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Secretary of Natural Resources

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

Robert W. Duncan
Executive Director

TO: Deer Hunters and landowners in Frederick and Shenandoah counties

FROM: Megan Kirchgessner, Wildlife Veterinarian, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

DATE: October 25, 2013

RE: Hunters needed – 2013- 2014 Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance

We are contacting all big game license purchasers in Frederick and Shenandoah counties, as well as all landowners with at least 100 acres within the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Containment Area, to ask for your continued help as we look for and manage CWD this year. Chronic Wasting Disease was first detected in Virginia in a deer killed in November 2009 near Gore, less than 1 mile from the Virginia-West Virginia state line. Thus far, four additional wild white-tailed deer have been diagnosed CWD-positive in Virginia. All five deer were harvested within 1.4 miles of one another and all were killed within a half mile from the West Virginia border. In addition, 131 deer have been found to be CWD-positive in nearby Hampshire County, West Virginia. Although there is no evidence that CWD is transmissible to humans or domestic animals, it could have serious long-term consequences for wild deer populations and deer hunting. We know that hunters want to do their part as we continue to look for this disease and hopefully slow its spread in Virginia.

Submit Your Deer for Sampling

The **CWD Containment Area** has the same boundaries as previous years – *west of I-81 in Frederick County and the City of Winchester, and west of I-81 and north of Rt. 675 in Shenandoah County*. As in past years, the entire CWD Containment Area is a **mandatory sampling area** for any deer killed on **November 16, November 23, and November 30, 2013**. Any deer, or at least the head and neck of any deer, killed in the Containment Area on these three days **must** be brought to a designated sampling station listed below:

- Cather's Market, 2765 Northwestern Pike, Winchester
- Cline's Store, 19004 Senedo Road, Edinburg
- Crossroads Grocery, 119 Cedar Grove Road, Winchester
- Gore Grocery, 305 Gore Road, Gore
- Graden's Supermarket, 6836 John Marshall Highway, Lebanon Church
- Shawnee Springs Market, 6656 N Frederick Pike, Cross Junction, VA 22625
- T & R Processing, 691 Carpers Valley Road, Winchester

You may check your deer by phone or internet, but please still bring at least the head and neck of your deer to one of these sampling stations. If you harvest a deer you wish to have mounted, please still bring it to one of the sampling stations. We will gather the information we need from you and then direct you to a cooperating taxidermist in the area where we may obtain a sample after your deer has been caped.

At the sampling station, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) staff will extract tissue samples and gather brief information from you. This will only take a few minutes and you will receive a unique

identification number that will allow you to check test results from your deer online. It should be emphasized that the purpose of this test is for disease surveillance in deer and it is not intended to be a human food safety test.

We strongly encourage hunters who are successful on days other than those listed above to volunteer the head and neck from their deer for sampling by bringing it to one of our self-service refrigerated drop stations:

- Frederick-Winchester Conservation Club, 527 Siler Road, Winchester (north of Gainesboro)
- Walker's Cash Store, 3321 Back Road, Woodstock (intersection with St. Luke Road)
- North Mountain Fire and Rescue, 186 Rosenberger Lane, Winchester (off Rt. 600, behind Tom's Market)
- Rock-Enon Boy Scout Camp, 292 Rock Enon Springs Road, Gore

Continue Hunting and Follow Regulations

The discovery of CWD should not keep you from enjoying the upcoming hunting seasons, but hunting season changes affecting *private lands* put into action in 2010 for Clarke, Frederick, Shenandoah, and Warren counties and the City of Winchester still remain in effect (there were no season changes on *public lands*):

- The daily bag limit is two deer per day on private lands.
- Except for Shenandoah County, Earn-A-Buck is in effect, meaning at least one antlerless deer must be taken on private lands before the second antlered deer of the license year may be taken on private lands.
- Muzzleloading seasons on private lands in Shenandoah County are full season either sex.

In addition, feeding of deer is prohibited *year-round on all lands* in Clarke, Frederick, Shenandoah, and Warren counties and in the City of Winchester. In the rest of the state, feeding of deer is prohibited from *September 1 through the first Saturday in January on all lands*.

Contain the Spread of the Disease

To prevent the spread of the CWD, tissues most likely to contain the infectious and environmentally resistant disease agent (e.g., brain, spine, lymph tissues) should not leave the Containment Area. You may **not transport whole deer carcasses or deer parts out of the CWD Containment Area** except for:

- Quarters or boned out meat (no part of the spinal column or head attached), clean (no meat or tissue attached) capes and skull plates, antlers, or finished taxidermy products (i.e., the same deer parts currently allowed under the importation regulation for carcasses from states with CWD).
- Whole deer carcasses or parts being transported directly and without unnecessary delay to commercial meat processors, taxidermists, or lined landfills located within *Frederick or Shenandoah counties*. We are working directly with these selected operations to ensure proper handling and disposal of deer wastes.

We also encourage hunters to dispose of deer waste from the Containment Area in a *lined landfill* in Frederick or Shenandoah counties or at any *official county waste collection site* within the Containment Area (except dumpsters at Gore and Star Tannery, at county's request). Deer waste discarded at collection sites must be double-bagged. A map of these collection sites is available on the agency website (see link below).

We would like to thank you again for your help in dealing with this disease - as a hunter, a steward of our state's natural resources, and a supporter of VDGIF's mission. For more information about CWD and changes for 2011-2012, please check the Department's website (<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/diseases/cwd/>) or contact one of the following VDGIF staff:

Hank Tomlinson, CWD Coordinator; 540-290-9359; Hank.Tomlinson@dgif.virginia.gov
Matt Kline, CWD Technician; 540-290-8158; Matt.Kline@dgif.virginia.gov
Fred Frenzel, District Wildlife Biologist; (540) 984-4101 ext. 130; Fred.Frenzel@dgif.virginia.gov