

# The Big Hunt

Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2018

A Supplement to the  
Reynolds County Courier and the Wayne County Journal-Banner



## Mdc Offers Free Voluntary CWD Testing Statewide All Season

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) wants deer hunters to know that it is offering free chronic-wasting-disease (CWD) sampling and testing of deer harvested anywhere in the state throughout the entire deer hunting season – Sept. 15 through Jan. 15, 2019. The sampling is voluntary and hunters can also get free test results for their deer.

Hunters can have their deer sampled at 11 select MDC offices around the state. Hunters can also take their deer to 64 participating taxidermists and meat processors located in the 48 counties of MDC's CWD Management Zone. (See map for CWD Management Zone counties.)

Find locations and more information on voluntary CWD sampling at [mdc.mo.gov/cwd](http://mdc.mo.gov/cwd) under “Voluntary CWD Sampling All Season.”

MDC asks hunters to

Telecheck their deer before taking them to a CWD sampling location. Hunters can bring the entire deer -- preferably field dressed -- or the head with at least 6 inches of the neck in place. Heads that have the cape removed for taxidermy can also be sampled.

CWD test results can take up to four weeks from the time of sample submission. Hunters can get test results for their CWD-sampled deer online at [mdc.mo.gov/CWDTestResults](http://mdc.mo.gov/CWDTestResults).

### MANDATORY CWD SAMPLING NOV. 10 AND 11 IN 31 COUNTIES

MDC will again conduct mandatory CWD sampling in 31 of the 48 counties of its CWD Management Zone during the opening weekend of the fall firearms deer season, Nov. 10 and 11. The counties include new ones added to the CWD Management Zone, counties with previous CWD positives, and counties very

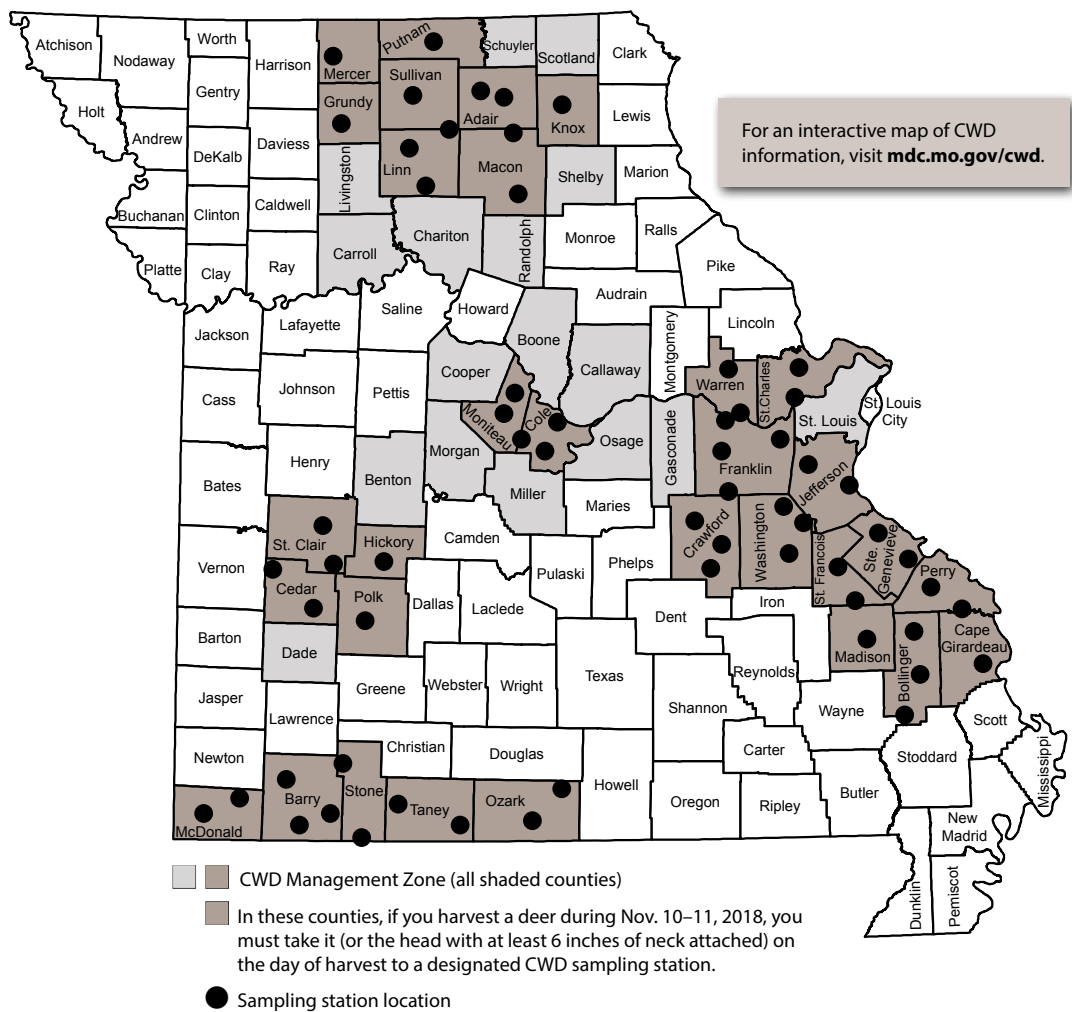
near previous positives.

