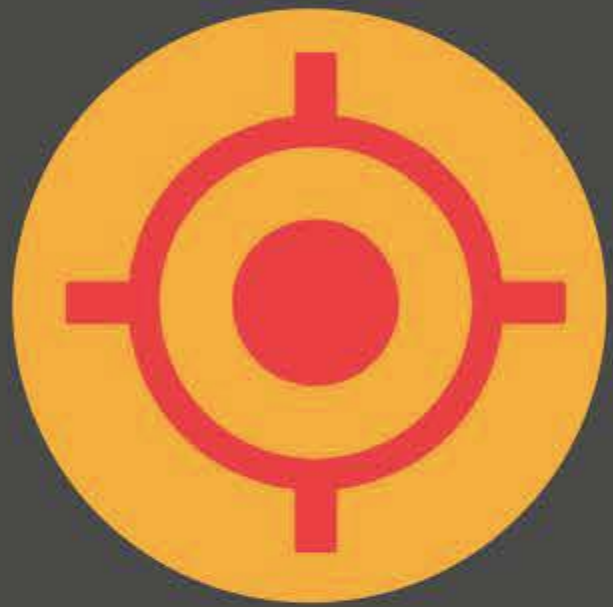


Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)



HUNTING

There is no evidence hunters can be infected from handling infected animals, but precautions should be taken when dressing out deer carcasses.



LIVESTOCK

There is no evidence CWD can be naturally transmitted to pets or livestock and subsequently to humans.



RANGE LAND

CWD prions are spread either animal-to-animal, or through soil and plants contaminated with urine or feces of infected animals.

What risks exist to human health?

There is no evidence that CWD causes disease in humans, however, some other animal prions can cause human disease. Human prion disease rates in Colorado and Wyoming are lower than the national average despite having CWD present in the deer and elk population for over 50 years. Other transmissible spongiform encephalopathy such as "Mad Cow Disease," have been shown to cause variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease from foodborne exposure, so it is not recommended to consume meat from CWD infected animals.



Guidelines for Patients who Consume Game

CWD prions accumulate in the brain, eyes, spinal cord, lymph nodes, tonsils and spleen of infected animals, so these tissues should not be consumed from deer or elk. Animals that test positive should not be consumed at all. Hunters should take the following precautions:

- Do not shoot or eat any animal that appears sick.
- Wear protective gloves when field dressing carcasses.
- Bone out the meat, and avoid cutting through the brain or spinal cord, and minimize handling of nervous tissues.



CWD MANAGEMENT

