



Pennsylvania
Game Commission

Chronic Wasting Disease



CWD IS AN INCURABLE BRAIN DISEASE.

- Fatal
- Contagious
- No vaccine or treatment
- Long incubation period





Pennsylvania Game Commission

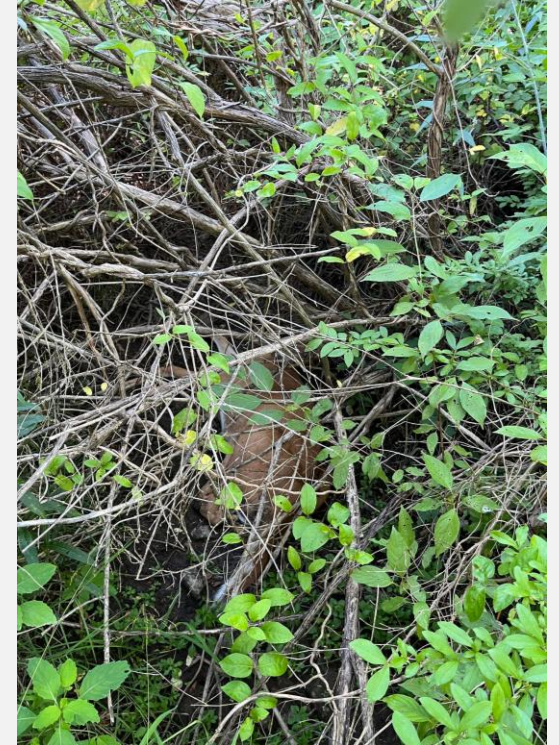


- Similar to scrapie, mad cow disease, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease
- Misfolded protein
- Shed in saliva, urine, and feces
- Stay in environment for years



CWD – THE INVISIBLE THREAT

- More likely to die from
 - Predation
 - Vehicle collision
 - Hunter harvest
- Staggered deaths (not like EHD)
- Dense forests make carcasses hard to find
- Scavengers quickly clean up carcasses





Pennsylvania
Game Commission

WHAT DOES CWD LOOK LIKE?



March 2024



July 2024



Pennsylvania
Game Commission

WHAT DOES CWD LOOK LIKE?



