

## **Whitetail Deer Drop Boxes for Chronic Wasting Disease Testing**

In late October 2024, DEC and the Department of Agriculture and Markets (AGM) confirmed Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in a captive deer facility located in southern Herkimer County. CWD is an always fatal disease of certain deer species that is spreading across the country and poses a serious threat to New York's wild white-tailed deer and moose populations. DEC and AGM activated New York State's Interagency CWD response plan to investigate the situation. While there is no evidence that CWD is present in wild deer at this time, DEC is enhancing CWD surveillance in this area and is requesting assistance from you and other local hunters.



If you harvest a deer this season in the towns of Columbia, German Flatts, Litchfield, Warren, or Winfield in Herkimer County, or the town of Richfield in Otsego County please save the head and drop it off for testing at one the locations below. A white metal container with DEC messaging and instructions for how to submit the head will be included at each location. DEC will test deer heads at no cost to you and will notify you immediately if the deer tests positive for CWD.

### **Deer head drop-off locations:**

Town of Columbia: 936 Jordanville Road, Ilion NY 13357 (Sand Building) or 147 Columbia Center Road, Ilion NY 13357 (Town Hall)

Town of Litchfield: 804 Cedarville Road, Ilion NY 13357 (Highway Department)

Town of Warren: 131 Hyde-Bell Lane, Jordanville NY 13361 (Highway Department)

Town of Winfield: 306 Stone Road, West Winfield NY 13491 (Highway Department)

Town of Richfield: Boss Farm, 1545 County Route 25, Richfield Springs 13439

Herkimer NYSDEC office: 225 North Main Street, Herkimer NY 13350

**Instructions:** Cut the deer head with some neck remaining. Place the head in a plastic garbage bag. Label the bag with your name, address, and phone number. Keep head chilled or frozen until submission to DEC. Remove skull plate and antlers on bucks before submission. Taxidermists can sample deer you intend to have mounted.

**Please also report any sick or dying deer**, including roadkill deer, in the towns of Columbia, German Flatts, Warren or Richfield to DEC: **Email** ([cwd.response@dec.ny.gov](mailto:cwd.response@dec.ny.gov)) or call **DEC's Region 6 Wildlife Office (315-785-2263)**.

As conservationists, hunters have great responsibility to prevent the introduction of CWD into New York's wild deer population. CWD is nearly impossible to eliminate once established and has the potential to impact all the benefits associated with deer and moose in New York. Do your part to help protect New York's deer and moose populations and deer hunting heritage by also taking the following precautions.

- If you harvest any type of deer, elk, moose, or caribou while hunting outside of New York, debone the venison before bringing it back into New York. DEC will confiscate and destroy illegally imported deer carcasses and parts;
- If you harvest a deer from an area outside of New York known to have CWD, submit samples to that state's Department of Natural Resources for CWD testing before consuming the venison. If the test is positive for CWD, contact DEC for proper disposal of the venison;
- Avoid using deer urine-based lures or attractant scents, as these could contain CWD. Use synthetic products instead;
- Dispose of deer carcass waste in a landfill, not on the landscape;
- Hunt only wild deer and support fair chase hunting principles; and
- Do not consume venison from deer that appear sick or diseased.