

Should I Get My Deer Tested for Chronic Wasting Disease?

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When to test:

- If you have any concerns at all related to CWD it is a good idea to have your deer tested no matter what county you harvested the animal. Testing is currently free of charge to hunters. There are testing locations that you can drop off a sample located throughout the state of Kentucky (Table 1).
- If you harvested a deer within any CWD Surveillance zone (CWD SZ - Figure 1) meaning within Ballard, Breckinridge, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hardin, Hickman, Marshall, Meade, and McCracken counties you are subject to CWD SZ regulations regarding testing, carcass transport, and carcass disposal. Even outside of mandatory testing windows it is recommended that you get your deer tested through provided voluntary methods.
- Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) has mandatory testing in place at this time. To be up to date on regulations and their tools to help hunters deal with their guidelines please refer to KDFWR CWD website ([Chronic Wasting Disease - Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife](https://fw.ky.gov/Wildlife/Pages/Chronic-Wasting-Disease.aspx#Hunters) - <https://fw.ky.gov/Wildlife/Pages/Chronic-Wasting-Disease.aspx#Hunters>). Table 1 provides a quick reference for current sampling guideline during the 2025-26 hunting season but please refer to KDFWR for full legal guidance.

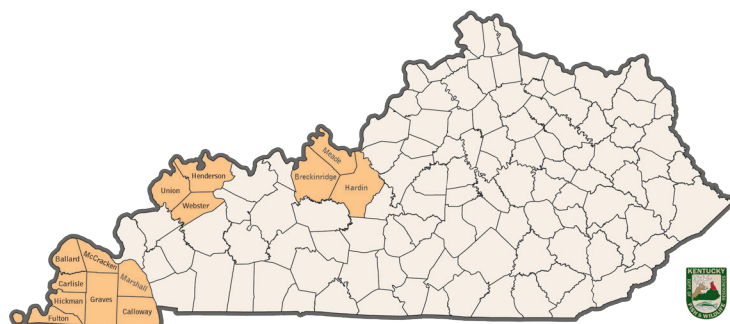


Figure 1. State of Kentucky, counties within Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) SZs

- Please refer to the safe deer processing sheet for guidelines on ways to safely process your harvest, <https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/sites/forestry.ca.uky.edu/files/FORFS%2024-09%20Deer%20Processing%20Guide.pdf>
- Whether you get your deer tested at a staffed location, drop off site, or through mail you should retain the tear-off portion of your sample tag as proof of checking your deer as well as having the identification to check the results of your test. Follow to check your test results, <https://app.fw.ky.gov/cwdlookup/>

While I wait for results?

- The CDC advises that you not consume any deer that is positive for CWD
- Since there is potential the deer could be positive if it were harvested within the CWD monitoring zone you should wait until your deer's status is known before consuming any meat from it

CWD SURVEILLANCE ZONE COUNTIES – MANDATORY SAMPLING DATES		
County	Sept. 27-28	Nov. 8-10
Ballard	Use sample drop-off site	
Breckinridge	Use sample drop-off site	
Calloway	Use sample drop-off site	
Carlisle	Use sample drop-off site	
Fulton	Use sample drop-off site	
Graves	Use sample drop-off site	
Hardin	Use sample drop-off site	
Henderson	Use sample drop-off site	Visit staffed check station or use sample drop-off site
Hickman	Use sample drop-off site	
Marshall	Use sample drop-off site	
McCracken	Use sample drop-off site	
Meade	Use sample drop-off site	
Union	Use sample drop-off site	Visit staffed check station or use sample drop-off site
Webster	Use sample drop-off site	Visit staffed check station or use sample drop-off site

Table 1. Mandatory Sampling Counties and reference for sampling methods

Table 2. Staffed CWD Check Station Locations Opening Weekend of Gun Season (Nov. 8-10)		
COUNTY	LOCATION NAME/ADDRESS	CITY
Henderson	Henderson Co. Extension Office, 3341 Zion Rd.	Henderson
Henderson	Sloughs WMA, 9956 KY-268	Corydon
Union	Higginson-Henry WMA - 6440 KY-56E	Morganfield
Union	Union Co. Extension Office, 1938 US-60 W	Morganfield
Webster	Southern States, 1112 US-41	Sebree
Webster	Webster Co. Extension Office, 1118 US-41 ALT	Dixon
Webster	S&S Salvage, 701 US-41 ALT	Providence

Table 2. CWD Staffed Check Stations 2025-26 season, CWD Surveillance Zone - Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife

How to a deer tested

- Arrive at a check station during the Mandatory Check Window, opening weekend of Modern Gun (November 8-10, 2025) within Henderson, Union, and Webster County zone, and a biologist will collect the sample (Table 2).
- Outside of that situation, at unmanned drop off sites (Table 3) or through available mail-in kits there are step by step guidelines provided by KDFWR to collect the samples from the deer head itself.
- It is free to get your deer tested and the results are obtained within about 10 weeks or less depending on laboratory schedules.

