

2017 Deer Hunters

Your Role in CWD Surveillance

The ongoing Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance Program targets CWD risk areas in wildlife management units (WMUs) along the Alberta/Saskatchewan border, as indicated on the map. Although CWD continues to expand geographically and numerically, the risk of harvesting an infected deer remains low. In 2016, 179 of 5112 (3.5%) heads tested had CWD: 154 mule deer, 23 white-tails, 1 unknown deer, and 1 elk. The majority of cases (66%) were male mule deer. Prevalence was 5.4% in 2833 mule deer and 1.5% in 1491 white-tailed deer.

It is **MANDATORY** to submit deer heads from WMUs

102, 116, 118, 119, 124, 138, 142, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 156, 158, 160, 162, 163, 164, 166, 200, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 254, 256, 258, 500, 728, and 730

In addition, we would appreciate receiving deer heads from three units of **SPECIAL CONCERN** (250, 252, and 260), as perspective for a recent case in WMU 250.

Heads for testing must have a green CWD label that provides a unique identification number for each deer head submitted. Pick up labels and instructions after you shoot your deer. They are available at Fish and Wildlife offices or, during rifle seasons, at 24-hour freezers in CWD risk areas. **COMPLETELY FILL OUT BOTH SIDES OF THE GREEN LABEL, PARTICULARLY A PRECISE KILL LOCATION AND YOUR WIN NUMBER.** Heads should be kept frozen and dropped off at any Fish and Wildlife office or any of the freezers. Negative CWD test results are provided via email to hunters as soon as possible.

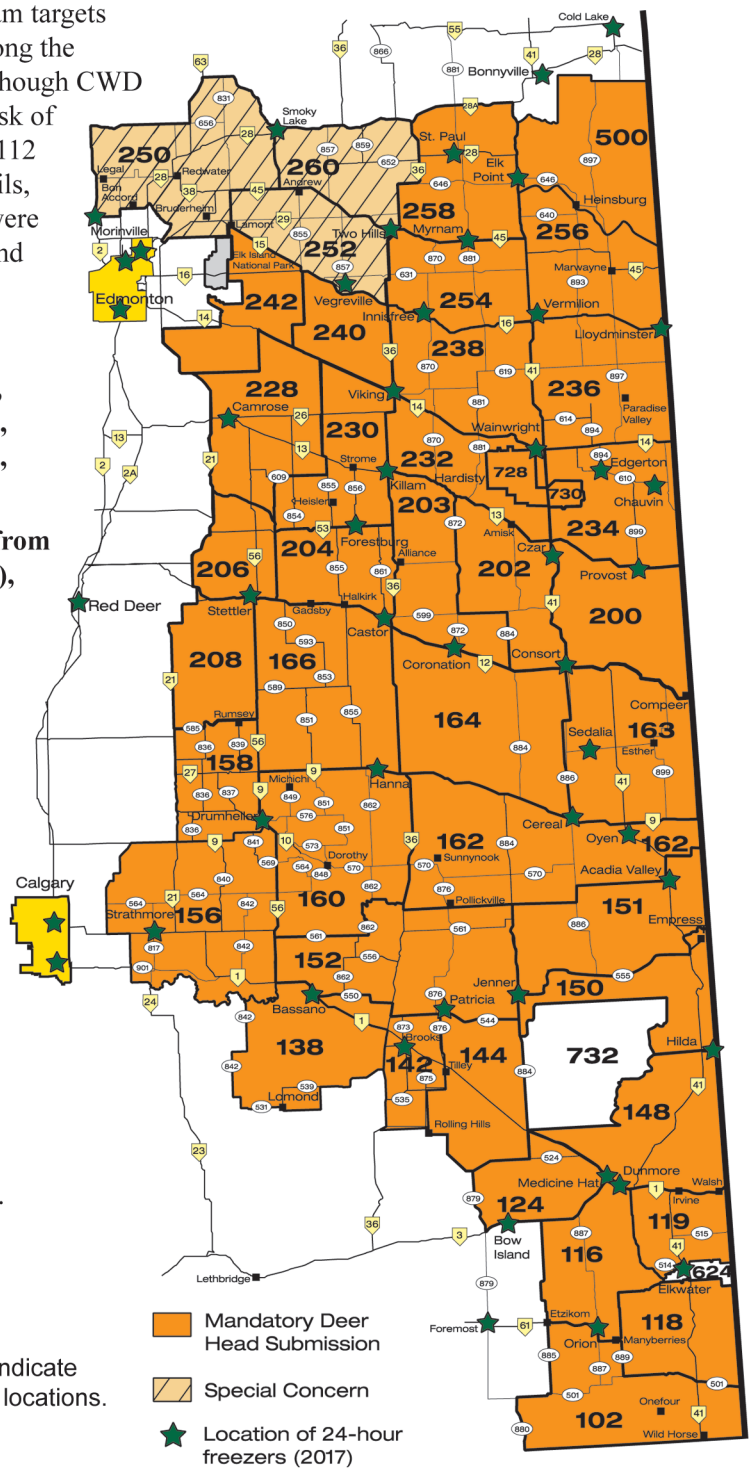
Hunting opportunities in the border areas are designed to maintain hunting pressure on deer populations and to standardize seasons and opportunities. Check the 2017 *Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations* for specific details.

For more detailed information about CWD, visit the Alberta Environment and Parks, wildlife diseases website <http://www.aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/wildlife-diseases/> or contact Dr. M. Pybus (780) 427-3462. Dial 310-0000 first for toll-free long distance calls.

Note: Stars indicate 2017 freezer locations.

Health authorities state that CWD is not known to infect humans. However, as a precaution authorities, including the World Health Organization (WHO), advise against eating animals infected with any prion disease.

More information on human health aspects of CWD available at health.alberta.ca



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