

Wyoming Game and Fish Department Chronic Wasting Disease Activities for 2008

Methods:

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) conducted statewide surveillance for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in 2008. The WGFD divides the state into eight administrative regions. Considering each region as a "population," the surveillance goal was to test 500-600 deer from each region utilizing hunter harvest, road-killed, and targeted animals. This number provided a 99% probability of detecting CWD if it existed at $\geq 1\%$ prevalence. The overall goal was 3,000-4,000 samples statewide.

Hunter harvested deer and elk samples were collected at points of concentration, i.e., meat processors and check stations. Samples were taken by WGFD personnel from all divisions (wildlife, fish, services, administration). Only retropharyngeal lymph nodes were sampled because these nodes are rapidly obtained. Statewide training of WGFD personnel on sample and data collection was conducted prior to the start of the hunting season. The WGFD used the IDEXX enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) to analyze lymph node samples. However, all IDEXX-positive samples were confirmed with the BioRad ELISA. All samples positive on both ELISAs were confirmed by immunohistochemistry.

Results were reported to hunters in less than three weeks of sample submission. Hunters could obtain results by accessing the Department's web site. Hunters submitting a sample were given a unique bar coded number. The hunter could then access the web site, enter the unique number and obtain test results. Hunters having deer or elk testing positive for CWD were also individually notified by letter. The WGFD also notified interested state wildlife agencies by mail if a hunter from their state harvested a CWD test-positive animal.

Results:

A total of 4,070 deer, elk, and moose samples were analyzed. Of these samples, 125 tested positive for CWD representing 95 mule deer, 14 white-tailed deer, 15 elk, and one moose.

New cases of CWD were diagnosed deer hunt areas (HA) 2, 26, 27 and 29; elk HA 19 and 117; moose HA 23. The new deer and elk hunt areas are most likely natural extensions of the Wyoming endemic area. The detection of CWD in a moose from the western edge of the state was not anticipated. This case is a significant distance (~220 km) from any known CWD cases and was the first positive free-ranging moose in the state.

Other Issues:

As of 2005, the Department incorporated moose into the CWD surveillance program. In 2008, we surveyed 44 hunter-killed, 13 targeted and 6 road-killed moose.

Mule Deer and White-tailed Deer

Number positive by Hunt Area

(New Hunt Areas = yellow)

<u>Hunt Area</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>1997-2008</u>
2	1	1
4	0	1
6	0	2
8	0	3
9	0	2
10	0	1
11	0	1
12	0	2
13	0	6
14	2	21
15	0	6
16	0	19
22	2	31
23	0	1
26	1	1
27	1	1
29	1	1
30	0	2
33	0	1
34	0	9
37	1	6
41	1	2
55	6	52
57	0	4
59	0	16
60	7	57
61	1	2
62	0	24
63	5	60
64	34	197
65	25	286
66	10	57
70	0	5
73	1	11
74	0	2
75	2	6
76	0	3
77	0	2
78	2	9
79	0	4
80	0	1
81	0	4
82	1	8
87	0	1
88	0	34
89	0	1
120	3	12
122	0	1
125	0	1
127	1	6
163	0	2
164	3	9

Elk

Number positive by Hunt Area

(New Hunt Areas = yellow)

<u>Hunt Area</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>1997-2008</u>
5	1	18
6	0	18
7	11	49
8	0	1
13	0	1
16	0	2
19	1	1
22	0	1
110	0	1
117	1	1
125	1	5

Moose

Number positive by Hunt Area

(New Hunt Areas = yellow)

<u>Hunt Area</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>1997-2008</u>
23	1	1

2008 Wyoming Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance
Positives by Species & Classification

