

# **Kansas Response to CWD in Wild Cervids**

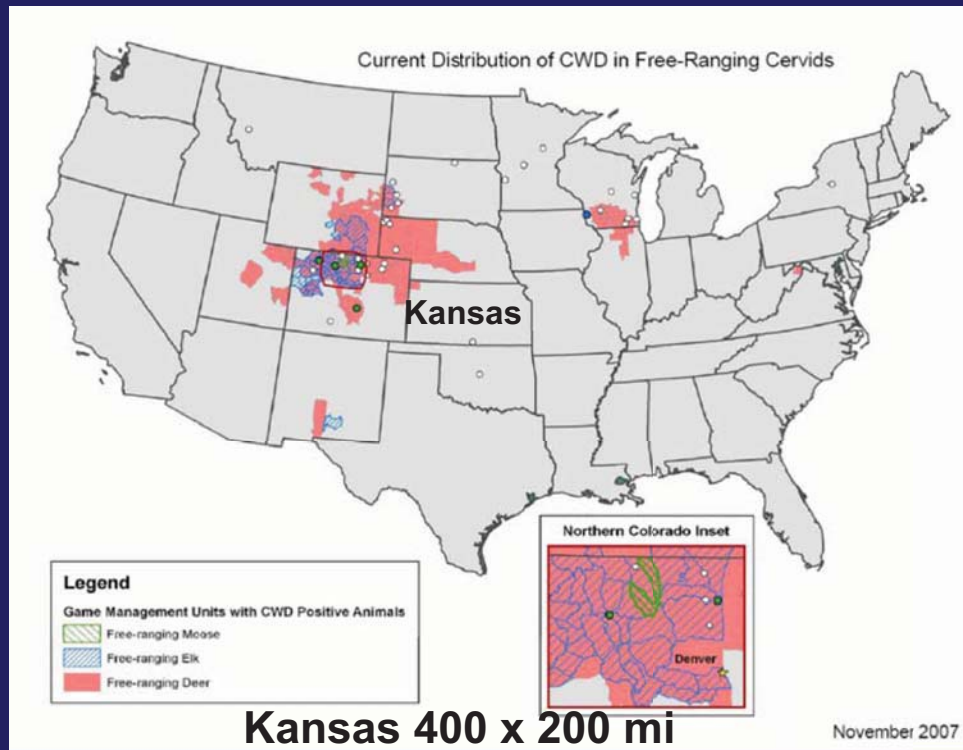


**Ruby Mosher  
Wildlife Disease Coordinator  
Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks**

## **A Tale of Two**

**Two States  
Two Agencies  
Two Responses**

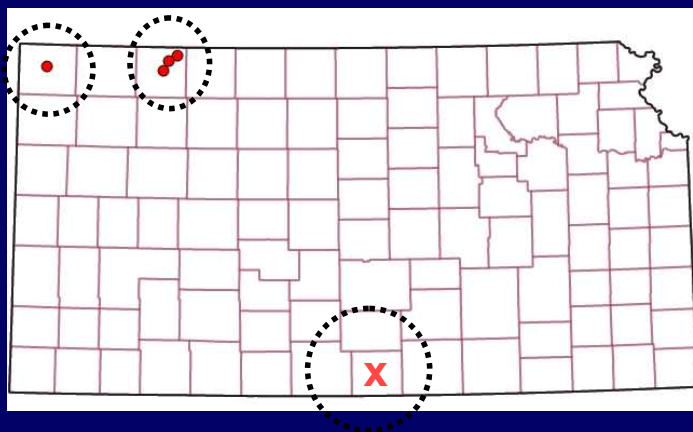
# But first... ummm, where is Kansas?



