Ongoing Research Division of Wildlife researchers and biologistare studying chronic wasting disease on numer-
disease.
date after contracting variant Creutzfeldt Jakob
nearly /20,000 infected cattle during a 10-year neriod approximately 120 humans have died to
outbreak and the fact that the British consumed
cattle herds in Great Britain. Through that
disease, which has been linked to the large-scale
million people; and variant Creutzfeldt Jakob
occurs naturally in about one out of every one
family, there are also two main variants that
wasting disease in deer and elk. Within the
referred to as "mad cow disease"); and chronic
spongiform encephalopathy in cattle (sometimes
animals: scraple, which has been identified in sheen for more than 200 years: boying
there are three predominant variants that affect
encephalopathies. Within this family of diseases,
of diseases known as transmissible spongiform
Chronic wasting disease belongs to a family
Other Similar Diseases
deer and elk killed in infected units.
their meat and consume only muscle tissue of
deer and elk, thus hunters are advised to bone ou
the prions do not accumulate in muscle tissue of
and spleen. Research to date also indicates that
certain parts of infected animals – the brain,
indicates that the prions naturally accumulate in
wasting disease in deer and elk. Research
shaped proteins, called prions, cause chronic
Strong evidence suggests that abnormally
Should Be Consumed?
What Portions Of Deer And Elk

ous fronts - addressing wildlife health issues and

assisting public health experts and scientists personnel's work and expertise on the subject is with their ongoing research. Division of Wildlife noted not only nationally, but internationally as well.

wasting disease work: states. Employees have been conducted by other agencies and and provide funding for studies gists personally conduct studies or the disease, and also collaborate involved in the following chronic Staff researchers and biolo-

deer and elk. proved, more rapid and more sensitive testing procedures to detect chronic wasting disease in • The development of im-

sure the relationship between deer density and disease prevalence. An ongoing field study designed to mea-

how it can be better diagnosed. of the disease through a deer's body to better understand how the disease is transmitted and Ongoing research to track the progression

wasting disease can be passed to bighorn sheep Ongoing studies to determine if chronic

chronic wasting disease to infect cattle. mountain lions and other animals. • Specific studies to determine the ability of

neurological disorders exists. between chronic wasting disease and human state and federal agencies to determine if a link · Epidemiological studies conducted by

susceptibility of different animal species, Laboratory studies to assess the potential

including humans, to chronic wasting disease.

of chronic wasting disease in the state. geographic distribution and level of prevalence Ongoing monitoring studies to determine

diagnose chronic wasting disease in live, Research into early detection methods to

> healthy-appearing animals. determine if links between disease prevalence Studies of deer movement patterns to and deer movement exist.

staff serve as a national clearing concerning chronic wasting disease coordinate a national meeting of research. Each year, staff members house on information and resources to share information and collaborate chronic wasting disease researchers on study findings. In addition, Division of Wildlife

An infected mule deer buck

Chronic Wasting Disease Management

ment efforts are focused on: The Division of Wildlife's disease manage-

disease beyond historically infected areas and outside the areas. aggressively eradicating the disease if it's found Preventing the spread of chronic wasting

and elk from diseased herds. lence within infected areas by removing deer Reducing chronic wasting disease preva-

and elk from infected areas or into the state. transport laws restricting the movement of deer • Enforcing illegal feeding regulations and

to manage affected deer and elk herds. other agencies and states to further knowledge Continuing research in conjunction with

For More Information: State of Colorado

Department of Natural Resources 6060 Broadway, Denver Colorado Division of Wildlife

Fort Collins (970) 472-4300 Denver (303) 297-1 192



Department of Public Health and Environment (303) 692-2700



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GENERAL INFORMATION

- **NEW CARCASS REGULATIONS** HUNTER GUIDELINES
- RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT

What Is It?

of infected deer and elk, causing the animals to disease found in wild deer and elk in portions of two Canadian provinces. prion diseases. The disease attacks the brains transmissible spongiform encephalopathies or Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, South Dakota, become emaciated, display abnormal behavior, New Mexico, Wisconsin and Saskatchewan. found in captive deer and elk in six states and found in wild deer and elk, the disease has beer lose bodily functions and die. Besides being It belongs to a family of diseases known as Chronic wasting disease is a neurological

Public Health Issues

ment of Public Health and Environment have and epidemiologists at the Colorado Departthat affects humans. studied chronic wasting disease and found nc for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta link between it and any neurological disease Epidemiologists with the federal Centers

taken in areas where the disease is found. suggest hunters take simple precautions (as not to consume meat from animals known to be infected with the disease. In addition, they isted inside) when field dressing deer or elk Health officials, however, advise hunters



