

Farmed Cervidae Program CWD Surveillance Standards

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Complete and thorough surveillance for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Minnesota farmed cervid herds is critical to detect CWD infection in farmed cervid herds as early as possible. Currently, the only approved testing methods available for routine CWD surveillance in farmed cervids is testing of tissues collected from farmed cervid carcasses. For this reason, the state of Minnesota/Board of Animal Health (Board) requires that all animals over 12 months of age that die or are killed be tested for CWD (Minn. Rule 1721. 0420, Subp. 1.C.). Farmed cervids that die, escape, or are lost to the herd and no tissues are collected from these animals for CWD testing, or samples collected from a farmed cervid carcass that are of such poor quality that testing does not result in a successful test result where the CWD status of the animal can be determined, impact the Board's confidence to assess the CWD status of a herd. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) CWD Program Standards recommend risk-based assessments to implement consequences for missed or poor-quality samples.

Below are the consequences to a farmed cervid herd's status that will be considered by the Board's farmed Cervidae program managers when evaluating missed CWD surveillance in a herd. These are the consequences outlined in the USDA APHIS VS CWD Program Standards (Part A.5.4). Herd CWD status will be reviewed annually when the herd inventory is reconciled by farmed Cervidae program staff, or more frequently if needed. This document also outlines the application of these consequences and the impact to a herd's CWD status level when test-eligible animals (animals 12 months of age and older) in a herd that die, escape, are lost, or are killed during a 12-month surveillance period are not successfully tested for CWD, resulting in no determination of their CWD status.

Consequences to a herd's CWD status level include:

- 1) A direct suspension of herd status for a designated period. (At the end of the designated period, the suspension will be lifted, and the status returned to the level before the suspension.)
- 2) A reduction in herd status (ex. from CWD Level 6 to Level 5 or below) which requires a minimum of a year to regain one level in status.
- 3) Consideration of an animal substitute approved by the Board to replace missed or poor-quality samples. The substitute animal must be an animal of the same species and from the same location within the herd that has resided in the herd at least as long as the untested animal(s).

For all herd sizes, impacts to CWD status level are outlined as below:

- a. Status is not impacted when:
 - one animal is not successfully tested in the surveillance period and all animals were successfully tested for CWD in the previous 36 months; or
 - the number of animals not successfully tested is $\leq 10\%$ of the total animals that died or were harvested during the surveillance period.
(ex. 1 animal in 10 or more; 2 animals in 20 or more, etc. that died or were harvested)
- b. Status is suspended for 6 months when the number of animals not successfully tested for CWD is $>10\%$ but $\leq 35\%$ of the total number of animals that died or were harvested during the surveillance period. *
(ex. 1 animal in 3 - 9, 2 animals in 6 - 19, 3 animals in 9 - 29 animals that died or were harvested)
- c. Status is suspended for 12 months when the number of animals not successfully tested for CWD is $>35\%$ but $\leq 50\%$ of the total number of animals that died or were harvested during the surveillance period. *
(ex. 1 animal in 2, 2 animals in 4 - 5, 3 animals in 6 - 8 animals that died or were harvested)
- d. Status is suspended until additional surveillance is completed when the number of animals not successfully tested for CWD is $>50\%$ of the total number of animals that died or were harvested during the surveillance period. *
(ex. the only animal, 2 animals in 3, 3 animals in 4 - 5 animals that died or were harvested)

If a herd's status was suspended in the previous 12-month period, then in the next 12-month period, herds with animals that are not successfully tested for CWD, with no substitute testing done, will be impacted as follows:

- a. Status is not impacted when the number of animals not successfully tested for CWD is $\leq 10\%$ of the total animals that died or were harvested during the surveillance period. *
(ex. 1 animal in 10 or more, 2 animals in 20 or more animals that died or were harvested)
- b. Status is suspended for 12 months when the number of animals not successfully tested for CWD is $>10\%$ but $\leq 35\%$ of the total number of animals that died or were harvested during the surveillance period. *
(ex. 1 animal in 3 - 9, 2 animals in 6 - 19, 3 animals in 9 - 29 animals that died or were harvested)
- c. Status is suspended until additional surveillance is completed when the number of animals not successfully tested for CWD is $>35\%$ of the total number of animals that died or were harvested during the surveillance period. *
(ex. 1 animal in 2, 2 animals in 4 - 5, 3 animals in 6 - 8 animals that died or were harvested)

** Before a sample can be submitted as a substitution for an unsuccessful test, the animal to be sampled must be approved by the Board as a substitute test-eligible animal of the same species that has resided in the same location in the herd, for at least as long as the unsuccessfully tested animal.*

Examples:

1. Two animals died or harvested in any size, any status level herd. One animal not successfully tested. (If this herd had no missed surveillance in the last 36 months, then there would be no impact to herd status.)
 - Herd Status suspended for 12 months
2. Five animals died or harvested in any size, any status level herd. One animal not successfully tested. (If this herd had no missed surveillance in the last 36 months, then there would be no impact to herd status.)
 - Herd Status suspended for 6 months
3. Five animals died or harvested in any size, any status level herd. Two animals not successfully tested.
 - Herd Status suspended for 12 months
4. Ten animals died or harvested in any size, any status level herd. One animal not successfully tested.
 - Herd size is 10 animals – NA – all animals gone
 - Herd size >10 animals – Status not impacted
5. Five animals died or harvested in any size, any status herd; one animal not successfully tested the first year. Five animals tested the second year with one animal not successfully tested.
 - Herd status suspended for 6 months and then returns to a Level 6 until the second-year surveillance evaluated. (If this herd had no missed surveillance in the last 36 months, then there would be no impact to herd status.)
 - Herd status suspended for 12 months with the second-year surveillance