The 31 counties for mandatory CWD sampling are: Adair, Barry, Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Cedar, Cole, Crawford, Franklin, Grundy, Hickory, Jefferson, Knox, Linn, Macon, Madison, McDonald, Mercer, Moniteau, Ozark, Perry, Polk, Putnam, St. Charles, St. Clair, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Stone, Sullivan, Taney, Warren, and Washington.

Hunters who harvest deer from these counties Nov. 10 or 11 must take their deer -- or the head with at least 6 inches of the neck in place -- on the day of harvest to one of 61 MDC CWD mandatory sampling stations. Deer may be presented at any mandatory sampling station.

Find locations for mandatory CWD sampling at [mdc.mo.gov/cwd](http://mdc.mo.gov/cwd) under “Mandatory CWD Sampling Nov. 10-11.”

The CWD Management Zone includes counties within approximately 25 miles of CWD detections. Special regulations apply in these counties. For the 2018–2019 deer seasons, the CWD Management Zone includes Adair, Barry, Benton, Bollinger, Boone, Callaway, Cape Girardeau, Carroll, Cedar, Chariton, Cole, Cooper, Crawford, Dade, Franklin, Gasconade, Grundy, Hickory, Jefferson, Knox, Linn, Livingston, Macon, Madison, Mercer, McDonald, Miller, Moniteau, Morgan, Osage, Ozark, Perry, Polk, Putnam, Randolph, Schuyler, Scotland, Shelby, St. Charles, St. Clair, St. Francois, St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve, Stone, Sullivan, Taney, Warren, and Washington counties.



**There will be three sampling stations in Bollinger County--the former Arab MODOT Shop, Marble Hill Ball Fields, and the former Patton Variety Shop.**

**In Madison County, sampling stations will be located at the Barefoot Fireworks Store at Cherokee Pass.**

## Operation Game Thief

By Alan Lamb  
Wayne County Conservation Agent

With the coming of fall comes cooler temperatures, leaves changing colors and of course hunting seasons. And with the coming of hunting season comes an overall excitement in the air to get out to your favorite hunting spot to start scouting your next trophy. While the greatest majority of hunters do everything legal some do not.

The people that choose to break the Wildlife Code of

Missouri are not only cheating themselves but they are also cheating the legal hunters out of an opportunity to harvest wildlife. Some of the most blatant violations this time of year are the ones that every hunter should know is illegal such as spotlighting, road hunting, hunting over bait and using dogs to chase deer.

Hunters everywhere have a responsibility to themselves and to the future generations of hunters to do things legally. We as Conservation Agents

spend many long hours trying to curtail the illegal activity of poaching, however we are spread pretty thin most of the time so we rely on the help of the public.

If you would like to contact your local Conservation Agent you can find their Cell Phone numbers in the 2017 Deer Regulations Pamphlet or you can go online to [www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov). If you cannot contact a Conservation Agent, you can call Operation Game Thief (OGT) at 1-800-392-1111. You can remain anonymous if you would like. Also, if an arrest is made you may be eligible to receive a reward. So, this season, while you are afield if you see a Wildlife Violation occur or you believe one has occurred please give OGT or your local Conservation Agent a call.

**Retrieval of Game**—If you kill or injure a deer or turkey, you must make a reasonable effort to retrieve and include the animal in your season limit. However, this does not authorize trespass. It is illegal to leave or abandon commonly edible portions of game.

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### Hunters May See Collared Deer



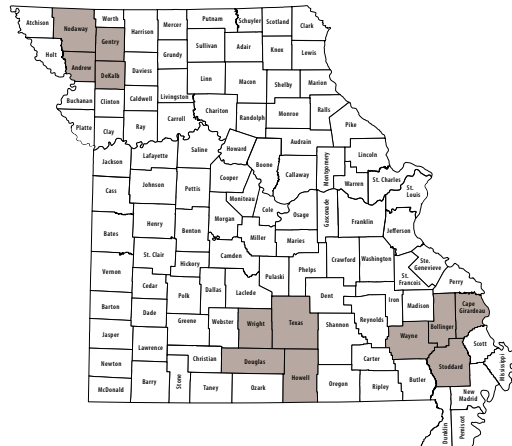
Hunters in the Ozarks, northwestern Missouri, and south-eastern Missouri may see deer wearing GPS collars during hunting season.