## ...and where have we detected CWD?

**2007**  
3 Wild WT Bucks  
Decatur County

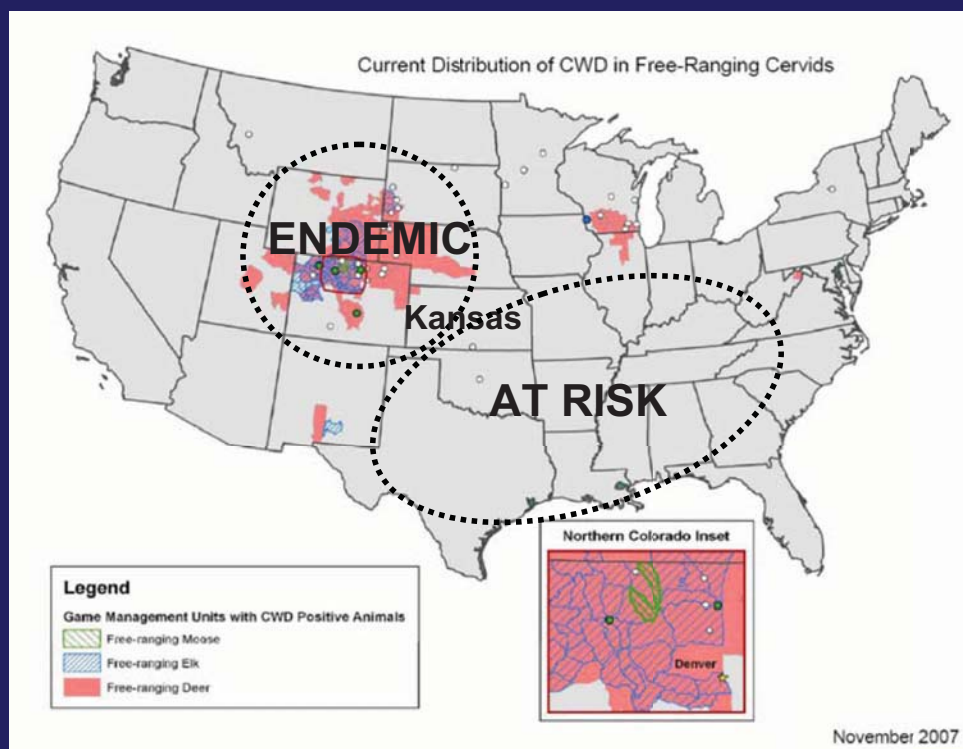
**2005**  
1 Wild WT Doe  
Cheyenne County



**2001**  
1 Captive Elk  
Harper County

# A Tale of Two "States"

## Two States of CWD Status Endemic Border & At Risk



# Two States of Habitat West & East



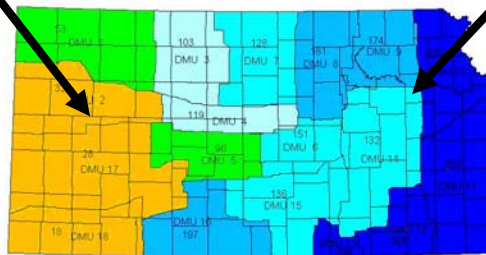
**High Plains  
Wheat Fields  
1-10 /mi  
MD & WT**

## Population & Habitat Gradient



**Woody Hills  
Row Crops  
10-17 /mi  
WT**

Harvest density of deer (deer taken /100 sq miles)  
in each DMU during 2001-02 season.



## A Tale of Two Agencies:

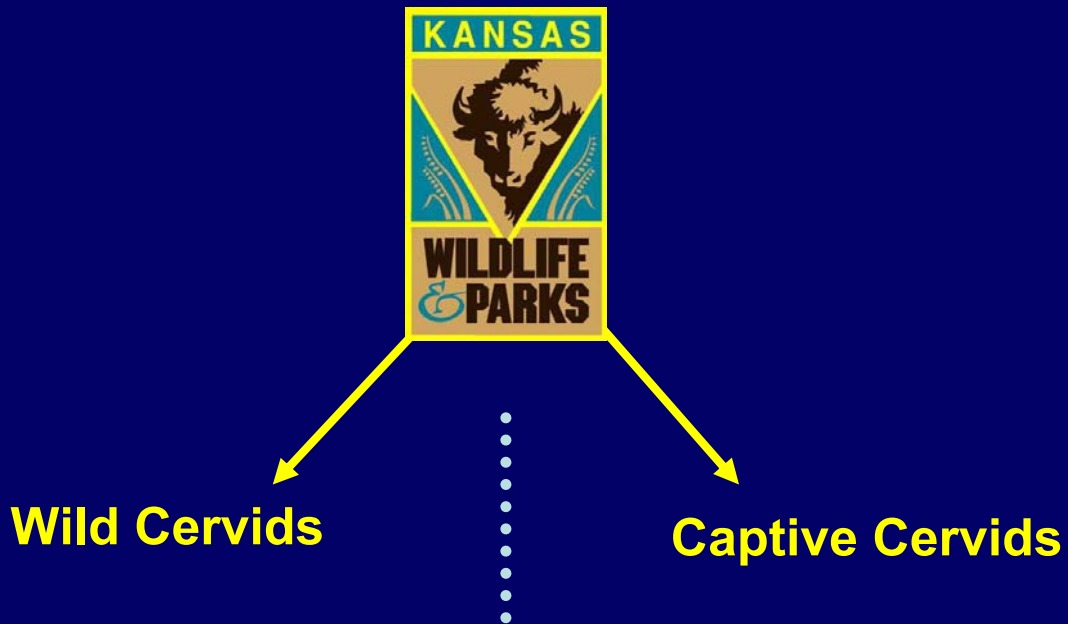
**Good People Separated By  
Bureaucratic Fences**



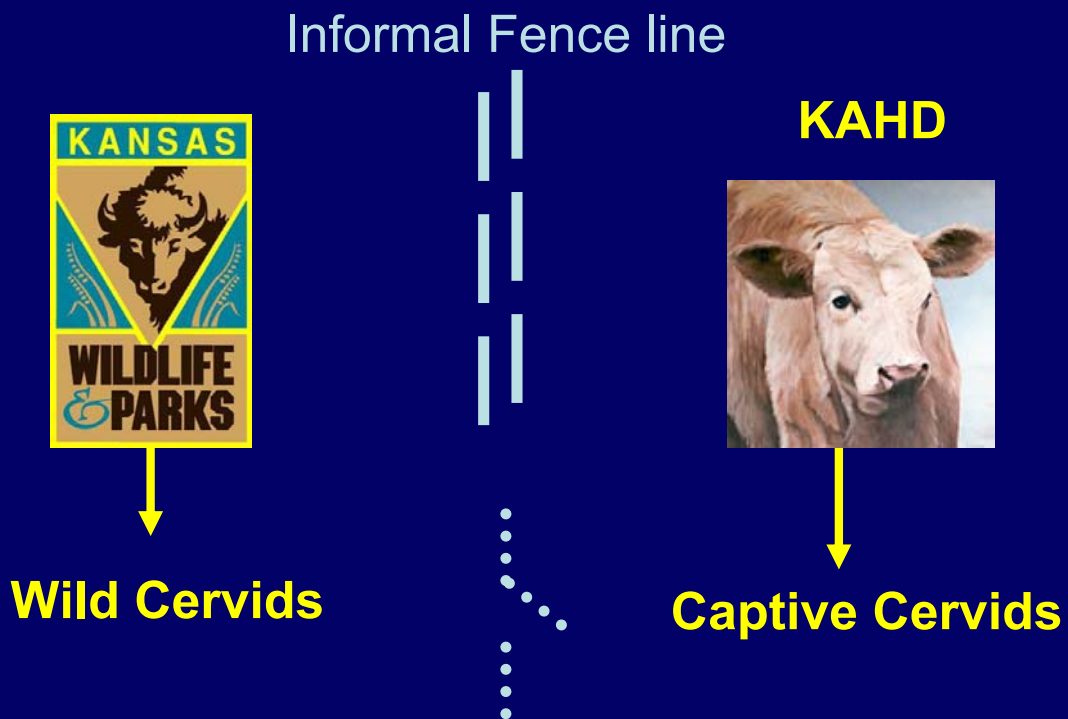
RED TAPE



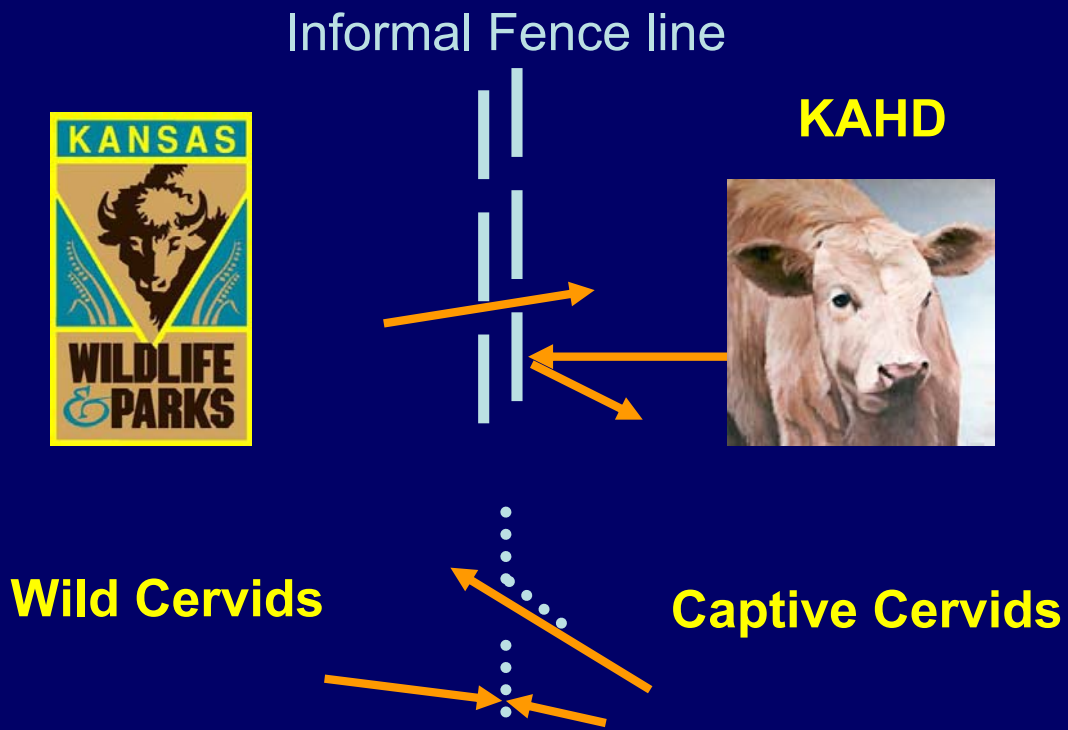
# Kansas Authority Pre-1993



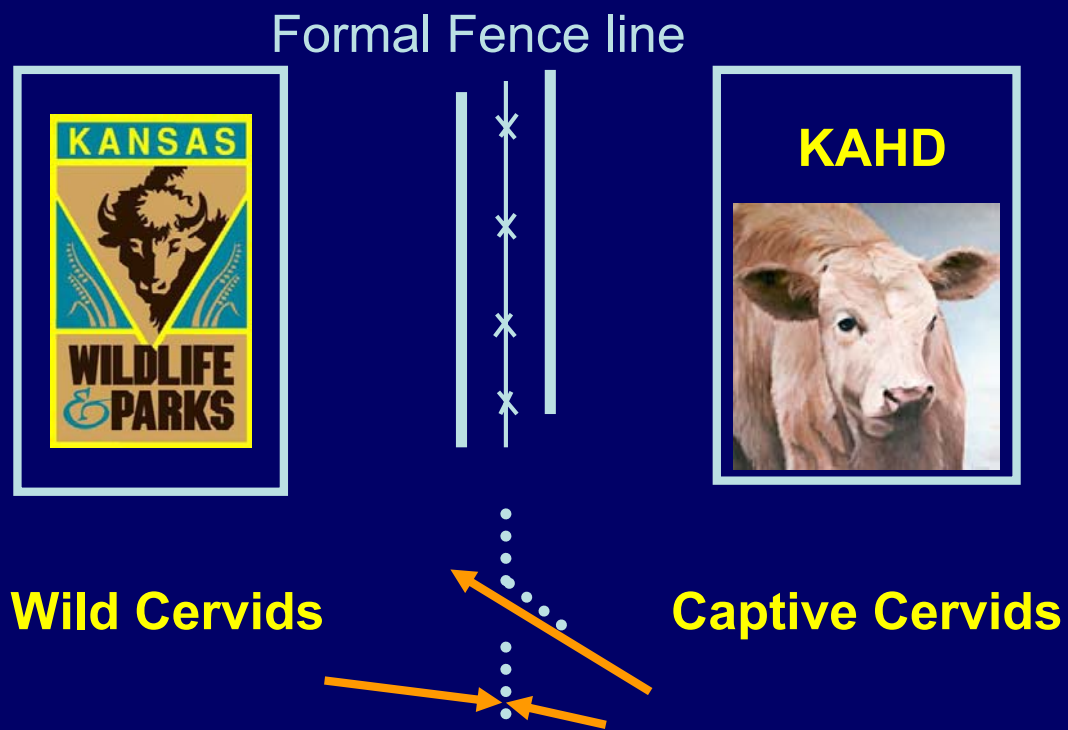
# Kansas Authorities



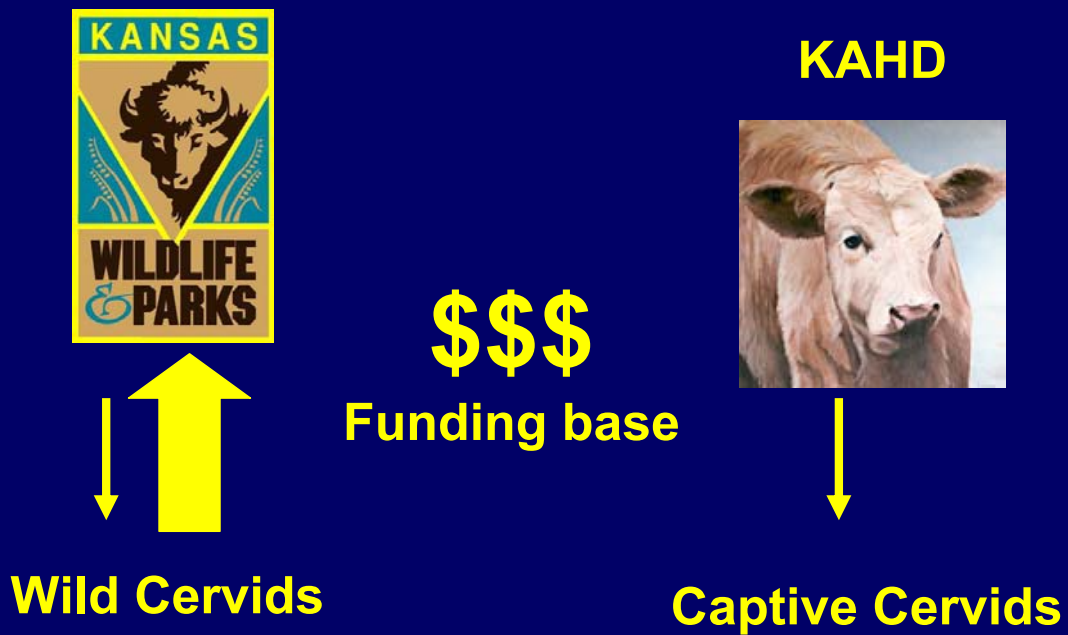
# Kansas Authorities



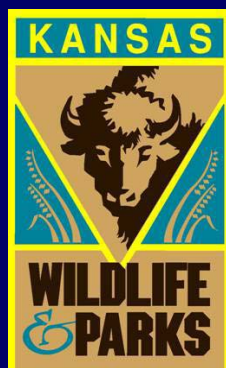
# Kansas Authorities



# Kansas Authorities



## A Tale of Two Responses



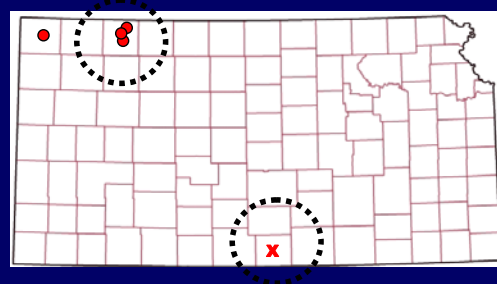
# A Tale of Two Responses



## Captive Cervids

*Kansas Animal Health Dept*

## KAHD Response in Kansas

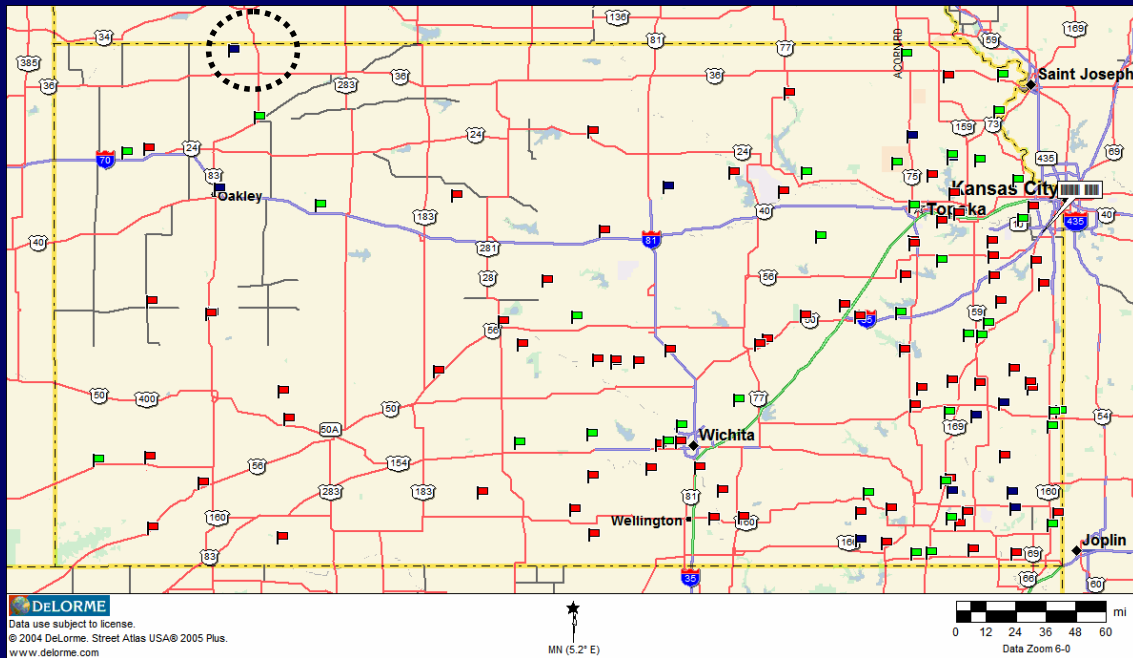


- Import regs in effect since 1997
- After captive detection in 2001, Initiated Voluntary CWD Monitoring Program
- Depopulated Herd
- 2005 (wild) – no changes for captive herds
- 2007 (wild) - Changes *may* be on the horizon

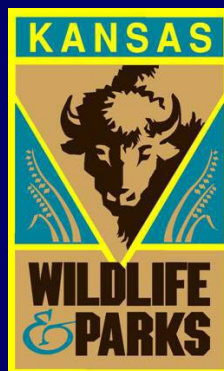


# Kansas Captive Cervids

## 105 herds...that we know of.

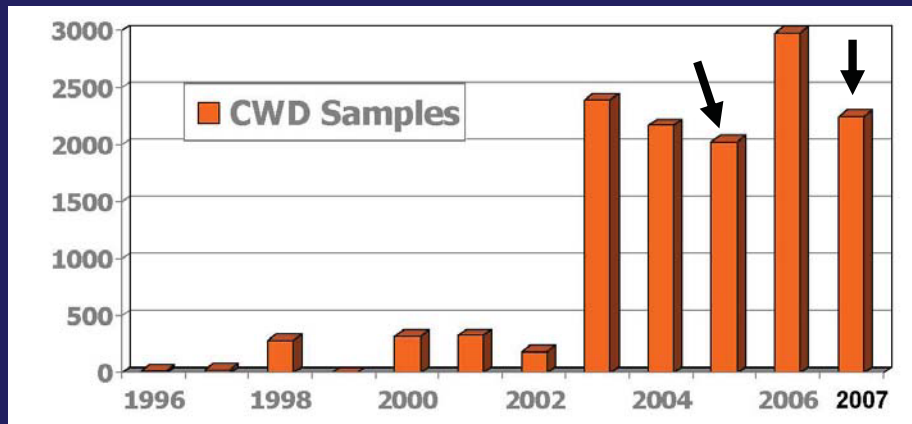


## A Tale of Two Responses



**Wild Cervids**  
***Kansas Dept of Wildlife & Parks***

# CWD Testing in Wild Cervids



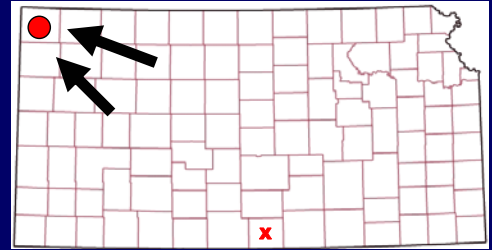
## Official CWD Response in Kansas 2003

**Developed an official Contingency Plan for response to detection in the wild.**

- 4-week Action Plan, post-detection
- Suggestions for limiting the spread

# First CWD Detection in Wild 2005

- Followed Contingency Plan
- News releases
- Public Meeting
- Tested 52 agency-harvested animals in vicinity
- Printed info: Hunting Regs, CWD brochure
- Response after the response: much talk about re-writing contingency plan



# Response *to* the Response in Kansas 2006

## Heard in the Field:

*“Are we going to kill all the deer in the county again if we find CWD?”*

*“The Response is deadlier than the disease.”*

*“Other states have given up - why are we still doing this?”*

*“The only difference between CWD and other deer diseases is lack of long term monitoring – we should work to make it an old disease ASAP.”*

# **Response to the Response in Kansas 2006**

- **Hired Wildlife Disease Coordinator**
  - **Build upon the foundation**
  - **Education – Agency and public**
  - **Team-building – Agency, Interagency, Public**

## **Education & Team-Building**

### **Intra-Agency**

- **Educational Seminar for Field Staff**
  - (Assisted by: USDA, USFWS, USGS, KAHD)
- **Regional CWD Meetings**
- **Internal Agency-wide CWD Updates via  
email and Intra-net**

# Education & Team-Building

## •Public

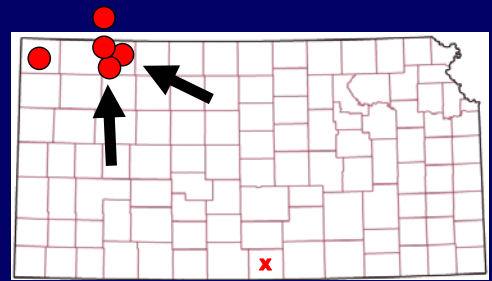
- CWD Web page
- Newsletters to Hunter-interfaces (taxidermists, deer processors, etc)

# Education & Team-Building

## •Inter-Agency

- Efforts to widen the holes in the fences.
- Invited KAHD (speaker & guests) to our agency CWD seminar.
- General efforts to “Make Friends,” share our concerns & understand theirs.

# CWD Response in Kansas 2007



- Agency resistance to Contingency Plan
- Public Meeting (for public & field staff)
- Tested 41 more animals in vicinity
- Importance of County Gov'ts on Call list
- Initiated investigation into history of abandoned elk farm in vicinity.

## CWD Response Summary “Working/Not Working”

### • Contingency Plan

- + Ambitious, conscientious, valid guide
- Not taken seriously by top officials.
- Calls for 300 samples from a 5-mile+ radius, so field staff says, *“We cant get that many so why even bother?”*
- One-size-fits-the-whole-state.

# CWD Response Summary “Not Working”

## •Agency Culling/Testing

- Relatively expensive operation
- Resisted by Field Staff & Section Chief
- Not picking up additional cases
- Perhaps not enough samples to really tell us much statistically? (50 vs. 300)
- ++ Thinning the herd just a little

# CWD Response Summary “Not Working”

## Stalemate Situations

-Hard to sell restrictions on baiting & carcass movement with loose regs on “other side of fence.”

Hard to sell some management actions to an agency that derives funding from “happy hunters.”

-Hard to sell management techniques without a multi-state or national agreement between states.

# **CWD Response Summary “Not Working”**

## **•Captive Cervid Statutes & Regs**

- No new regs concerning captives in DMU 1 where we have CWD in wild.
- Documented breaks in the import regulatory chain.
- 2/3 of captive facilities are under no supervision.

# **CWD Response Summary “Not Working”**

## **Formal fence between agencies.**

- Lack of formal communication limits our capacity to work together. Divided & nearing conquered.
- Fosters an “us-against-them” attitude.



# **CWD Response Summary “Not Working”**

**#1**

**Lack of top-down policy or  
concern in dealing with CWD.**

# **CWD Response Summary “Working”**

- **Grassroots teambuilding**

- **Field Staff** (feedback, cooperation)

- **Cooperators** (taxidermists, deer processors =  
information disseminators & partners.

# **CWD Response Summary “Working”**

## **•Learning from our mistakes**

- Decatur county oversight led to damage-control which led to new ideas in working with county governments.
- Counties have an economic stake in keeping their deer healthy = key to their interest.

# **CWD Response Summary “Working”**

## **•Town Hall Meeting**

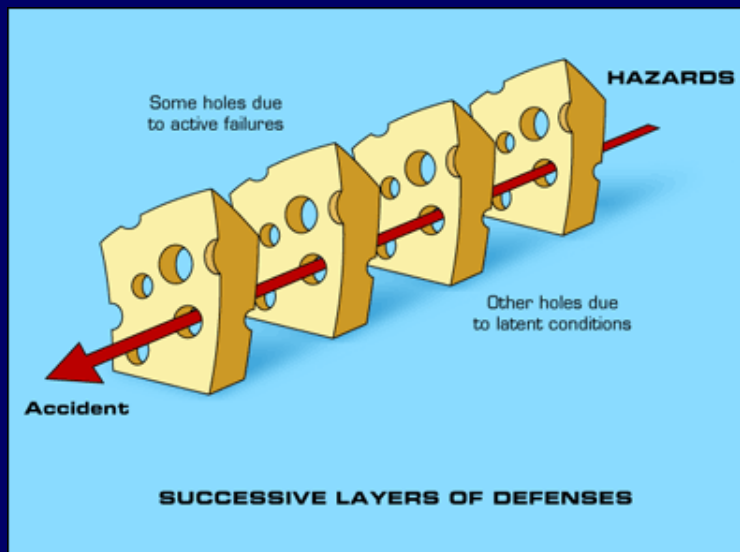
- Opportunity to educate people who are suddenly interested.
- Opportunity to work on building a segment of the team.
- Opportunity to listen to the public.

# CWD Response Summary “Working”

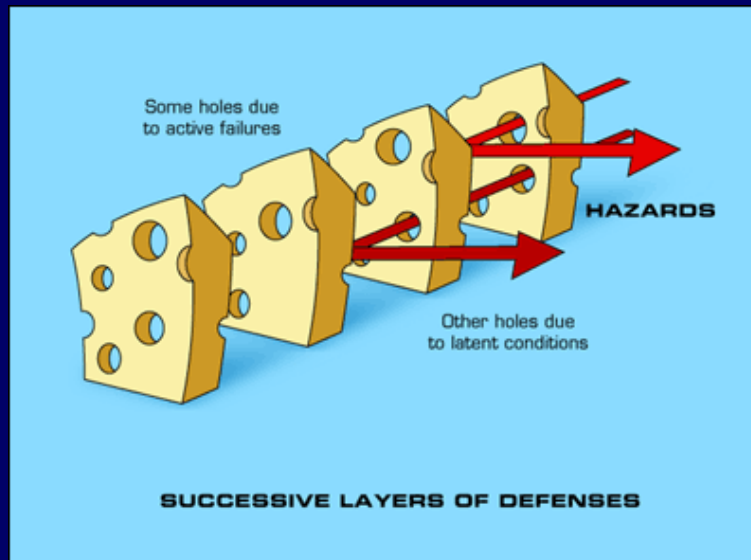
## • Informal Fence-Jumping by KAHD & KDWP Personnel

- Resulted in a KAHD response to CWD in the wild. (Conducted investigation into Decatur herd. Highlighted need for work on captive cervid regs.)
- Resulted in understanding the concerns of the other agency.
- Junior-high school dating...

## Reason's Swiss Cheese Model of System Failure



# Reason's Swiss Cheese Model of System Failure



# Mosher's Spongiform Cheese Model



# Mosher's Spongiform Cheese Model

