

# Tyler County Forest Landowner Association

Saturday, September 21, 2024

**Chronic Wasting Disease and Its Impact on Deer Populations.** Bobby Allcorn, Wildlife Health Specialist with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), stated that instances of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Texas deer have been found almost exclusively in deer breeding facilities. Only one instance has been confirmed in the wild – so far.

CWD, once contracted by a deer, is 100% fatal and *all* white tail deer are susceptible. The disease is transmitted by an infected deer making direct contact with a healthy deer via body fluids such as saliva, urine, and feces. There is concern that CWD can also be transmitted indirectly by deposits on the landscape.

Precautions that hunters should take are as follows:

- De-bone all meat.
- Do not eat the brain, spinal cord, eyes, or other neurological tissues.
- Harvest only deer that appear healthy.
- *If a carcass is transported off the property from which it is harvested*, then the carcass must be either returned to the property, buried, or included in bagged trash for normal public trash handling.
- If you suspect that a deer you have harvested might have CWD, contact your local TPWD biologist. The head with a few inches of the neck attached is used for testing.