The Conservation Department and the University of Missouri are working together to learn more about the survival, reproduction, and movement patterns of white-tailed deer. Their findings will be used to guide deer population models, disease management protocols, and localized deer management efforts.

As part of this research project, male and female deer of all ages will be captured and fitted with GPS collars in four Ozark counties (Douglas, Howell, Texas, and Wright) and four northwestern counties (Andrew, DeKalb, Gentry, and Nodaway). The collared deer will then be released, and their movements and survival will be monitored. Deer also are being collared as part of a separate research project studying deer movements in southeastern Missouri (Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Stoddard, and Wayne counties).

During the hunting season, it is important to NOT let the presence of a collar influence your decision on whether or not to harvest a deer. If you normally would shoot a deer that happens to be collared, please do so. Likewise, if you normally would pass on a deer, please do not let the presence of a collar cause you to take a shot. If you harvest a collared deer, or one that has a small metal ear tag, please call the number listed on the collar or tag as soon as possible.

For more information about these research projects, contact Missouri Department of Conservation Deer Biologist Barbara Keller at [Barbara.Keller@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Barbara.Keller@mdc.mo.gov) or 573-815-7901, ext. 2901.



Deer have been captured and fitted with GPS collars in the counties shaded in the map above.

## Hunters Urges to ‘Share the Harvest’

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Conservation Federation of Missouri (CFM) encourage deer hunters around the state to share their harvests through the state's Share the Harvest program.

Administered by MDC and CFM, Share the Harvest coordinates the efforts of thousands of deer hunters, numerous participating meat processors, many local supporting organizations, and statewide sponsors to help feed hungry Missourians.

The National Institutes of Health state that children need protein in their diets for proper growth and development, and adults need it to maintain good health. Yet many Missourians can't afford or can't get to good sources of protein. Through Share the Harvest, Missouri hunters can help provide those in need with high-quality protein in the form of naturally lean, locally harvested deer meat.

Thousands of Missouri deer hunters donated more than 289,200 pounds of venison to the program last deer season -- including nearly 5,600 whole white-tailed deer. Since the program was started in 1992, Share the Harvest has provided nearly 4 million pounds of lean, healthy venison to help feed hungry Missourians.

The program works by deer hunters donating their extra venison -- from several pounds to whole deer -- to participating meat processors throughout the state who grind and package

### Processing Facilities Participating In the ‘Share the Harvest’ Program

Piedmont Processing, Piedmont

Rubles Meat Market, Arcadia

Walker's Meat Processing, Fredericktown

Elderland Meats, Bloomfield

the deer meat. The packaged venison is then given to local food banks and food pantries for distribution to Missourians in need of food assistance.

To get Share the Harvest venison, contact local food banks or food pantries.

“Hunters started Share the Harvest because they saw a need in their communities,” said MDC Director Sara Parker Pauley. “And hunters remain the driving force behind this popular program that helps feed our fellow Missourians who are in need. We sincerely thank the thousands of deer hunters who support Share the Harvest, along with the many participating meat processors and sponsors.”

Processing fees are covered entirely or in part by numerous local sponsors, along with statewide sponsors that include: MDC, CFM, Shelter Insurance, Bass Pro Shops, Missouri Chapter Whitetails Unlimited, Missouri Chapter Safari Club International, Missouri Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation, Drury Hotels,

Midway USA Inc., Missouri Deer Hunters Association, and Missouri Food Banks Association.

“Share the Harvest is a partnership of citizens, agencies, organizations, and corporations working together to provide healthy, protein-rich meat to those who may otherwise go without,” said CFM Executive Director Brandon Butler. “Hunters across Missouri should be proud of this outstanding program.”

Hunters should contact individual processors to determine what funds are available. The cost of processing is the hunter's responsibility when funds to help cover the full cost of processing are not available.

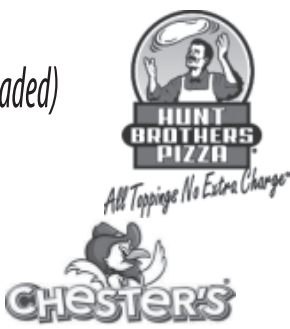
Find participating processors in MDC's “2018 Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information” booklet, online at [huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/deer/deer-share-harvest](http://huntfish.mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/species/deer/deer-share-harvest), or by calling MDC at 573-751-4115 or CFM at 573-634-2322.

## PIEDMONT GAS MART

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- 24-Hour Pay at the Pump
- Chester's Chicken



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