

CWD

General Information

For Hunters



TAKE A STAND AGAINST CWD

GEORGIAWILDLIFE.COM/CWD

What is Chronic Wasting Disease?

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease of deer, elk, and moose caused by infectious proteins. There are no vaccines or treatments and the disease will cause deer population declines if left unmanaged. In early 2025, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) confirmed two positive cases of CWD along the Lanier/Berrien County line.

Should I Test My Deer?

Lanier and Berrien Counties: testing recommended

- Many local taxidermists and processors are CWD Testing Locations
- Hunters may also use self-serve freezers to drop off deer heads for testing
- Testing is free, results should be available within 2 to 6 weeks

Find a CWD Testing Location



- Testing not recommended, but is available to hunters statewide.
- Testing is free, but tests from other counties are low priority and may take months to receive results.

Getting Test Results

After dropping off their deer, hunters can visit GeorgiaWildlife.com/CWD and select the CWD Testing Dashboard to view the status of their sample.

Human Consumption Guidelines

For information regarding CWD testing recommendations, processing, and consumption of deer from areas with CWD, scan the QR code below for more info or visit cdc.gov/chronic-wasting.

Find more information, including an interactive list of participating processors, taxidermists, and freezer locations, by scanning the QR Code or visiting GeorgiaWildlife.com/CWD



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Recommendations and Rules

For Processors and Taxidermists

Deer Processors and taxidermists are vital in helping WRD monitor and manage CWD. WRD relies on your support to collect tissue samples for monitoring and to provide testing for hunters that want it.

Not Participating in Sampling Yet?

If your facility is not currently participating in CWD testing, you can still join the effort. WRD compensates participating deer processors and taxidermists for assisting with sample collection. Visit GeorgiaWildlife.com/cwd or email cwd@dnr.ga.gov to get started.

Expectations for CWD Testing Locations:

- Agree to list your facility as a testing location on the CWD website
- Store properly labeled deer heads refrigerated or frozen for WRD pickup
- Save heads for hunters that request a CWD test
- Save heads for routine CWD sampling (counties, numbers, and deer type specified by your WRD contact)
- Record all required information with each head (Hunter name, phone #, county, confirmation #, date, etc.) on provided tags

Compensation (Form W-9 required):

- \$10 per deer head that meets the criteria above
- If properly trained to collect lymph nodes, \$20 per sample that meets all criteria above

New Statewide Deer Carcass Disposal Rule

Proper deer carcass disposal helps prevent the spread of CWD to new areas within Georgia. Anyone transporting or disposing of carcasses or parts, including hunters, processors, and taxidermists, must use an approved method of disposal. Deer carcass/parts disposal options:

For Hunters:

- Leave them on the property where the deer was killed
- Use a commercial deer processor, taxidermist, or method listed below

For Taxidermists and Processors

- Dumpster service or permitted solid waste landfill
- Deep burial, incineration, or any other approved method in the Dead Animal Disposal Act (O.C.G.A. § 4-5-1 to 4-5-11)