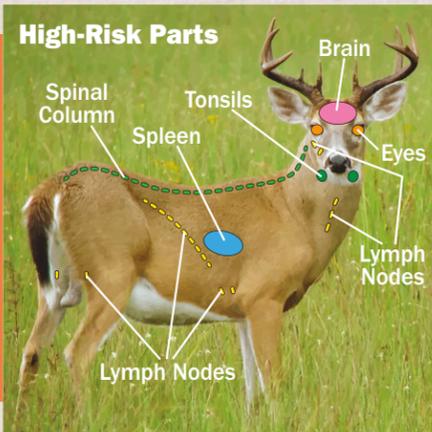
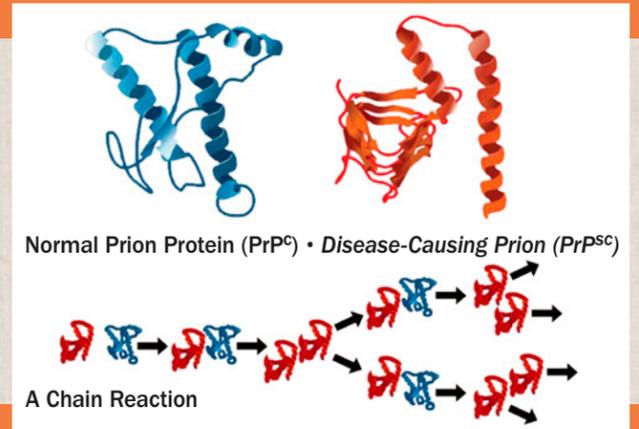


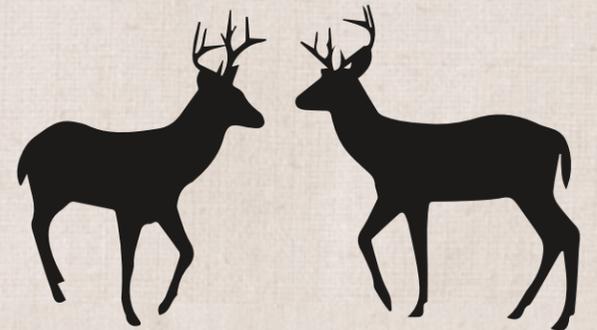
What is Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)?

This always fatal disease of the deer family is caused by abnormal, misfolded proteins called prions that spread throughout the body and mutate normal prion proteins.



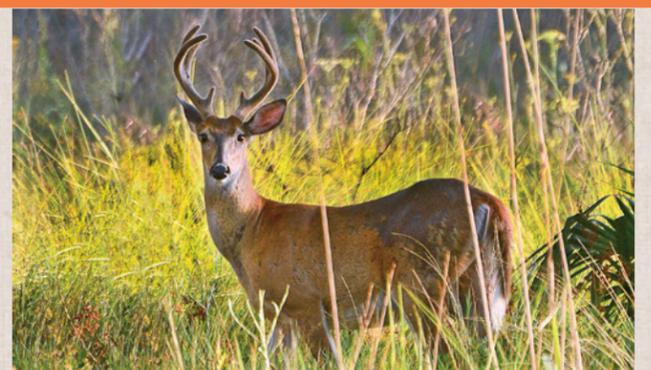
The prions multiply, accumulating in and damaging the brain and nervous system. Certain parts of infected deer have higher concentrations of CWD prions, but all tissues can contain prions.

Infected deer may transmit CWD via direct contact with other deer.



CWD can be transmitted indirectly when deer consume prions in soil contaminated by infected bodily fluids or carcasses. Prions persist in the environment, remaining infectious for years.

Signs of infection don't appear for up to 1 ½ to 3 years after exposure to CWD. Infected deer may look normal but are contaminating the environment and other deer by shedding prions.



Signs of CWD include extreme weight loss and abnormal behavior. Death is certain and occurs within months of showing symptoms.



Learn how to prevent the spread of CWD into Florida at [MyFWC.com/CWD](https://myfwc.com/cwd)



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