



Report: Emergency Response to Disease Outbreaks in Wildlife

Covering the Period October 1 – December 31, 2019

As required by Minnesota Session Law 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 4

3/13/2020

Report to the Minnesota Legislature

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Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 3.197, we estimate that it cost approximately \$336 produce this report. This include staff time for drafting and reviewing the report.

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DNR CWD Spending Legislative Report

This report fulfills the quarterly reporting requirement of Minnesota Session Law 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 3, Subdivision 6(b) “\$1,595,000 the first year and \$275,000 the second year are from the general fund, and \$1,125,000 the first year and \$1,675,000 the second year are from the game and fish fund for planning for and emergency response to disease outbreaks in wildlife [Table 1]. The commissioner and board must each submit quarterly reports on the activities funded under this paragraph to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources and agriculture.”

CWD Activities, October-December 2019

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) spent approximately \$1,174,000 during the second quarter on CWD-related activities [Table 2]. These activities included the implementation of the fall hunter-harvested CWD surveillance efforts in three areas of the state. A detailed list of activities includes:

- From October 1 to December 31, a total 17,603 samples were collected and submitted for CWD testing
 - North Central Zone: 3,996 samples, with 97 of those collected by taxidermists. None of these tested positive for CWD (Fig 1).
 - Central Zone: 536 samples, with 5 of those collected by taxidermists. None of these tested positive for CWD (Fig 2).
 - Southeast Zone: 12,618 samples, with 1,273 of those collected by taxidermists. 26 deer tested positive for CWD. (Fig 3).
 - Opportunistic Sampling (e.g., vehicle-killed deer, sick deer, and depredation permits): 245 samples collected statewide. 1 deer tested positive for CWD in the Southeast Zone.
- A total of 27 new cases of CWD were detected during fall 2019; all of these cases were found in southeast Minnesota (Fig 4.)
- A tremendous amount of effort was required to collect these samples, which included 22 self-service sampling stations that were available to hunters throughout all of archery and muzzleloader seasons in north central and southeast MN. These stations were visited 3 times per week by designated DNR staff and deer heads were collected for sampling and shipped to the lab. During the firearm season, 31 sampling stations were staffed by DNR employees or students from 9am to 7pm, daily in all 3 surveillance zones.
 - DNR staff filled 213 shifts, ranging from 2-5 days in duration.
 - Students from 4 universities filled 244 shifts on weekends only. These students were recruited from Bemidji State, St. Cloud State, Central Lakes College, and University of Minnesota Twin Cities, Crookston, and Duluth campuses.
- Two additional hunting opportunities were offered in the deer permit areas (DPAs) where new cases of CWD were detected through the fall testing. These included DPAs 643, 646, 647, and 648. These late hunt opportunities were offered from Dec 20-22 and 27-29, 2019.
 - An additional 570 deer were tested through these hunts and 3 deer were confirmed with the disease.
 - DNR staff filled 38 shifts (3.5 days in duration) for both weekends of the December Special Late Hunts.

- The taxidermist network was established in all CWD surveillance zones.
 - 28 of 46 taxidermists contacted about in participating in CWD sampling opted to enroll in the sampling effort. This includes the collection of lymph nodes, a muscle sample, and front incisor; cost paid per sample is \$15.
 - Taxidermists were provided training on sample collection and materials for tracking data, storing samples, and shipping them back to DNR.
 - 24 taxidermists actually collected samples.
 - Total samples = 1,404 (53 samples collected prior to October 1).
 - Total payment for taxidermist samples = \$21,255.00.
- Secured sites for dumpster locations for the Adopt-A-Dumpster Program. Dumpsters were placed at 20 sites in the southeast and 6 in the north central zones to collect butcher remains from hunter-harvested deer. This effort cost approximately \$170,000 and collected >200 tons of deer carcass remains that were hauled to landfills or incinerated. More details on the Adopt-A-Dumpster Program can be found in the January 2020 report to the Legislature.
- Supplies were purchased and organized for sampling stations. Contracts were created to provide port-a-potties to sampling stations without restroom services and U-Haul trailers were rented to haul sampling equipment to stations and serve as overnight storage for supplies as well as a shelter for staff.
- Three additional staff were hired for temporary positions to support the fall sampling work; one person in the north-central and two in the southeast.
- Planning began for targeted culling work through a contract with USDA-Wildlife Services. Efforts will be focused in southeast Minnesota only, where all new cases of disease were found this fall.