August 2025



September 2025



Pennsylvania
Game Commission

LATE-STAGE CWD



Thin



Stumbling

Low hanging head



Drooping ears

Drooling

Wide stance



Pennsylvania
Game Commission

CWD ALSO LOOKS LIKE THIS





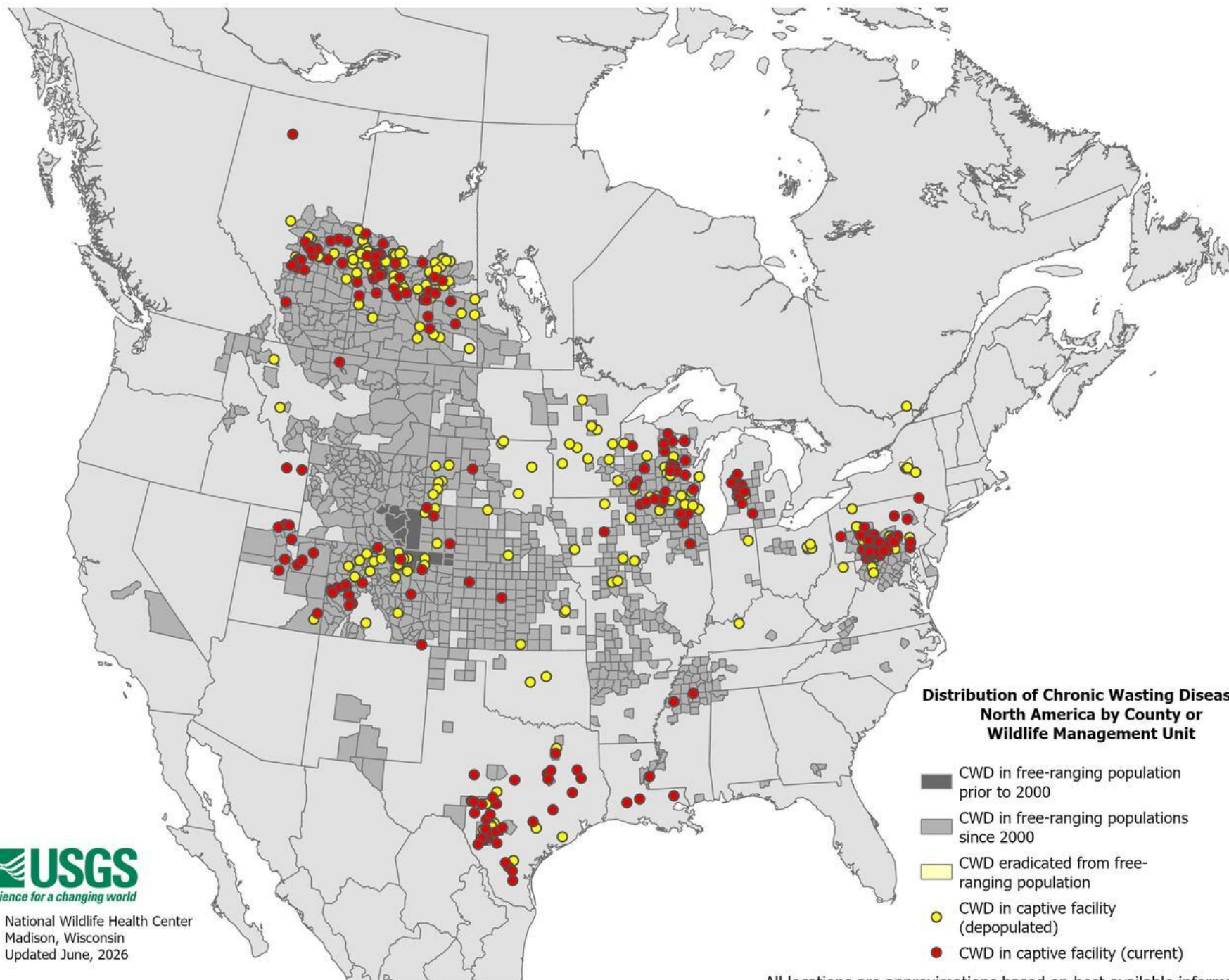
Pennsylvania
Game Commission

LIMIT EXPOSURE TO A KNOWN DISEASE





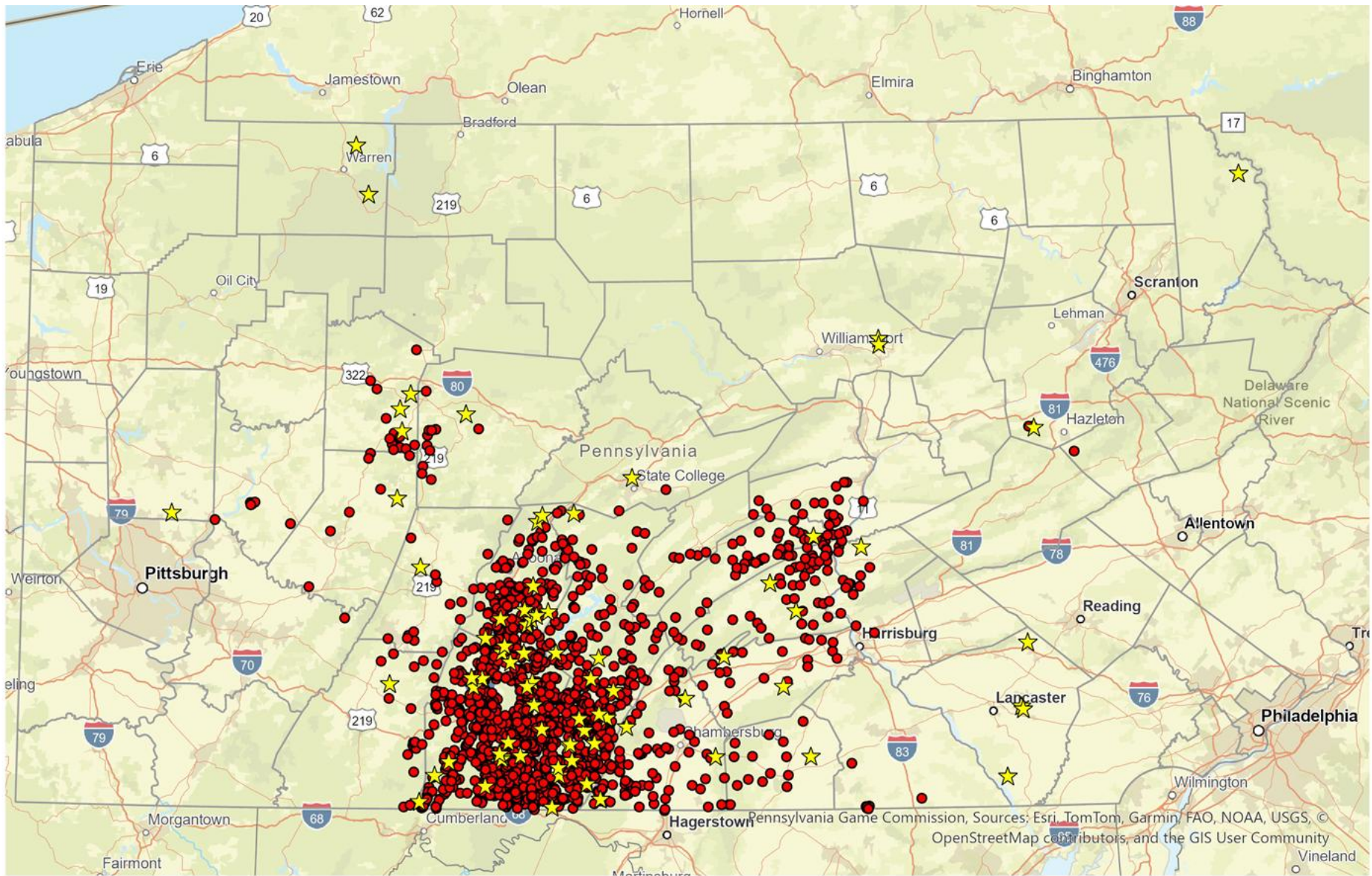
National Wildlife Health Center
Madison, Wisconsin
Updated June, 2026



**Distribution of Chronic Wasting Disease in
North America by County or
Wildlife Management Unit**

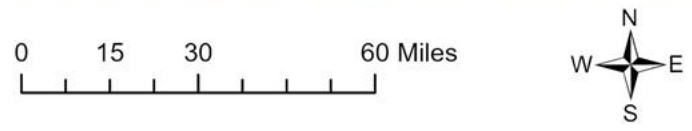
- CWD in free-ranging population prior to 2000
- CWD in free-ranging populations since 2000
- CWD eradicated from free-ranging population
- CWD in captive facility (depopulated)
- CWD in captive facility (current)

