

DNR reports Mecosta County's first CWD-positive wild deer January 15, 2025

Michigan DNR News

The buck was harvested near confirmed cases in adjacent Montcalm County

Mecosta is now the 14th Michigan county where chronic wasting disease has been identified in the wild deer population, according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. An adult buck harvested in Millbrook Township recently tested positive for the disease.

The CWD finding was confirmed by the Michigan State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, which works with the DNR to identify CWD in Michigan's wild deer herd. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratory, in Ames, Iowa, also confirmed the test result.

CWD is a fatal neurological disease that affects white-tailed deer, elk and moose. To date, the disease has also been detected in the following Michigan counties: Clinton, Dickinson, Eaton, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Kent, Midland, Montcalm and Ogemaw.

Intensive CWD surveillance was conducted from 2017 to 2019 in Mecosta County, with over 5,600 deer tested and no positives identified during that time. However, Millbrook Township borders Montcalm County, where 167 deer have tested positive for CWD through combined DNR collections and direct hunter submissions to the MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

CWD is a chronic, slow-developing disease that spreads slowly across the landscape.

"The expansion of CWD to Mecosta County is consistent with the slow spread we've seen throughout Michigan, especially since the CWD-positive animal was harvested near confirmed cases in adjacent Montcalm County," said Chad Fedewa, acting DNR deer, elk and moose management specialist. "We appreciate the hunting community for the crucial role they continue to play in disease-testing efforts."

[There are several testing options available](#), depending on where in the state a person is hunting.

Testing background and strategy

After initial intensive testing near areas of the first CWD detections in the state, the DNR began a rotational approach for testing in 2021.

A group of counties is selected each year, with the eventual aim of testing enough deer in every Michigan county. The goal of this approach is early disease detection, as management has the potential to be most effective when the disease is caught early.

In 2021 and 2022, the rotational approach focused testing in areas of both the southwestern and southeastern Lower Peninsula. In 2023, the focus moved to the northern Lower Peninsula, and in 2024, testing focused on parts of both the northern Lower Peninsula and the Upper Peninsula.

[DNR expands fight against CWD after the deer disease crops up in Hennepin and Clay counties](#) January 28, 2025 Michigan, Star Tribune

... confirmed infections near Greenfield in western Hennepin County and Hawley in Clay County, which borders Fargo. The positive test results were detected in antlered bucks harvested by hunters during the firearms season...

[Chronic wasting disease discovered in Mecosta County](#) February 12, 2025 Michigan Farm Progress

... an adult buck harvested in Millbrook Township recently tested positive... Since CWD was first detected in wild deer in 2015 ... more than 143,000 wild deer have been tested through DNR surveillance efforts that started in 2002, with 260 CWD-positive deer identified...

[Chronic wasting disease found in farmed deer in mid-Michigan](#) March 11, 2025 mlive on MSN

... The case involved a 7-year-old deer from Osceola County, the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) reported Tuesday, March 11.

Investigations are ongoing to determine if there are any additional exposures to other deer..

[DNR reports Washtenaw Countys first CWD-positive wild deer](#) March 12, 2025

Michigan DNR News

... Washtenaw is now the 15th Michigan county where chronic wasting disease has been identified in the wild deer population ... An adult buck found acting ill in Salem Township recently tested positive for CWD... While this is the first positive in Washtenaw County, 39 deer in neighboring Jackson County have tested positive ...

[Wild deer tests positive for chronic wasting disease in Genesee County](#) September 24, 2025 Michigan, ClickOnDetroit

... A 2.5-year-old doe in Gaines Township tested positive for CWD, making Genesee County the 16th Michigan county with CWD. The doe was reportedly very skinny, drinking continuously and walked directly up to a conservation officer...

DNR reports Allegan County's first CWD-positive wild deer November 13, 2025

Michigan DNR

... Allegan is now the 17th Michigan county where chronic wasting disease has been identified in the wild deer population, according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. An emaciated doe reported by residents of Leighton Township recently tested positive for the disease... The declining health of this 1.5-year-old doe was first noted by private landowners in late summer. In late September, the DNR was contacted ...