Communication efforts were immense during this reporting quarter, including direct mailings to hunters, media interviews, creation of Pod Casts, invited speaking engagements, and responding to phone calls and emails from hunters or the general public. The CWD website content was updated regularly and test results were made available to hunters as soon as they were received from the lab. Unfortunately, test results took longer than expected (up to 3 weeks, in some cases) during the firearm season. This is due to the high number of samples submitted to the Colorado State University lab from all over the country. Increased call and email volume from hunters seeking this information to the program resulted.

Table 1. Chronic Wasting Disease Appropriation Allocation FY20-21.

Fund	FY20 Appropriated	FY21 Appropriated	Total App FY20-21
General Fund	1,595,000	275,000	1,870,000
Game and Fish-Emergency Response	1,125,000	1,675,000	2,800,000
Cervid Health – Adopt a Dumpster	50,000		50,000
Total	2,770,000	1,950,000	4,720,000

Table 2. Detailed spending by expense type for CWD funding, October 1 through December 31, 2019.

Expense Type	General Fund	Game and Fish- Emergency Response	Cervid Health– Adopt a Dumpster	Other**	Total Spent
Salary	683,460	-	-	24,481	707,941
CSU CWD Sample Testing	95,717	-	-	-	95,717
USDA-Culling Contract	-	-	-	-	-
Contracts: CWD Tissue Sampling	-	-	-	-	-
CWD Attitude Survey	-	18,000	-	-	18,000
Dumpsters	86,558	-	25,112	-	111,671
Supplies	90,288	3,467	-	35	93,790
Printing & Advertising	34,677	88	-	798	35,562
CWD Office Lease - Rushford	4,799	-	-	-	4,799
Equipment	25,216	-	-	-	25,216
UMN CWD Testing (elk/moose)	853	-	-	-	853
Travel/Fleet	48,542	21,012	124	1,014	70,692
GPS Collars	-	5,683	-	-	5,683
Other	956	3,006	-	-	3,962
Total	1,071,067	51,255	25,237	26,329	1,173,887

** Other includes Game and Fish Operating Account, Deer Management Account, Deer/Bear Account, Cervid Health Account, and Heritage Fund.

Figure 1. Sampling locations for hunter-harvested deer tested for chronic wasting disease in north-central Minnesota, fall 2019.

