

Fort Knox Chronic Wasting Disease Guidelines (updated September 2025)

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a neurological illness that effects members of the deer family (cervids) caused by abnormal proteins called prions. CWD is spread through urine, feces, saliva, blood, semen, deer parts and especially via live deer as well as contaminated soil. This disease is a slow-spreading yet always-fatal disease that can be challenging and difficult to comprehend as many biological aspects of CWD pose significant challenges for controlling or eradicating the disease. There is currently no known cure and no live test available.

CWD has been recognized in 36 states including Kentucky. A positive CWD case was confirmed within Breckinridge County during October 2024 along with 8 additional deer from the same facility during August 2025. Special restrictions on baiting, carcass transportation and cervid rehabilitation are now effective within Breckinridge, Hardin and Meade counties as a result of the establishment of a CWD Surveillance Zone all in an effort to stop or limit disease spread among wild deer.

Fort Knox supports this CWD Surveillance Zone and will continue to implement similar protocols to include the entire installation – Hardin County, Meade County as well as Bullitt County. The Bullitt County portion of Fort Knox encompasses ~33% of the installation acreage and the Natural Resources Branch (NRB) feels this is the simplest approach within a complex issue and puts the conservation of our excellent resource at the forefront of these efforts. Thus, any and all deer harvested on Fort Knox should follow the carcass transportation guidelines set forth by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR). This includes the following:

Deer carcasses or high-risk parts (i.e., brain, eyes, backbone, spleen) of deer harvested within Fort Knox may not be taken outside of the three county (Hardin, Meade, Breckinridge) CWD Surveillance Zone designated by the KDFWR. Only de-boned meat, antlers, antlers attached to a clean skull cap, a clean skull, clean teeth, hides and finished taxidermy products may be taken outside of this designated surveillance zone. Deer carcasses from outside this surveillance zone are allowed to be brought into the surveillance zone.

Historical testing on Fort Knox over the last decade has never yielded a positive CWD test result. The NRB encourages hunters to continue to harvest animals so that our deer herd can remain balanced with the habitat and to assist us with additional CWD testing efforts. The NRB will be partnering with the KDFWR to continue testing efforts during our first two quota gun deer hunt check stations being held on 15-16 November 2025 and 22-23 November 2025. All harvested deer MUST be brought to the Fort Knox check station located @ BLDG 9297 (Natural Resources Branch – Hunt Control) during these two mandatory quota gun check station weekends. Upon check station departure ALL state implemented CWD Surveillance Zone protocols must be followed.

Please do the right thing to ensure our deer herds and conservation efforts remain vigilant and strong. Contact the Hunt Control office for further information (502-624-7311). The NRB encourages hunters to come prepared (i.e., coolers, deboning knives, Ziplock bags, etc.) and take advantage of our skinning shed facility located outside of Hunt Control to facilitate the deboning process of their harvested deer. Multiple game hoist winches are available along with running water, electricity as well as a dumpster for carcass disposal. The following list is also available for alternate processing and taxidermy means within the three-county surveillance zone to hopefully offer conveniences during a challenging time:

County	Business	Address	City	Zip Code	Telephone	Email
Breckinridge	Backwoods Taxidermy	2340 Hwy 2780	Webster	40176	270-750-9547 270-668-5195	
Breckinridge	Killin' Time Taxidermy	1331 E Marks Ridge Road	Harned	40140	806-290-4533	glen@kttaxidermy.com
Breckinridge	Schumacher's Taxidermy	408 East 3rd Street	Hardinsburg	40143	502-271-0978	john@schumacherstaxidermy.com
Meade	Ashmore's Taxidermy	2420 Concordia Rd	Paynesville	40157	270-497-4129	Hunterashmore519@gmail.com
Meade	Webb's Butcher Block	1910 Rhodelia Rd.	Payneville	40157	270-496-4124	support@webbsbutcherblock.com
Meade	Ronnie's Taxidermy Services	113 Troy Ct	Vine Grove	40175	270-828-3898	
Hardin	Wise Taxidermy	1340 Rineyville-Big Springs Rd	Rineyville	40162	270-737-5181	wisetaxidermy@yahoo.com
Hardin	Cutters Ridge Meat Processing	2667 Eastview Rd.	Eastview	42732	270-862-2144	cuttersridge@yahoo.com
Hardin	McCain's Wild Game Processing	220 Burns Rd	Vine Grove	40175	502-641-1435	mccainswildgame@gmail.com
Hardin	Kirkman's Buck-N-Beards Taxidermy	4020 Vine Grove Road	Vine Grove	40175	270-589-1470 270-872-5955	kirkmansbucksbeardstaxidermy@gmail.com

If you know of any **ACTIVE** processors or taxidermists within the **CWD Surveillance Zone** that did not make the list above please email the Hunt Control office with the subject line - NEW ADDITION to the Meat Processing & Taxidermy List.

The body of the email needs to contain the individual or company's name, an address including the county, phone number, and email or website.