

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS NOTICE

16-20

3/30/20

VOLUNTARY INSPECTION OF CERVID ANIMALS TESTED FOR CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

I. PURPOSE

This notice provides instructions to inspection program personnel (IPP), who perform voluntary inspection of captive cervid animals (i.e., members of the deer family including deer, elk, and reindeer) that have been tested by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for chronic wasting disease (CWD).

II. BACKGROUND

CWD is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) of captive and wild cervid animals in the United States and Canada. APHIS tests captive cervid animals from participating herds as part of the voluntary CWD Herd Certification Program. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) considers cervid animals that test positive for CWD at post-mortem to be adulterated and not fit for human food under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). Therefore, when a cervid animal is tested by APHIS for CWD and slaughtered under FSIS voluntary inspection services, FSIS cannot determine the wholesomeness of the carcass and parts without the CWD test results.

III. IPP INSTRUCTIONS

A. IPP are not to apply or allow the establishment to apply the triangle USDA mark of inspection (illustrated in [9 CFR 352.7](#)) to carcasses of cervid animals tested by APHIS, or parts thereof, until after “not detected” test results are received. IPP are to allow establishments to hold or further process (e.g., bone) these carcasses pending APHIS test results provided that the establishment properly identifies and maintains control of the affected carcass or parts. IPP are to observe how the establishment addresses cross contamination during further processing of these products and ensure the carcass and parts are handled in a sanitary manner.

B. IPP are to verify that the establishment properly disposes of adulterated carcasses and parts in accordance with [9 CFR 352.13](#) (which cross-references [9 CFR 314](#)) when a cervid animal tests positive for CWD. IPP are to notify the District Office through supervisory channels to inform the FDA if the establishment fails to control and dispose of any adulterated carcass or part.

IV. QUESTIONS

Refer questions regarding this notice through your supervisor or submit your questions through [askFSIS](#). When submitting a question, use the Submit a Question tab, and enter the following information in the fields provided:

DISTRIBUTION: Electronic

NOTICE EXPIRES: 4/1/21

OPI: OPPD

Subject Field: Enter **Notice 16-20**.
Question Field: Enter question with as much detail as possible.
Product Field: Select **General Inspection Policy** from the drop-down menu.
Category Field: Select **Federal Inspection – FSIS Jurisdiction** from the drop-down menu.
Policy Arena: Select **Domestic (U.S.) Only** from the drop-down menu.

When all fields are complete, press **Continue** and at the next screen press **Finish Submitting Question**.

NOTE: Refer to [FSIS Directive 5620.1](#), *Using askFSIS*, for additional information on submitting questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rachel A. Edelstein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development