What to do if I receive a positive test result?

- The CDC does not recommend any meat from CWD positive animals to be consumed by humans at this time, if you receive a positive test contact Kentucky Fish and Wildlife if you have not been contacted already.
- Do not donate the meat to the food bank
- Do not bury it or discard it in the environment
- Place in trash bags and dispose of the bags so that it can be buried at the landfill

Test your deer at home:

In 2024 KDFWR started a new program for at home sample collections. The mail-in kits are a convenient way to test your harvest for CWD. Note that the kits DO NOT meet the mandatory check requirements for the SZs. For the 25-26 harvest season you can request kits starting on August 15, 2025, as they are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Instructions on how to use the kit are included as well as more resources like an instructional video at the listed site. More information

about the kits can be found at: <https://fw.ky.gov/Wildlife/Pages/mail-in-kit.aspx>

Related Programs:

Shoot for Samples

The Shoot for Samples Giveaway a program started in the 24-25 season, is running from September 6, 2025, until January 19, 2026. Through this you the hunters are encouraged to help monitor Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

- Submit a sample through CWD sample drop off sites or Mail-in Kit
- Enter to win, each deer head dropped off or lymph nodes submitted, you will receive an entry into the giveaway
- Win prizes, range from gift cards to gear sources from local businesses! One prize winner for each region will be randomly drawn and contacted at the end of deer season by KDFWR. The 5 regions being Bluegrass, Northeast, Southeast, Green River, and Purchase.
- For more information on rules, regulations, and sponsors visit <https://fw.ky.gov/Hunt/Pages/shootforsamples.aspx>



Table 3. CWD Sample Drop-off Sites, 2025-26 Season

COUNTY	LOCATION NAME/ADDRESS	CITY
Ballard	Ballard County Extension Office, 110 Broadway, LaCenter, Kentucky 42056	LaCenter
Ballard	Ballard County Sherriff's Office, 1718 Barlow Rd., Wickliffe, Kentucky 42087	Wickliffe
Barren	Barren River WMA Office, 1457 South Lucas Rd., Lucas, Kentucky 42156	Lucas
Bell	Rose Taxidermy, 7 Ennismore Dr., Middlesboro, Kentucky 40965	Middlesboro
Boone	Boone County Extension Office, 6028 Camp Ernst Rd., Burlington, Kentucky 41005	Burlington
Boyd	Stevens Gun and Pawn, 7023 US-60, Ashland, Kentucky 41102	Ashland
Boyle	Curtsinger's Sunrise Outfitters, 1389 Old Stanford Rd., Danville, Kentucky 40422	Danville
Breathitt	Breathitt County Extension Office, 1155 Main St., Jackson, Kentucky 41339	Jackson
Breckinridge	Cloverport Fire Department, 710 W Huston St., Cloverport, Kentucky 40111	Cloverport
Breckinridge	Axtel Boat Ramp, 425 KY-79, McDaniels, Kentucky 40152	McDaniels
Breckinridge	Breckinridge County Extension Office, Us-60 & KY-261, Hardinsburg, Kentucky 40143	Hardinsburg
Breckinridge	Custer General Store, 6058 KY-86, Custer, Kentucky 40115	Custer
Breckinridge	Irvington Fire Department, 216 1st St., Irvington, Kentucky 40146	Irvington
Breckinridge	Yellowbank WMA Office, Grady-Frymire Spur Rd., Stephensport, Kentucky 40170	Stephensport
Calloway	First Choice Firearms, 1205 Stadium View Dr., Murray, Kentucky 42071	Murray
Calloway	Hazel Fire Department 215 Main St., Hazel, Kentucky 42049	Hazel
Calloway	KDFWR Murray Office, 30 Scenic Acres Dr., Murray, Kentucky 42071	Murray
Carlisle	Carlisle County Extension Office, 65 John Roberts Drive, Bardwell, Kentucky 42023	Bardwell
Carroll	Glaubers Sports, 106 4th St., Carrollton, Kentucky 41008	Carrollton
Carter	Carter County Extension Office, 94 Cs-1006, Grayson, Kentucky 41143	Grayson
Clay	Clay County Extension EXCEL Center, 86 Muddy Gap Rd., Manchester, Kentucky 40962	Manchester
Clinton	Junction Station, LLC , 65 KY-90 E., Albany, Kentucky 42602	Albany
Crittenden	Crittenden County Extension Office, 1534 US-60, Marion, Kentucky 42064	Marion
Cumberland	Cumberland County Extension Office, 90 Smith Grove Rd., Burkesville, Kentucky 42717	Burkesville
Daviess	Triple B Archery, 1915 West 7th Street, Owensboro, Kentucky 42301	Owensboro
Floyd	Copperhead Gun and Range, 469 US-23., Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653	Prestonsburg

