

*** NEW RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEER HARVEST DISPOSAL ***

August 26, 2019



The Environmental Health, Safety and Land Division is committed to providing safe, convenient disposal options to Oneida Sportsmen. Changing the behavior of disposal of deer carcass waste in the woods or field is a major factor in containing the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

- **What is CWD?**

CWD is a contagious neurological disease of deer, elk, moose, and reindeer that is caused by an abnormal protein called a prion. These prions cause brain degeneration in infected animals and lead to extreme weight loss, abnormal behavior, and loss of bodily functions. This always fatal disease was first found in Wisconsin in 2002 through testing of hunter-harvested deer. There are currently fifty-six counties in WI affected by CWD.

- **Where should hunters dispose their deer this season?**

The Oneida Conservation Department Field Office, 8047 Cty U, will host a dumpster for Oneida Sportsmen to utilize for deer disposal only, during the 2019 season. The intent is to limit the past hunter practices of deer carcasses left in field. Limiting contaminated carcasses on the landscape reduces the possible spread of disease.

- **Why is disposal in a dumpster being recommended for deer?**

Due to the spread of CWD in Wisconsin. CWD can be spread among deer by direct contact between animals and indirectly through exposure to environments contaminated with CWD prions, the protein that causes the disease. Exposure to an area where a CWD-positive carcass decomposed could be enough to cause infection to be spread to other deer.

Because of this risk of transmission to healthy deer, it is vital that deer carcasses, including all bones and waste from butchering, are disposed of in a way to reduce this infection risk. The proper disposal method for all deer is in a dumpster. The most current research shows and unknown risk to human health from CWD.

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For more information contact Oneida Conservation Department @ 920-869-1450