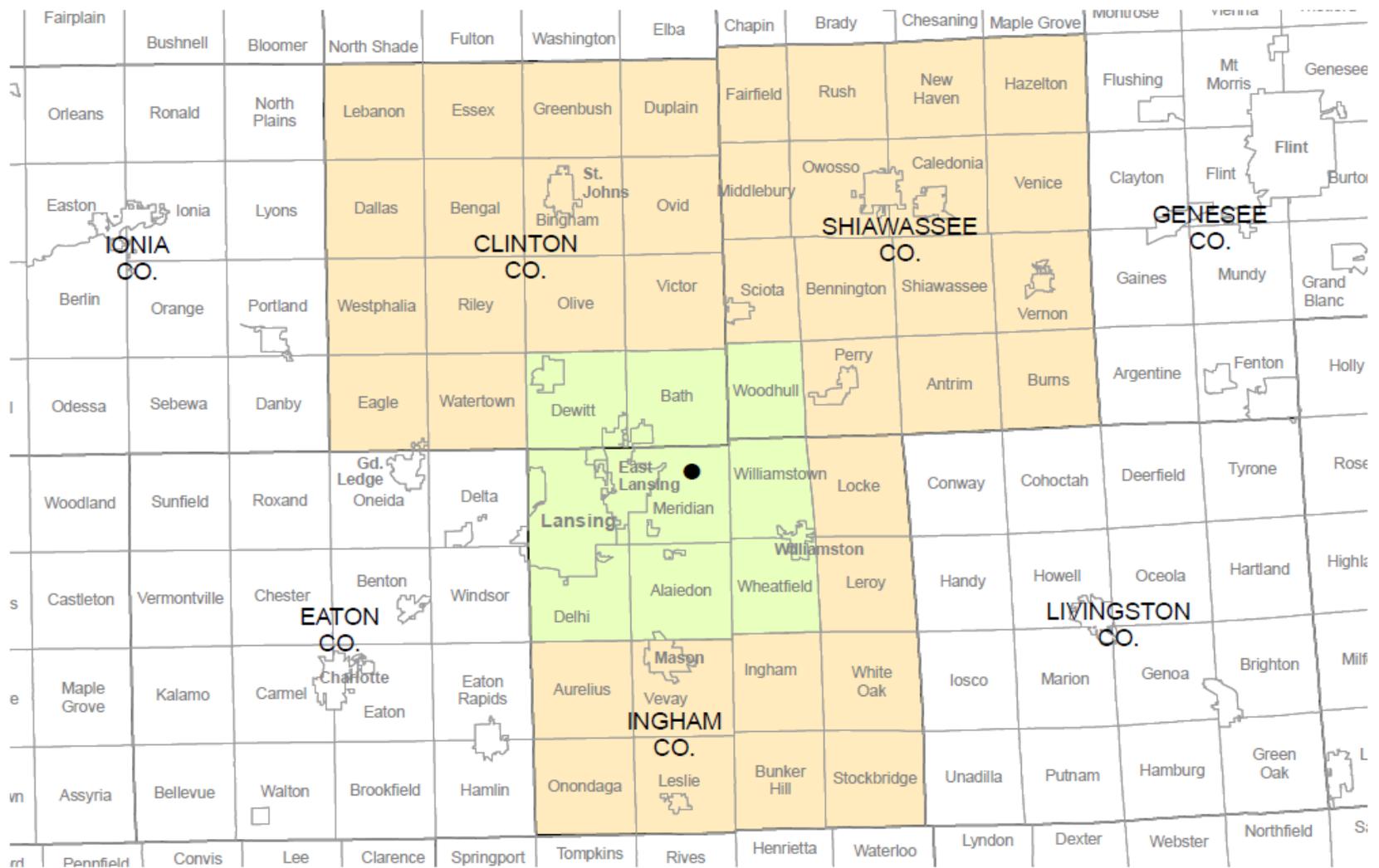


Surveillance Results to Date

- 4 targeted deer
- 54 road-killed deer
- 11 deer from Wildlife Services
- 6 landowners have been issued Disease Control Permits

No CWD detected in any additional samples to date!





● Location of CWD Positive Deer

Core CWD Area

CWD Management Zone

CWD Management Zone

- Interim Order of the Director:
 - Creation of CWD Management Zone
 - Clinton, Ingham, and Shiawassee counties
 - Open for early antlerless deer season
 - Ban on baiting and feeding
 - Increased license quotas
 - Order expires in 6 months
- Director authorized
 - Reduced antlerless license fees (40%)



DMU 333: Core CWD Area

- Interim Order of the Director:
 - Incident township and 8 surrounding townships
- Additional restrictions include
 - Mandatory deer check
 - Carcass transportation restrictions SC(1)
 - Citizens cannot salvage road-killed deer



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SC(1)

Not sure if this will be included or not. I think I heard they were talking about lifting this restriction after a deer was checked in.

Stewart, Chad (DNR), 06/09/2015

Importance of Hunters

- Cooperation and participation from hunters will be critical in combating this disease
- Continue supporting Meridian Township's urban deer management program
- Hunters will know disease status of their deer



Thank You

www.michigan.gov/CWD



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

James Averill, DVM, PhD
State Veterinarian and Division Director
Animal Industry Division
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

&

Barbara Avers
Waterfowl and Wetlands Specialist
Wildlife Division
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

