

What can be done to prevent the introduction and spread of CWD?

CWD can be spread from one cervid to another, or through contact with environments contaminated by infected cervids. Thus, healthy practices were put into place to protect herds:

- **Baiting allowed from September 1 to November 30**

Baiting for hunting purposes is allowed from September 1 to November 30 only, except for mineral substances (e.g., salt blocks) that may be used all year round.

- **Use of natural cervid urine prohibited**

The use of natural cervid urine for hunting purposes, no matter its origin, is prohibited at all times to limit the risks of spreading diseases, except for moose urine. This also applies to any other natural olfactory lure from cervids (e.g., tarsal glands).

What are the physical signs of the disease in an infected animal?

The physical symptoms of the disease usually emerge between 16 and 36 months after infection. Clinical signs are most prominent in the terminal stages of the disease.

CWD can take different forms. If an animal appears to be emaciated or behaving abnormally, **please report it to SOS Poaching at 1-800-463-2191.**



Photo : Donald Savoy

REGULATIONS

Cervids killed outside Québec

Importing or possessing any part of the brain, spinal cord, eyes, retropharyngeal lymph nodes (at the base of the jaw), tonsils, testicles, or internal organs of cervids killed outside Québec is prohibited. These parts of the animal contain the highest concentrations of the CWD infectious agent. However, importing and possessing meat and certain other animal parts is still permitted.

If you kill a cervid in a state or province outside Québec and the local authorities inform you that the animal has CWD, notify SOS Poaching right away.

Cervids killed within a 45 km radius of a confirmed case of CWD

To avoid spreading CWD in Québec, the anatomical parts in which the CWD infectious agent is concentrated must not leave the hunting zone where the animal is killed. These parts must also remain within a 45 km radius of confirmed CWD cases. Hunters must have their game butchered near the harvest location.

Cervids in captivity

To avoid spreading the disease between cervid farms, live cervids must not be moved from one farm to another if the farm at which they are kept is located within 100 km of a confirmed case of CWD.

Your cooperation is essential

Visit the website for more details.

Québec.ca/cervidsdisease

Forêts, Faune
et Parcs

Québec



CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

**A threat
to cervids
in Québec**

Votre
gouvernement

Québec



What is chronic wasting disease?

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal degenerative disease that affects wild and farmed cervids (members of the deer family), especially white-tailed deer. The disease is similar to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease) in that both diseases affect the animals' brains.

Once CWD is introduced into wildlife, it is extremely difficult to eradicate.

Is CWD a risk to human health?

At this time there is no scientific evidence to suggest that CWD can be transmitted to humans. However, Health Canada recommends that any tissue that may have come from a known CWD-infected animal not be used or consumed by humans.

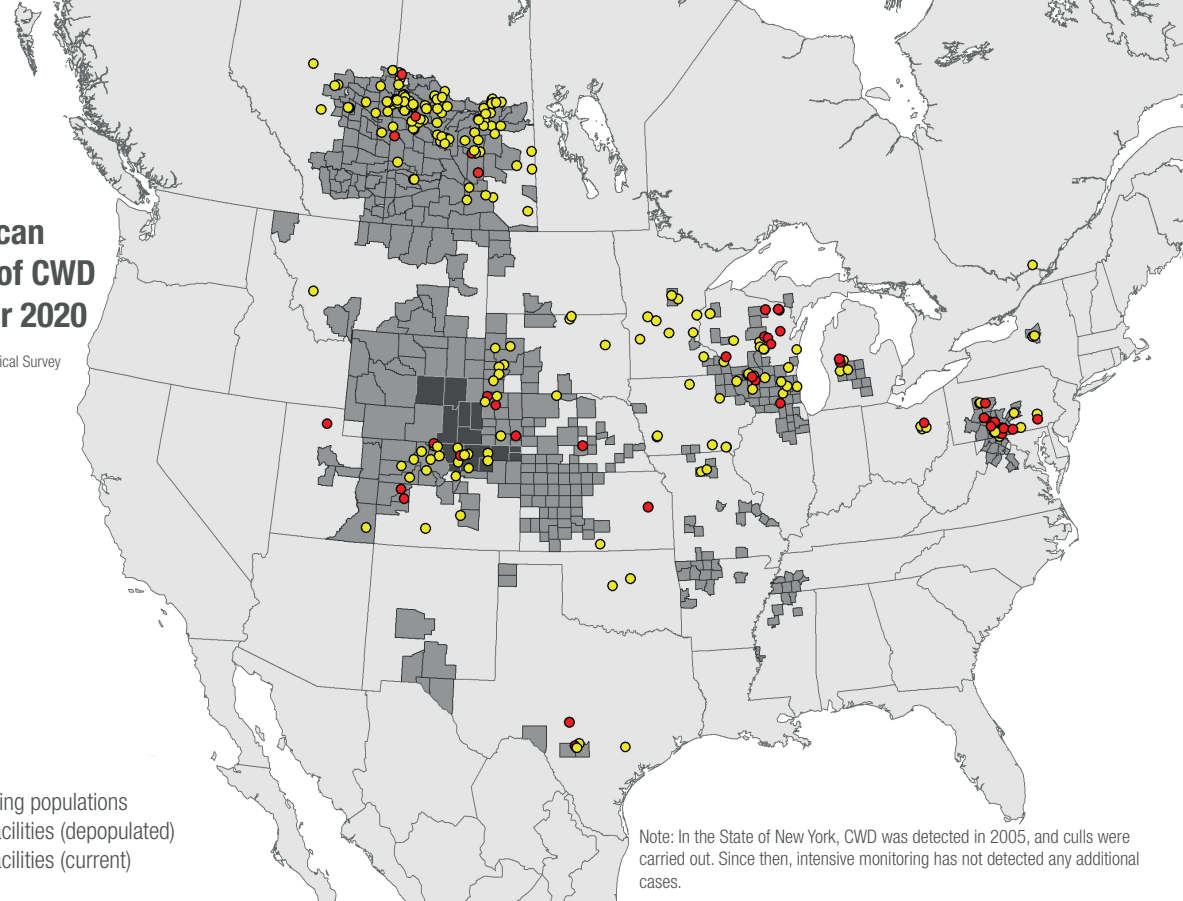
What are the effects of CWD?

If CWD were to be introduced into Québec's wild cervid populations, it would have significant impacts on cervid health. In the long term, if the disease is not controlled, it could significantly and irreversibly reduce population numbers.

North American distribution of CWD in September 2020

(adapted from the U.S. Geological Survey
(<https://www.usgs.gov/>))

- CWD in free-ranging populations
- CWD in captive facilities (depopulated)
- CWD in captive facilities (current)



Québec's cervid population under observation

Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation performs a large number of tests to detect CWD in farmed cervids every year.

And since 2007 Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) has been carrying out a monitoring program on wild cervids in the areas most at risk for the introduction of CWD. Early detection increases the chances of eliminating the disease or limiting its spread.

Where does CWD occur?

The disease is spreading in North America. In 2018, cases of CWD were confirmed at a cervid farm in the Laurentides region of Québec. All the farm's animals have since been slaughtered.

It is the first case recorded since the establishment in 2002 of the monitoring program conducted by Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ) on cervids in captivity and the monitoring network for cervids in the wild led by MFFP.

The Ministry has implemented operations to detect and control disease in the sector. So far, no cases of CWD have been found in Québec's wild cervid population. Visit the website for more details.