

# FLORA FAUNA NEWS

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## PRION DISEASE SINCE 1947

By Brian Kanke, Chairman, Zoo Pharma Dynamics

The deer population in the United States is strong, with an estimated total of around 35 to 36 million deer across all species. The majority of the deer population consists of white-tailed deer, whose numbers have recovered to roughly pre-colonization levels due to conservation efforts. Populations vary by state, with Texas having the largest population of over 5 million white-tailed deer. In some areas, particularly in the East and Midwest, high densities lead to concerns about disease transmission and deer vehicle collisions. The number one cause of death for adult white-tail deer across North America is hunter harvest, followed by vehicle collisions, while for fawns, predation is the leading killer. The deadliest deer disease of viral origin is all strains of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD).

The Prion Disease which causes Scrapie's, CWD, MCD and JK was first documented as discovered in 1947. CWD was first discovered and documented in 1967. CWD was discovered in mule deer in 2002 in the southern areas of New Mexico. Mule deer migrate between Texas and New Mexico. CWD was discovered in mule deer in 2012 in West Texas. In 1998 a major surveillance effort started in the U.S. to map CWD in farmed and wild cervids (deer family). In 2002 a national CWD plan was created. Basically, it took 50 years to decide if this was really an epidemic or could this be used as a tool for a far bigger picture. Science does not indicate an epidemic, but politics and ulterior motives are thriving in regard to CWD. Lets not forget that the prion disease was originally discovered in 1732, almost 300 years ago and for 200 years we didn't seem to be concerned, So why now!! The deer population is thriving and healthy today and has been for the last 30 years. The deer don't seem to be bothered by CWD, as for them life goes on under their normal cycle. The planet is not being overtaken by Zombie Deer,

## Did You Know?

You will likely never see deer exhibiting symptoms of CWD. Due to the long, slow advancement of the disease, infected animals are almost always killed by predators, vehicles, hunters, or other diseases well before symptoms of CWD get bad enough for a person to recognize.



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but that could be a pretty good movie as a science fiction thriller. I stand strong on fiction as claiming CWD to be an epidemic is not fact. CWD is a disease that we should find a solution for but not destroy the lives of deer and deer farmers because of a disease that's been around for almost 300 years and documented on U.S. Soil over 79 years ago.

I am a deer farmer, and I've done nothing to propagate the disease, cause the disease or spread the disease. I am like any other livestock facility. We take exceptional care of our animals, provide good housekeeping, provide excellent nutritional diets for the animals and provide medical care when needed. When deer farming started in Texas, we built pens according to the rules and followed the regulations. We did not build the pens and facilities and plant seeds to grow deer. We didn't go to PETCO to get the deer for our farms. We got the deer from the wild and put them in the pens. Deer farming originated from wild deer which through the years have become slightly more domesticated. Destroying the lives of deer farmers and slaughtering their entire deer herds over a positive case of CWD makes no sense. The very large majority of deer herds that have been slaughtered were found to be with little to no other deer that were positive with CWD, healthy deer were destroyed. I encourage you to watch the link below.

<https://youtu.be/1vXLipq-LJs?si=sqfZoiN6mg4ap98>

**Zoo Pharma Dynamics will be posting an OP-ED to our website on January 1, 2026 in which we will bring full circle with no holds barred exactly what's behind the CWD machine that has one purpose, to end deer farming in Texas. We will also detail our solution to prevent and cure CWD, we have been in the new drug approval process with FDA/CVM since 2021.**

Alone or Together, ZPD will solve this issue!!!