

National Animal Health Monitoring System, Chronic Wasting Disease 2005 Study

Chronic Wasting Disease and the Cervid Industry

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is of major concern to cervid producers—not only because it is a fatal disease but also because some research suggests that healthy animals may be infected when placed in facilities or geographic areas previously contaminated with CWD. To assist cervid producers and enhance their ability to market their products, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is developing a CWD certification program for farmed and captive cervids.

During the program's certification process, USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) will launch the CWD 2005 study by administering a questionnaire aimed at gathering information about potential risk factors that contribute to the transmission and spread of CWD. The CWD study will mark the first time that epidemiologic data has been collected on the Nation's cervid industry and may help to develop strategies that will lead to the elimination of CWD in farmed and captive cervids.

How You Can Help

By participating in this voluntary study, you will help your industry by contributing reliable and valuable information that will be used to:

- Better understand potential risk factors for transmission and spread of CWD,
- Define and summarize current management practices and trends,
- Help legislators and industry make informed decisions, and
- Help university researchers and private enterprises identify and focus on vital issues related to your business.



What Participating Involves

Data Collection

The CWD 2005 study questionnaire will be administered by APHIS or State veterinary medical officers or their representatives during herd-certification enrollment and/or inventory. Alternatively, your State may elect to send you the questionnaire by mail and request your reply. The questionnaire will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

Study Results

Questionnaire data will be entered in a database for analysis and summarization. No individual herd data will be published. Only combined herd results will be published.

Study results will be available on the NAHMS Web site <<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/ncahs>> and may be reported in industry trade magazines and newsletters or other media and at association meetings. Previous NAHMS study results have been widely used by academic researchers, industry representatives, and legislators to better understand research needs and important animal health issues.

Confidentiality

The information you provide is absolutely confidential. No identifying data (e.g., name and address) will be recorded on

the questionnaire or in datasets. No individual's data will be reported. In fact, we insist that each questionnaire remain anonymous and will ask only for geographic location by State in order to facilitate reporting at regional levels.

NAHMS Studies

- National in scope
- Voluntary, confidential
- Statistically reliable
- Scientifically valid
- Collaborative in nature

For more information contact:

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<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/ncahs>



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Chronic Wasting Disease 2005

Finding Answers for Cervid Producers



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