



# CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD)

## CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Fatal brain disease of deer, elk, and moose that is caused by an abnormal protein called a prion.

### PRION

A form of a protein molecule that is closely associated with cells in the nervous system and in lymphoid tissue.

### CERVID

A mammal of the family Cervidae, which includes white-tailed deer, mule deer and elk.

### CAPTIVE CERVID HERD

A herd of deer or elk that is confined and managed as a herd of domestic animals would be.

### TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY

Diseases that are caused by abnormal forms of prions that convert normal cellular proteins to more abnormal prions

Learn more at [gfp.sd.gov/chronic-wasting-disease](http://gfp.sd.gov/chronic-wasting-disease).

CWD officially classified as a **TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY**, a neurodegenerative disease.

**FEBRUARY 1978**

Research conducted to determine CWD presence outside captive cervid facilities. No CWD documented during research.

**OCTOBER 1997 TO DECEMBER 1999**

CWD documented in a sick elk within Wind Cave National Park.

**NOVEMBER 2002**

CWD documented in a mule deer within Wind Cave National Park.

**FEBRUARY 2003**

CWD first documented within Custer State Park in a sick elk.

**MARCH 2005**

Mandatory submission of samples for CWD for all deer and elk harvested within Custer State Park.

**2018**

South Dakota's first formal Chronic Wasting Disease Action Plan implemented.

**2019**

**JANUARY 1967**

CWD first identified as a disease in captive mule deer in Colorado.

**WINTER 1997**

CWD discovered in 7 **CAPTIVE CERVID HERDS** in Custer, McPherson, and Pennington counties.

**NOVEMBER 2001**

CWD documented in first hunter harvested white-tailed deer in Fall River County.

**DECEMBER 2002**

CWD documented in hunter harvested mule deer in Fall River County.

**OCTOBER 2003**

CWD documented in first hunter harvested elk in Custer County.

**NOVEMBER 2009**

CWD documented within Custer State Park in a white-tailed deer.

**2001 TO 2018**

South Dakota has tested 13,818 white-tailed deer (135 CWD positive), 6,165 mule deer (89 CWD positive), and 7,566 elk (201 CWD positive), and 2 moose for CWD.