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New Case of CWD Found in Alberta White-Tailed Deer

By Shirley Bray, WLA Editor

The first case of Chronic Wasting Disease in farmed white-tailed deer in Canada was found on a game farm north of Edmonton. This is the second confirmed case of CWD on game farms in Alberta. Following this discovery in early November, a two-week moratorium was placed on the movement of farmed deer in the province. Game farmers have few opportunities to market their products, given low prices for meat, the defeat of the penned hunting initiative, and the fact that the U.S. and Saskatchewan have refused imports until herds test CWD-free for at least three years. Problems facing game farmers today were predicted 15 years ago when the legalization of game farming in Alberta was being considered. AWA recently joined with other concerned groups in supporting compensation for game farmers on the condition that the industry be completely dismantled.

A group of game farmers in Alberta and Saskatchewan is going ahead with a class action lawsuit against the federal government. AWA is not involved with this claim. The Alberta Elk Association, which is supposed to be supporting game farmers, is very much against the lawsuit. Their October newsletter states that "producers who have been approached about this initiative should know they may be placing themselves at risk... Those who are part of that claim are therefore personally liable for those statements." Lawyers for the game farmers making the claim demanded and will receive an apology and retraction of these false statements in the next issue of the Alberta Elk Association newsletter.

