



FACT SHEET:

Arkansas Cervid Carcass Importation Restriction

July 2013

What is a Cervid?

A cervid is any member of the Cervidae Family, which includes white-tailed deer, mule deer, red deer, sika deer, axis deer, fallow deer, elk, moose, and caribou.

What is the purpose of the restriction?

In 2005, the AGFC adopted regulations to further increase protection against chronic wasting disease (CWD) entering the state via infected cervid carcasses.

What is chronic wasting disease?

CWD is a neurological (brain and nervous system) disease found in deer, elk, and moose and is always fatal. CWD is similar to mad cow disease in cattle and scrapie in sheep. The disease belongs to a family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies or prion diseases. Prions are abnormally shaped proteins that are not destroyed by cooking. Prions generally accumulate in the brain, eyes, spinal cord, lymph nodes, tonsils, and spleen of infected animals.

It is not completely understood how CWD is spread, although research supports that the agent responsible for the disease may be spread directly (animal-to-animal contact) and indirectly (soil- or other surface-to-animal). It is thought that the most common mode of transmission from an infected animal may be through saliva and feces. There is strong evidence that people have spread the disease by moving infected animals and portions of their bodies.

There currently is no evidence that CWD is transmissible to humans. However, public health officials recommend that human exposure to CWD-infected animals be avoided.

What parts of your harvest can be brought back to or even through Arkansas?

The following items are the only portions allowed to be imported, transported, or possessed in Arkansas from any cervid harvested outside the boundaries of Arkansas (exception: deer harvested from within the Mississippi River levee system in Mississippi or Tennessee):

- * Antlers and/or antlers attached to clean skull plate or cleaned skulls (all tissue removed);
- * Meat with all bones removed;
- * Cleaned teeth;
- * Finished taxidermy products; and
- * Hides or tanned products

Hunters are allowed to possess portions of deer and elk harvested from within commercial wildlife hunting resorts that are located in Arkansas provided that a CWD sample is collected and submitted to the AGFC.

What other states have cervid carcass importation restrictions?

It is extremely important that out-of-state hunters fully understand not only the carcass importation regulations of their home state and/or destination state, but also for all the states they will travel through with their harvest. For more information regarding chronic wasting disease and a complete listing of each state's carcass importation regulations, visit www.cwd-info.org.

**For complete information
regarding the cervid carcass
importation restriction please
consult Commission Code
5.26**