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## Whom Can You Contact?

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If you have questions about CWD or the information in this brochure, please contact Wildlife Biologist Terry Haindfield. To have your harvested deer sampled for CWD in Harrison, Monona, Woodbury, Plymouth, Crawford, Shelby, or Audubon counties, contact Doug Chafa or the Missouri River Wildlife Unit.

To have your harvested deer sampled for CWD in Pottawattamie, Mills, Fremont, Page, Cass, or Montgomery counties, contact Matt Dollison or the Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit

### **Terry Haindfield – Wildlife Biologist**

Office – (563) 546-7960

Cell – (563) 380-3422

Sick deer anywhere in Iowa or road-kill deer in Woodbury, Monona, Harrison, Shelby, Pottawattamie, Mills, or Fremont counties can be reported to any of the numbers listed below.

### **Missouri River Wildlife Unit**

Biologist Doug Chafa (712) 420-2437

Wildlife Technician Office – (712) 458-2428

### **Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit**

Biologist Matt Dollison (712) 350-0147

Wildlife Technician Office – (712) 387-2791

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***For additional information on CWD and other deer diseases in Iowa visit:***

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Deer-Hunting/Deer-Disease-Information>

Revised September 22, 2017

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# CWD in Iowa

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502 East 9th Street, 4th Floor  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

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## What is CWD?

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**Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)** is a neurological disease affecting deer, moose, reindeer, and elk. It is caused by an abnormal protein - known as a prion - that essentially eats holes in the brains of infected animals. In the latter stages of the disease, animals appear disoriented, lethargic, and emaciated. They often exhibit excessive thirst, salivation, urination and drooping head and ears. It is always fatal to the infected animal. Anyone seeing a deer exhibiting these symptoms should immediately contact the Iowa DNR.

It is important to know that CWD is spread by direct and indirect contact as the prions are shed in the bodily fluids of infected animals and can remain infective for years in the environment.

CWD was first discovered in northeastern Colorado in 1967. Since then, CWD has been detected in free-ranging populations and captive facilities in many states. The DNR has collected over 62,500 tissue samples for CWD testing since 2002.

In April 2014, the DNR was notified that a deer harvested south of Harpers Ferry in Yellow River State Forest during the 2013 regular gun season tested positive for CWD. This was the first known case of CWD in a wild deer in the State of Iowa. Up to now (Sept. 22, 2017), 18 deer have

tested positive; 17 in SE Allamakee County and one in Clayton County (4 miles NW of Elkader).

Currently, it is not believed that humans can contract CWD by eating venison; however, the Center for Disease Control and the World Health Organization recommend hunters avoid eating meat of infected deer.

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## DNR's Response to CWD

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**The DNR is asking for assistance from landowners and hunters in dealing with CWD.** The DNR's action plan is to increase CWD surveillance efforts from hunter-harvested deer in counties along the Missouri River. This extra monitoring effort is needed due to five CWD positive deer sampled in SE Nebraska. Local DNR staff will work closely with hunters and landowners who voluntarily provide lymph node samples from deer during the hunting seasons.

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## What Can YOU Do?

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Managing CWD in Iowa hinges on the early detection of the disease in the deer herd. Support and cooperation from the public is essential to detect if the disease has spread to other deer. There are several things that you can do to assist the DNR with managing CWD in Iowa.

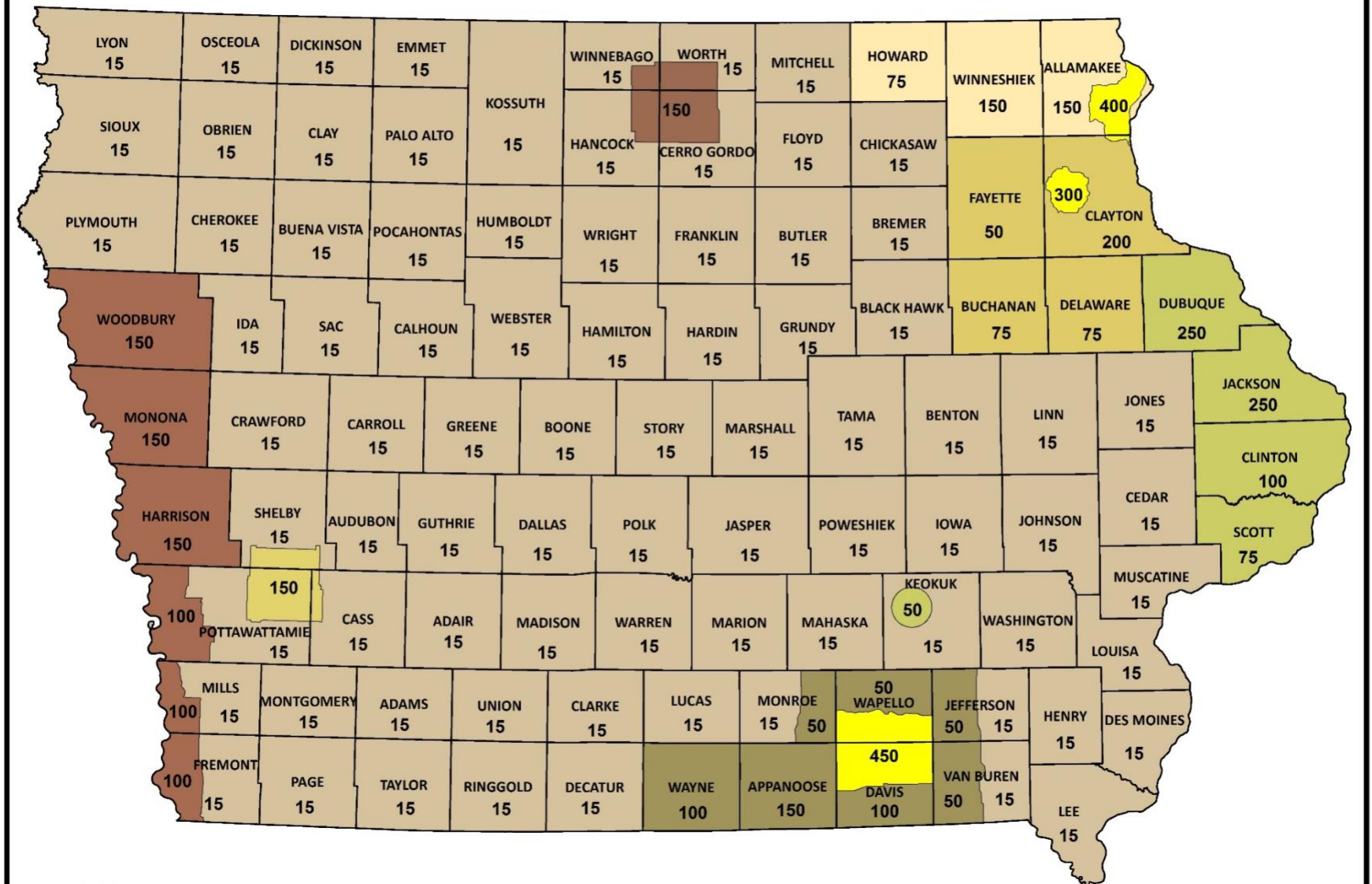
What Can YOU Do? (cont')