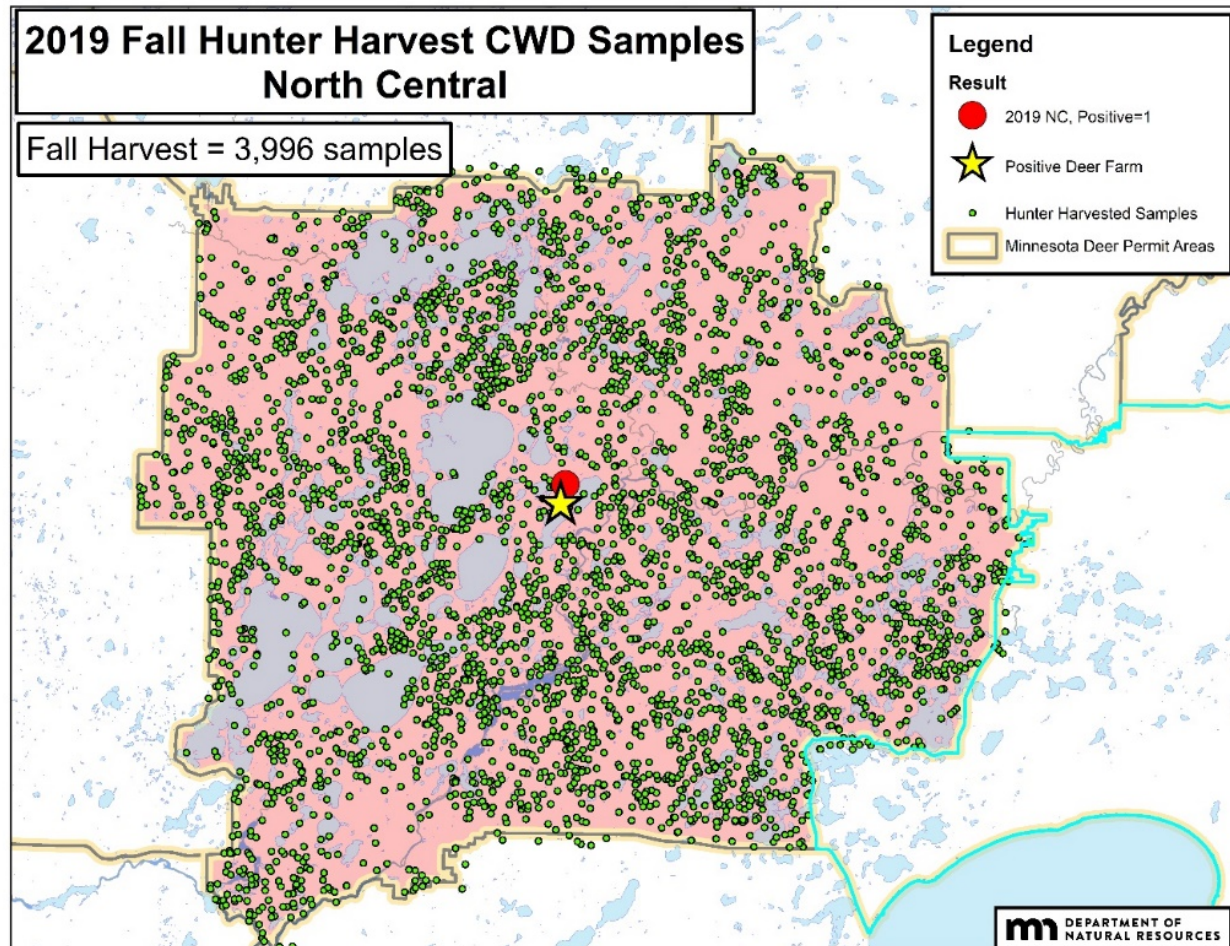


Figure 2. Sampling locations for hunter-harvested deer tested for chronic wasting disease in central Minnesota, fall 2019.