Franklin	KY Dept. Fish & Wildlife Resources Headquarters, 1 Sportsman's Ln., Frankfort, Kentucky 40601	Frankfort
Fulton	Fulton County Extension Office, 2114 S 7th St., Hickman, Kentucky 42050	Hickman
Gallatin	Gallatin County Extension Office, 395 US-42, Warsaw, Kentucky 41095	Warsaw
Grant	Curtis Gates Lloyd WMA Office, 230 Gardnersville Rd., Crittenden, Kentucky 41030	Crittenden
Graves	Graves County Extension Office , 4200 US Hwy-45, Mayfield, Kentucky 42066	Mayfield
Graves	Patriot Ag LLC, 400 Crittenden Lane, Mayfield, Kentucky 42066	Mayfield
Graves	Sedalia Fire Department, 5414 KY 97, Sedalia, Kentucky 42079	Sedalia
Graves	Walking Humbly Outdoor Adventures, 5085 KY 94 West, Water Valley, Kentucky 42085	Water Valley
Hardin	Upton Fire Department, 217 S Walnut St., Upton, Kentucky 42784	Upton
Hardin	Eastview Dollar General, 13511 Leitchfield Rd., Eastview, Kentucky 42732	Eastview
Hardin	Village Green Landscaping, 6100 Bardstown Rd., Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42701	Elizabethtown
Hardin	Hardin County Extension Office, 111 Opportunity Way, Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42701	Elizabethtown
Harlan	Harlan County Extension Office, 519 S Main St., Harlan, Kentucky 40831	Harlan
Henderson	City of Corydon Public Building, 130 Main St., Corydon, Kentucky 42406	Corydon
Henderson	Henderson County Extension Office, 3341 Zion Rd., Henderson, Kentucky 42420	Henderson
Henderson	Niagara Food Mart, 3949 SR-416, Henderson, Kentucky 42420	Henderson
Henderson	Perfection Tool, Inc., 6502 Peters Road, Reed, Kentucky 42451	Reed
Henderson	Sloughs WMA, 9956 KY-268, Corydon, Kentucky 42406	Corydon
Henry	Campbellsburg City Hall, 8189 Main St., Campbellsburg, Kentucky 40011	Campbellsburg
Hickman	Hickman County Extension Office, 329 James H Phillips Dr., Clinton, Kentucky 42031	Clinton
Hopkins	Hopkins County Extension Office, 75 Cornwall Dr., Madisonville, Kentucky 42431	Madisonville
Jessamine	Bluegrass Sportsmen's League, 1100 Handy's Bend Rd., Wilmore, Kentucky 40390	Wilmore
Knox	Brown's Processing, 2738 KY-930, Barbourville, Kentucky 40906	Barbourville
Laurel	Kentucky Outdoorsman, 8833 US-25, Corbin, Kentucky 40701	Corbin
Leslie	Tyler Smith Taxidermy, 6075 Dryhill Rd., Hyden, Kentucky 41749	Hyden
Leslie	Wilson's Taxidermy, 2286 Polls Creek Rd., Smilax, Kentucky 41764	Smilax
Letcher	Whitesburg Fire Department, 38 East Main Street, Whitesburg, Kentucky 41858	Whitesburg
Livingston	Livingston County Extension Office, 803 US-60, Smithland, Kentucky 42081	Smithland

