

# Chronic wasting disease detected in Putnam, Marshall counties

## Testing shows infected deer in February 2025

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Chronic wasting disease has been detected in Putnam, Marshall, Adams and Peoria counties, expanding the geographic presence of the disease in free-ranging deer populations in northern Illinois, according to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Adams County is the first documented case recorded outside of the leading edge of the CWD endemic region.

CWD is a deadly neurological disease that affects the long-term health of white-tailed deer in Illinois. First documented in Illinois in 2002 near Roscoe, CWD has been detected in 25 counties across northern Illinois and now as far south as Adams County in west-central Illinois.

In early February 2025, CWD was detected and confirmed through diagnostic testing in Putnam, Marshall and Adams counties from routine surveillance of hunter-harvested deer. Peoria County was confirmed in a 2-year-old deer exhibiting clinical signs consistent with CWD infec-



Mark Busch file photo

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tion using the same diagnostic testing procedures. Following standard protocol, samples from Adams County underwent genetic testing to ensure genetic matches between submitted tissue samples and source deer.

Affected Illinois counties now include Adams, Boone, Bureau, Carroll, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Ford, Grundy, Jo Daviess, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, La Salle, Lee, Livingston, Marshall, McHenry, Ogle, Peoria, Putnam, Stephenson, Will and Winnebago.

CWD management is important to the overall health of Illinois' deer herd, according to IDOT. A primary goal of

ongoing CWD management in Illinois includes lowering prevalence in affected areas to slow the spread of the disease. Those management efforts have kept prevalence low in the state for almost an entire generation of deer hunters.

"Illinois is a national leader in managing and slowing the spread of CWD, and over the past two decades IDNR's program has served as a model for other states," IDNR Director Natalie Phelps Finnie said in a news release.

While the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have not linked CWD to human transmission, they recommend against eating meat from CWD-positive deer. Hunters are encouraged to have their deer tested and avoid consuming brain, spinal cord, eyes and other tissues known to harbor the CWD agent. For information about these detections or about CWD, contact Chris Jacques, wildlife disease program manager, at [chris.jacques@illinois.gov](mailto:chris.jacques@illinois.gov).

IDNR wildlife biologists will be available to discuss management strategies and answer questions about CWD in public meetings expected to occur later this year. Meeting dates and locations will be released at a later date. Landowners, hunters and interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

## LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

### Hennepin library to host book sale April 24-26

The Hennepin branch of the Putnam County Library District, 214 N. Fourth St., will host a spring book sale Thursday, April 24, through Saturday, April 26, during library hours.

Stop by the library to pick up books during the townwide garage sales. Donations will be accepted.

### Hennepin Park District to host Easter egg hunt April 18

The Hennepin Park District will be having its annual Easter egg hunt on Friday, April 18.

The park district will have plastic eggs filled with treats hidden on its lawn for children to collect.

Kindergarteners and younger will hunt

their eggs on the north lawn at 10 a.m. First through fifth grades will hunt eggs on the south lawn at 10:30 a.m.

The Easter Bunny will be present for photos. The Easter egg hunt is free to all who participate. For information, contact the Hennepin Pool at 815-925-7319 or [hennepinparkdistrict@mchsi.com](mailto:hennepinparkdistrict@mchsi.com).

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