

JB Pritzker, Governor • Jerry Costello II, Director

Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare

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Deer Producers and Veterinary Staff,

We are writing to invite you to a virtual informational meeting regarding the sample collection process for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). As stewards of animal health and welfare, your participation is crucial in preventing and managing this serious disease.

Date & Time: September 30th at 8:00 AM or October 1st at 4:00 PM **Location**: Online using WebEx Platform

Chronic Wasting Disease is a transmissible neurological disorder affecting deer, elk, and other cervids. Early detection and proper management are key to minimizing its impact on wildlife populations and our shared ecosystems. This informational meeting aims to provide you with knowledge about future in-person training programs that will teach proper sample collection techniques aiding in accurate CWD testing.

Agenda:

- 1. Overview of Chronic Wasting Disease
- 2. Importance of Early Detection and Management
- 3. Explanation of Sample Collection and Handling Programs
- 4. Q&A Session

By attending this meeting, you'll gain information regarding future, in-person training programs held throughout the state that will teach valuable skills and information that will contribute to the ongoing efforts to monitor and control CWD.

To confirm your attendance, please RSVP by emailing <u>AGR.CWDGRANT@illinois.gov</u> by 5pm September 27th, 2023. Feel free to share this invitation with colleagues who may also be interested in attending.

Thank you for your commitment to the health and well-being of our cervid populations. Your participation will make a significant impact on the prevention and management of Chronic Wasting Disease.

We look forward to your presence at the meeting.

Sincerely,

Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare