

Plan for getting deer, elk, and moose tested for CWD before donation. Developed in coordination with Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN), and Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP).

1. FWP will communicate to hunters that if they intend to donate their deer, elk, or moose to a food bank, it must be sampled for CWD testing beforehand. FWP will provide opportunities for sampling and testing at designated CWD-sampling check stations, regional headquarter offices, or through online instructions for mailing samples to the Wildlife Health Lab.
2. MFBN will communicate with cooperating processors to (1) notify them of the testing requirements prior to donation, (2) develop contingency plans for sampling and testing animals that are brought to the processor prior to being sampled for CWD, (3) advise them on best practices, including single-animal processing where possible, and keeping batches of meat organized, labeled, and traceable by CWD ID numbers.
3. Beginning next season, when hunters come to have their animal sampled for CWD, FWP staff will ask hunters whether they intend to donate their animal to a foodbank. This information will allow us to track the test status of donated animals, which can be emailed in a weekly report to MFBN staff.
4. Carcasses may be processed prior to having a test result in hand. However, MFBN will verify that a batch of meat from a processor has a negative test result before it is placed on shelves for public consumption.