



Eau Claire County Whitetail herd destroyed due to chronic wasting disease

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MADISON –Dr. Paul McGraw, State Veterinarian, from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) announced today that the agency has completed the depopulation of an Eau Claire County deer herd from which a 7-year-old doe tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in June. Subsequently, two additional deer from the farm tested positive in September and October.

The herd of 228 whitetails owned by Richard Vojtik was put down beginning early Monday morning, November 16, and concluded today at 1 p.m. A team comprised of veterinarians and animal health technicians from DATCP and U.S. Department of Agriculture-APHIS carried out the depopulation of 163 adults and 65 fawns using a combination of injectable euthanasia or sharpshooting, as necessary.

Heads from all the adults were removed and sampled. Samples were sent to the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for initial testing. Any preliminary positive tests for CWD are then sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa for confirmation. Confirmatory test results are not expected until the week of November 23.

Preliminary tests from the first two days of depopulation indicate that 23 additional animals are CWD positive. More tests are pending, so that number may rise. Carcasses testing positive for CWD were transported in a double-lined truck to an anaerobic digester, while carcasses from negative animals will be landfilled.

DATCP cooperated with USDA researchers to collect samples from the animals prior to euthanasia for use in the development of a validated live animal test for CWD. Such a test may have an impact on the way CWD is managed in the future.

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