Logan	Logan County Extension Office, 255 John Paul Rd., Russellville, Kentucky 42276	Russellville
Marion	Sisters of Loretto, 430 Academy Lane, Nerinx, Kentucky 40049	Nerinx
Marshall	Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge, 91 US Hwy-641 N, Benton, Kentucky 42025	Benton
McCracken	McCracken County Extension Office, 2025 New Holt Rd., Paducah, Kentucky 42001	Paducah
McCracken	Paducah Shooter Supply, 3919 Cairo Rd., Paducah, Kentucky 42001	Paducah
McCracken	West Kentucky WMA Office, 10535 Ogden Landing Rd., Kevil, Kentucky 42053	Kevil
McCreary	Big South Fork Outdoors, 45 Job Corp Rd., Pine Knot, Kentucky 42635	Pine Knot
McLean	KDFWR Calhoun Regional Office, 1398 KY-81, Central City, Kentucky 42357	Central City
Meade	The Lusk Group, 820 Dixie Hwy, Muldraugh, Kentucky 40155	Muldraugh
Meade	Brandenburg Fire Station #3, 5326 Payneville Rd., Brandenburg, Kentucky 40108	Brandenburg
Meade	Flaherty Tractor Company, 3790 Flaherty Rd., Vine Grove, Kentucky 40175	Flaherty
Meade	Meade County Extension Office, 1041 Old Ekron Rd., Brandenburg, Kentucky 40108	Brandenburg
Metcalfe	Critter Creations Taxidermy, 954 Harvey White Cemetery Rd., Summer Shade, Kentucky 42166	Summer Shade
Morgan	Morgan County Extension Office, 1002 Prestonsburg St, West Liberty, Kentucky 41472	West Liberty
Muhlenberg	Uncle Lee's, 820 Main Street., Greenville, Kentucky 42345	Greenville
Nelson	Kentucky Gun Company (KYGUNCO), 401 Glenwood Dr., Bardstown, Kentucky 40004	Bardstown
Nicholas	Blue Licks State Park, 10299 Maysville Rd., Carlisle, Kentucky 40311	Carlisle
Perry	Perry County Extension Office, 933 Perry Park Rd, Hazard, Kentucky 41701	Hazard
Pike	Mountain Firearms, 1812 US-23, Pikeville, Kentucky 41501	Pikeville
Rowan	Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, 120 Fish Hatchery Rd., Morehead, Kentucky 40351	Morehead
Shelby	Da Meat Room, 230 Hyatts Store Rd., Bagdad, Kentucky 40003	Bagdad
Simpson	Simpson County Extension Office, 300 N Main St., Franklin, Kentucky 42134	Franklin
Todd	Todd County Extension Office, 240 Pond River Rd., Elkton, Kentucky 42220	Elkton
Union	Smokin Joe's Fireworks, 10477 SR-56 W, Sturgis, Kentucky 42459	Sturgis
Union	Sturgis Family Diner, 11906 US-60 W, Sturgis, Kentucky 42459	Sturgis
Union	Union County Extension Office, 1938 US-60 W, Morganfield, Kentucky 42437	Morganfield
Union	Uniontown Food Mart, 330 Mill St., Uniontown, Kentucky 42461	Uniontown
Union	Higginson-Henry WMA, 6440 KY-56 E, Morganfield, Kentucky 42437	Morganfield

Warren	KDFWR Green River Regional Office, 970 Bennett Ln., Bowling Green, Kentucky 42104	Bowling Green
Webster	Clay Marathon Gas Station, 206 KY-109, Clay, Kentucky 42404	Clay
Webster	S&S Salvage, 701 US-41A North, Providence, Kentucky 42450	Providence
Webster	Sebree Southern States, 1112 US-41 N, Sebree, Kentucky 42455	Sebree
Webster	Slaughters City Hall, 23 Don Winstead Blvd., Slaughters, Kentucky 42456	Slaughters
Webster	Webster County Extension Office, 1118 US-41 ALT, Dixon, Kentucky 42409	Dixon
Whitley	Ballew Bayou Butchers, 631 Oak Ridge Church Rd., Williamsburg, Kentucky 40769	Williamsburg
Whitley	Good Steward Forestry, 133 Tom Taylor Rd., Corbin, Kentucky 40701	Corbin
Woodford	USDA NRCS Versailles Service Office, 184 Beasley Rd., Versailles, Kentucky 40383	Versailles

Table 3. CWD Sample Drop-off Sites, 2025-26 Season, CWD Surveillance Zone - Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife

All figures and tables provided courtesy: Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife

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