All locations are approximations based on best-available information



2026

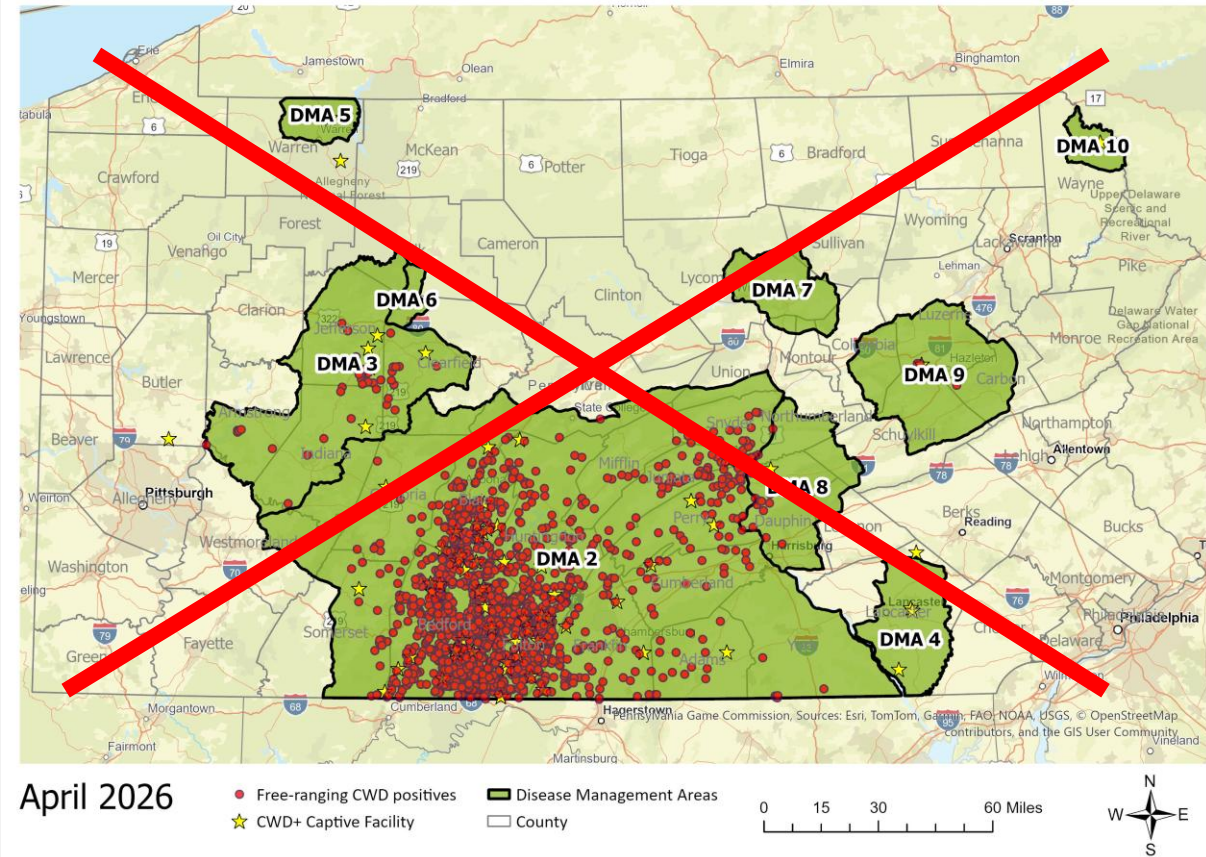
- ★ CWD+ Captive Facility
- CWD+ Free-Ranging Deer
- County





CWD DISEASE MANAGEMENT AREAS (DMA)

- No longer used for CWD regulations
- Regulations exist at different scales





REDUCE RISK OF CWD

- Prohibit feeding of deer
- Regulate disposal of high-risk parts
- Prohibit deer rehabilitation
- Reduce deer abundance



