

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

Since 2001, USDA has worked to develop and implement a CWD program to prevent and control this disease in farmed/captive cervids, establish a national CWD Herd Certification Program, and assist States and tribes in CWD surveillance in wild deer, elk, and moose. The CWD Interim Final Rule became effective on August 13, 2012 and established minimum federal standards for a voluntary Approved State CWD Herd Certification Program (HPC). The CWD HCP is a cooperative effort between APHIS, State animal health or wildlife agencies, and farmed/captive deer, elk, or moose owners. The CWD program supports these efforts through ongoing surveillance in farmed cervid herds to detect CWD-positive animals and conducting follow-up investigations to trace CWD-infected animals to epidemiologically linked herds.

The NVSL Pathobiology Laboratory in Ames, Iowa performs confirmatory testing on all samples identified as suspect (potential positive) for CWD by the [CWD-approved NAHLN laboratories](#).

More information on VS' involvement in CWD can be found [here](#).