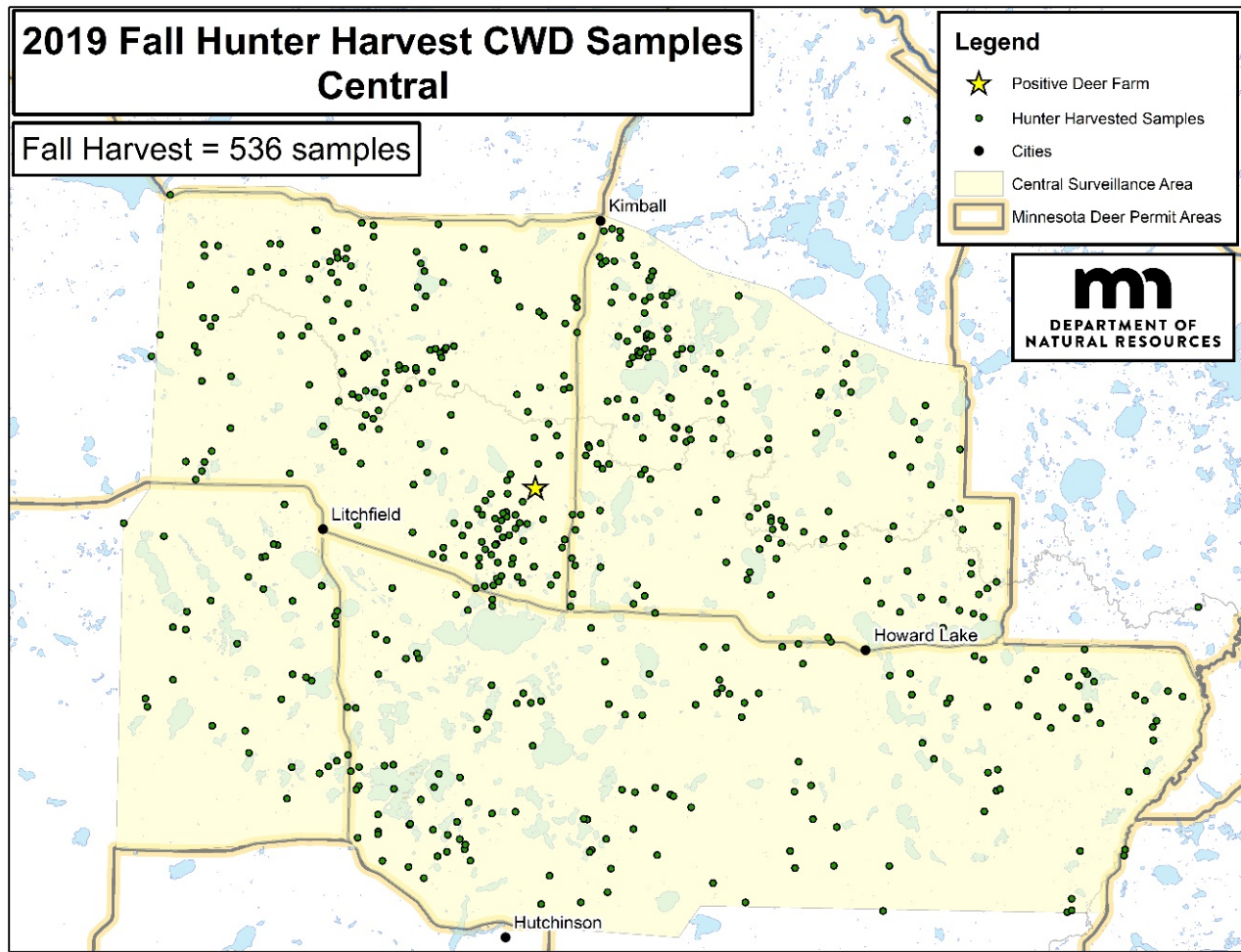


Figure 3. Sampling locations for hunter-harvested deer tested for chronic wasting disease in southeast Minnesota, fall 2019.

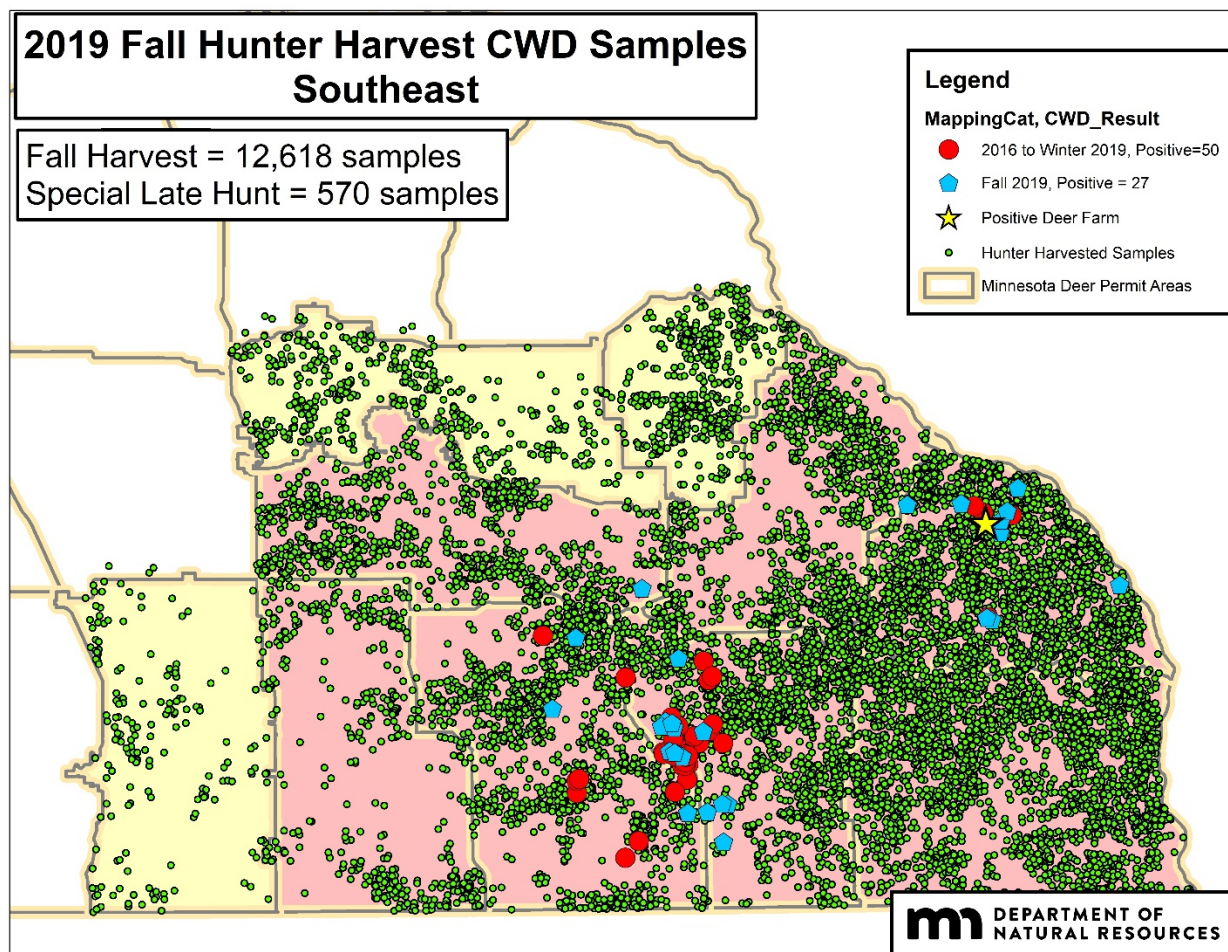


Figure 4. Harvest locations of new detections (n=27) of chronic wasting disease in wild deer during fall 2019, southeast Minnesota.