**Hunters** in the Missouri River counties (see map) are encouraged to donate samples from their harvested deer to the DNR for CWD testing. CWD samples can be accepted from one year old deer and older. Fawns are not being tested at this time. **DNR Wildlife personnel will be accommodating to successful hunters in order to obtain as many samples as possible.** Do not throw carcasses on the landscape – place it in heavy-duty plastic bags and dispose with residential waste. If in doubt, contact your local waste hauler or landfill for requirements.

**Landowners** can report deer that are visibly sick or injured and showing symptoms that are consistent with those of CWD. **Avoid using minerals/salt licks or feed piles for deer.** These practices can concentrate deer and increase the chances of spreading CWD and other diseases from both direct and indirect contact. **Hunting deer over bait or mineral is illegal.**

**Motorists** can report road-kill deer inside the Missouri River counties to DNR wildlife staff so the deer may be tested for CWD. (Phone numbers on opposite page.)

## 2017/18 Statewide CWD Surveillance Plan



Date: 4/13/2017

Number 1 : Doug Chafa; Missouri River Wildlife Unit Biologist for the IADNR (left) instructs Conservation Corps of Iowa (CCI) staff on how to remove lymph nodes from hunter and roadkill adult whitetail deer during a recent workshop held in Monona County IA in December 2017.

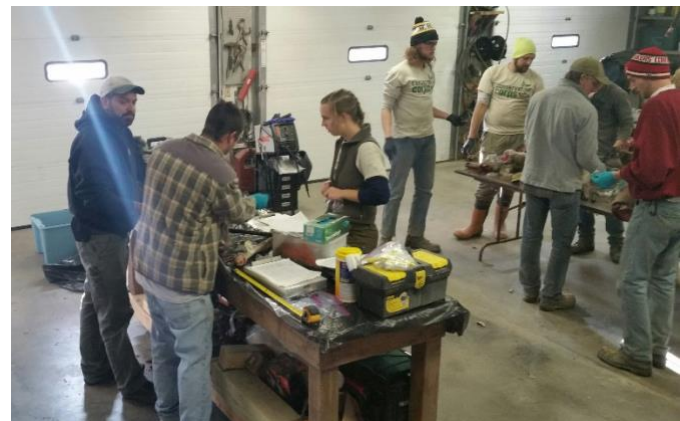
Number 2: Whitetail Deer heads collected in Monona County Iowa from a hunting party for CWD testing in December 2017.



Number 3: December 2017: Iowa Department of Natural Resources staff and Civilian Conservation Corps of Iowa staff process hunter harvested deer for CWD testing. Two lymph nodes located at the base of the neck are collected and sent in for testing for Chronic Wasting disease. After positive confirmation of CWD in SE Nebraska Iowa DNR wildlife staff plan to collect samples from 150 whitetail deer/county located along the Missouri River in Western Iowa.



Number 4: Information is collected for CWD samples: The lymph nodes are collected in sample bags and froze to be sent to a lab for testing. A tooth may also be collected for age information from adult deer. Hunters can voluntarily donate deer heads to IADNR staff for testing. The IADNR also



collects roadkill deer, deer are also collected from county road departments, Iowa Department of Transportation, city road departments, The IADNR wildlife staff also works with deer processors and taxidermist after receiving permission from the hunter. Information on roadkill deer and voluntarily allowing your deer to be tested is appreciated.