

CERVID HEALTH COOPERATOR PROGRAM

TAXIDERMISTS and PROCESSORS:

Get paid to help protect North Carolina's deer herd!

The Cervid Health Cooperator (CHC) program is a partnership involving the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, N.C. taxidermists, and deer processors to increase Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance in our state. Taxidermists and processors enrolled in the CHC program will learn how to obtain samples and earn money by submitting those samples for testing.



How to Become a Cervid Health Cooperator?

To become a CHC, contact your local District Biologist (contact information can be found at www.ncwildlife.org/taxidermist). A one-on-one or small group training will be scheduled, which will include a hands-on demonstration on collecting CWD samples.

Only certified collectors enrolled in the CHC Program will be paid for collecting and submitting samples taken from North Carolina deer. CHCs will have the option to submit a limited number of heads for \$5 each, or medial retropharyngeal lymph nodes (RPLNs) for \$15 per deer.

Why Collect Deer Heads and RPLNs?

CWD is a fatal neurological disease in cervids (e.g. deer, elk, moose, and reindeer/caribou). The source of the disease is an abnormal prion (a form of protein) that collects in the animal's lymph nodes and brain cells. The brain cells eventually burst, leaving behind microscopic empty spaces in the brain matter that give it a "spongy" look. However, it can take over 16 months for obvious signs of CWD to develop, meaning deer can appear healthy yet still have the disease. RPLNs (located in the head) are used to test for CWD, even prior to physical signs developing in the animal.



**FOR MORE DETAILS
VISIT WWW.NCWILDLIFE.ORG/TAXIDERMIST
OR CALL 919-707-0050**

IMPORTANT: As of March 31, 2022, **CWD has been confirmed** in a deer from Yadkin County, North Carolina. For updates, visit ncwildlife.org/deerdiseases.