An emaciated female mule deer in the latter stages of chronic wasting disease.	for chronic wasting disease information.	Simpinfected. Infection rates in affected deer herds vary from less than 1 percent to 13 percent. The disease has been found in game management units 7, 8, 9, 12, 19, 20, 29, 38, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 93, 94, 95, 96, 191 and 951.Simp pt the fol handli animaUpdated Information Available Visit the Division of Wildlife's web page at www.wildlife.state.co.us/ or call 303-297-1192Wildli anima	Colorado Division of Wildlife indicates that chronic wasting disease is found in wild deer and elk herds in northeastern Colorado and only in wild mule deer in a portion of Unit 12 in the northwest part of the state. Since 1996, the Division, in cooperation with the University of Wyoming and Colorado, including deer from each of the large herds on the west slope. Except for a portion of deer in Unit 12, none have been infected with the disease. Chronic wasting disease is far less prevalent in elk than deer. Less than 1 percent of elk found in areas where the dimensional strate and the state of the large herds on the west slope. Except for a portion of deer in Unit 12, none have been infected with the disease. Chronic wasting disease is far less prevalent in elk than deer. Less than 1 percent of elk found in areas where the dimensional strate the the the state of the state the the theorem for
Avoid consuming brain, spinal yyes, spleen, tonsils and lymph of harvested animals. (Normal ressing coupled with boning out Lymph N tract from	ses. Bone out the meat from your Spinal C I Minimize the handling of brain inal tissues. Wash hands and instruments ghly after field dressing is efed.	le Precautions Advised Iblic health officials advise hunters to take lowing precautions when pursuing or ng deer and elk in infected units: Do not shoot, handle or consume any I that appears sick; contact the Division of fe in Fort Collins if you see or harvest an I that appears sick (970) 472-4300. I that appears sick (970) 472-4300.	$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} $
Inclusion aging and the rumen; its center is deep purple or magenta)	ord (located on either side of the upper throat area, about the size of a thumbnail) Spleen (a flat organ smaller than the liver tightly attached to	 a carcass will remove most, if not all, of these body parts. Cutting away all fatty tissue will remove remaining lymph nodes.) Avoid consuming the meat from any animal that tests positive for the disease. Request that your animal is processed individually, without meat from other animals being added to meat from your animal. 	 As a precaution against the positive spread of chronic wasting disease, only the following carcass parts may be transported out of infected units in northeastern Colorado (see map) or brought into any part of Colorado from infected areas in other states: 1. Meat that is cut and wrapped (either commercially or privately). 2. Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached. 3. Meat that has been boned out. 4. Hides with no heads attached. 5. Clean (no meat or tissue attached) skull plates with antlers attached. 6. Antlers with no meat or tissue attached. 7. Upper canine teeth, also known as "buglers," "whistlers" or "ivories." 8. Finished taxidermied heads.

Chronic Wasting Disease Testing

During the 2002-2003 hunting seasons, it will be more convenient than ever to have deer and elk tested for chronic wasting disease. In most areas, testing is voluntary and costs \$17 per animal. In northeastern Colorado, where chronic wasting disease has been established for decades, testing for deer and elk taken during rifle seasons in game management units 7, 8, 9, 19, 191, 20, 29, 38, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96 and 951 is mandatory and there is no charge. This season there are 60 sites around the

This season there are 60 sites around the state where hunters can submit their deer or elk heads for testing. Those sites include designated Division of Wildlife offices, self-service drop-off barrels for mandatory submissions in the northeastern portion of the state and designated private veternarian offices.

Submission locations, hours of operation and hunter testing results are available on the Internet at www.wildlife.state.co.us/ or 303-297-1192. For recorded information, call 303-291-7CWD.

Deer and elk samples submitted to the Division of Wildlife will be sent to the Colorado State University's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories for diagnosis. CSU officials say the testing of hunter samples by the laboratory is for chronic wasting disease screening only and is not related to the assurance of the meat for human consumption. Testing accuracy and sensitivity can vary depending on sample quality. Typical testing accuracy rates run more than 90 percent. No testing process can assure 100 percent accuracy for chronic wasting disease diagnosis and negative test results do not exclude the possibility of the disease being present in a deer or elk. Hunters with animals that test postive for

Hunters with animals that test postive for chronic wasting disease are eligible to receive a duplicate license or a license-fee, preference point and commercial processing fee refund (with a valid receipt).