Pennsylvania
Game Commission

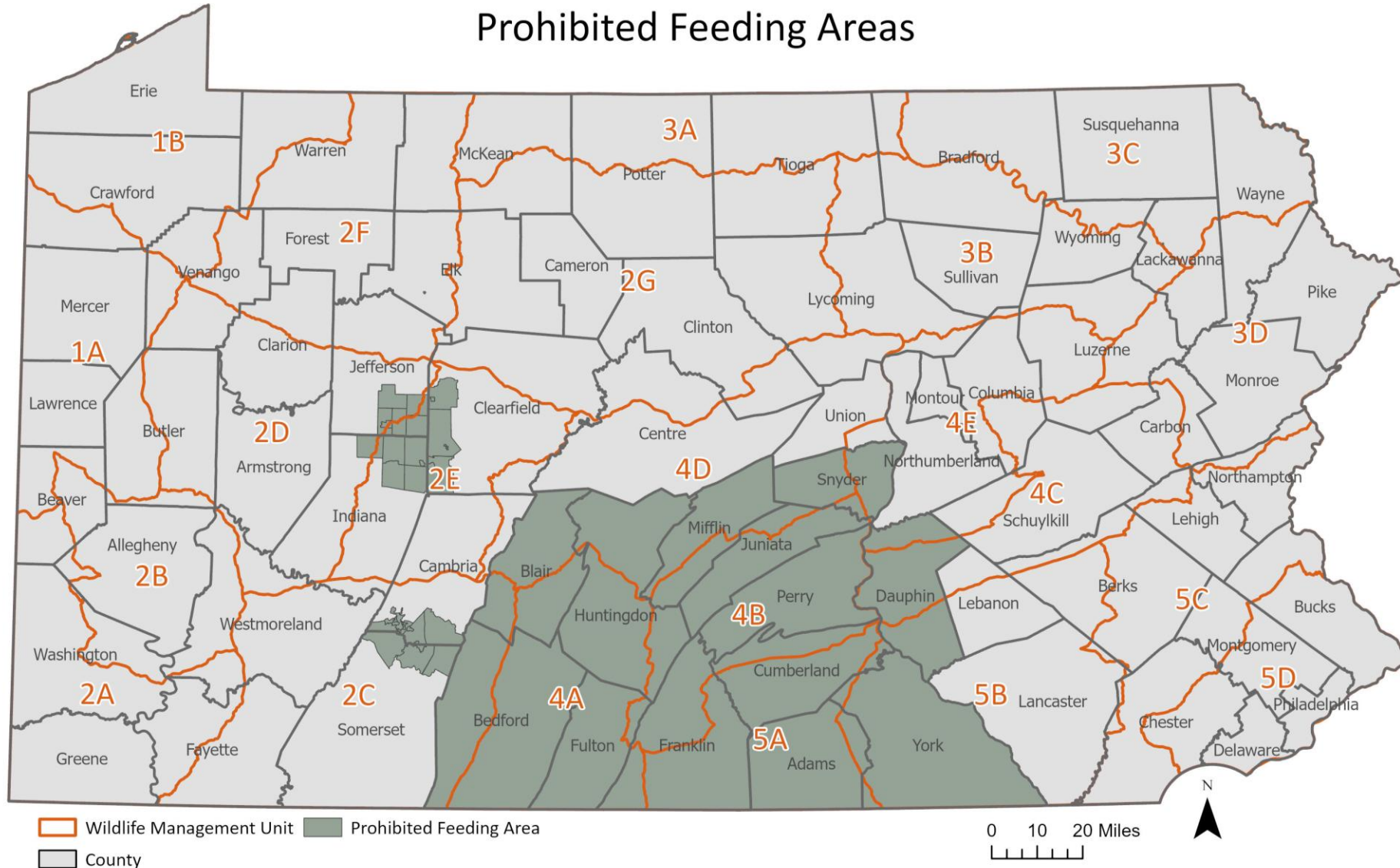
FEEDING CONTRIBUTES TO THE SPREAD OF DISEASE





Pennsylvania Game Commission

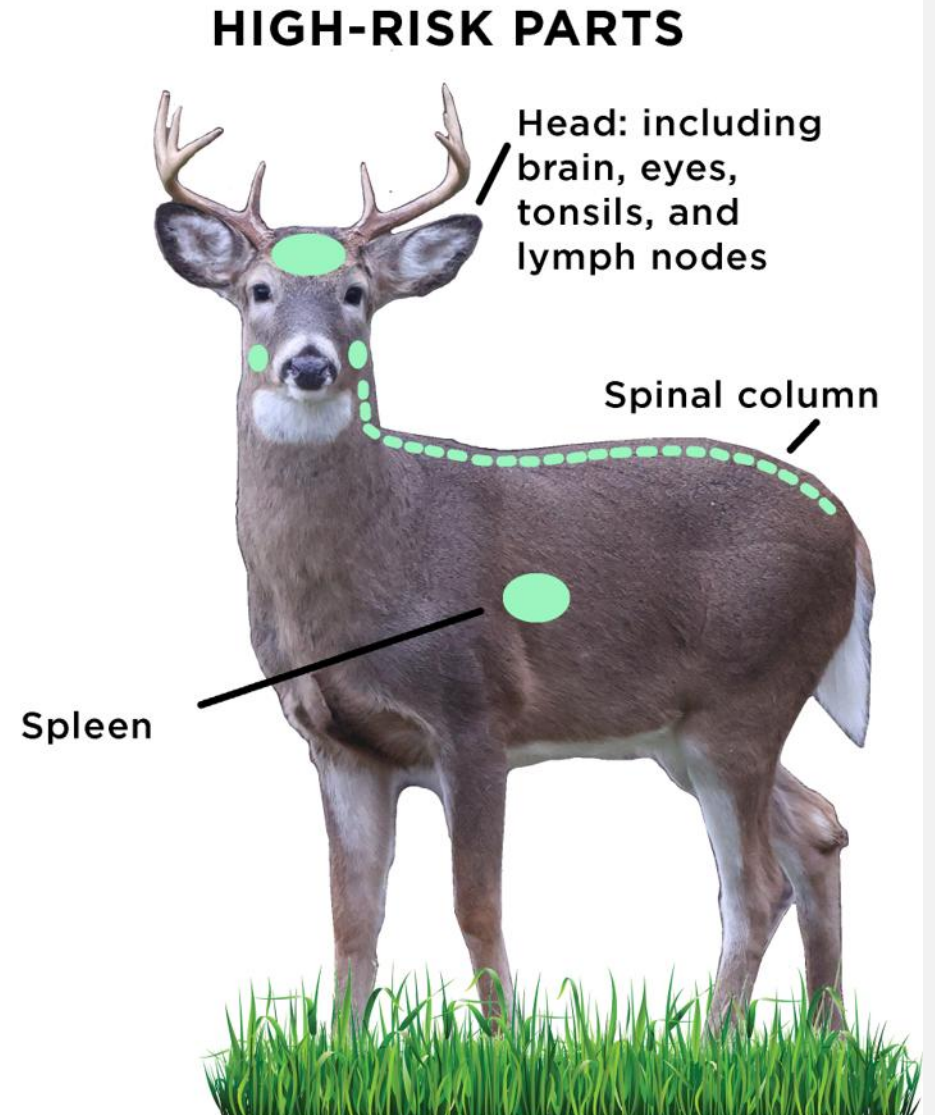
Prohibited Feeding Areas





STATEWIDE HIGH-RISK PARTS (HRP) DISPOSAL

- Can move deer anywhere in state
- Can import deer from any country or state outside of PA
- Once moved from the site of harvest, high-risk parts must be disposed of with a commercial trash service – including deer that are home processed
- HRP may be left at site of harvest





TESTING AND SAMPLING

- Hunter harvest
 - Head collection bin
 - Statewide processors
- Roadkill (areas with CWD detections)
- Clinical suspects



HOW TO GET A DEER TESTED

- Testing is FREE
- Legible and completed harvest tag
- Double bagged
- Can remove antlers first
- Other options for deer to be mounted
- Include head or lymph node sample only
 - do not include trash or HRP





WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Report sick or road killed deer
- 1-833-PGC-WILD (1-833-742-9453)
- Don't feed deer and encourage others not to feed
- Harvest antlerless deer
- Dispose of high-risk parts properly

THANK YOU

CWD hotline: 1-833-463-6293

CWD email: infocwd@pa.gov

Dispatch (to report deer): 1-833-742-9453

For more CWD information: pa.gov/cwd

PA.GOV/PGC



Pennsylvania
Game Commission

