

## STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY

ANIMAL HEALTH 28 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333-0028

WALTER E. WHITCOMB COMMISSIONER

PAUL R. LEPAGE GOVERNOR

To: Maine Cervid Producers

Subject: CWD detected in Quebec, Canada

October 11, 2018

To our valued Cervid Producers:

This letter is to notify you of the appearance of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Quebec, Canada. A captive-raised red deer from a non-certified herd was confirmed CWD positive during routine slaughter surveillance testing. This case represents the first positive CWD case in Quebec.

The farm of origin for the CWD positive deer has been quarantined, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is working with the provincial Ministry of Agriculture to determine the source of disease and implement all appropriate containment efforts.

Importation of live deer into Maine is strictly regulated in order to prevent the introduction of CWD by this route. Please contact the Department of Agriculture prior to any planned live animal importation for the most up to date animal movement regulations. Additionally, please take note of any changes to carcass transport regulations this hunting season. This information can be found on the IFW website on the "Wildlife Disease" page.

CWD is capable of infecting all species of deer farmed in Maine, as well as our native cervid species. Conducting appropriate surveillance testing is the best way to identify this disease early and minimize its impact. As animals are hunted or harvested on your farms this season, please help us in our surveillance efforts by maintaining a current herd inventory, reporting all cervid deaths to the program manager, and preserving tissues for sample collection by keeping them refrigerated.

If you have any questions about CWD sampling on your farm or about CWD, please contact Carolyn Hurwitz at 207-592-6698 or <u>Carolyn.Hurwitz@maine.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

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Carolyn Hurwitz, DVM Assistant State Veterinarian- Cervid Program Manager Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Carolyn.Hurwitz@maine.gov 207-592-6698

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