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ANIMAL HEALTH ADVISORY

Upcoming Changes to CWD Testing Policies (22 November 2011)

USDA has notified states that as of Dec. 31, 2011, funding to pay for CWD tests will end due to agency-wide budget cuts. As a result, beginning Jan. 1, 2011, all costs associated with the collection and testing of samples will become the responsibility of the producer.

Also, as part of these budget reductions, the USDA facility at Remington, IN will discontinue CWD sampling services at year-end. **The last date Remington can receive heads will be Dec. 15.** Producers and veterinarians who use this site for collections and submissions must use an alternate option.

A copy of USDA's memo outlining the budget changes is attached.

After Jan. 1:

The charges for heads sent to the Purdue Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL) will be: \$25 laboratory fee, \$25 sampling fee and \$10 accession fee (for a total of \$60).

The shipping address is: Purdue Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory; 406 S University; West Lafayette, IN 47907

BOAH recognizes these changes, particularly the absence of services at Remington, mean cervid owners will have fewer options for having heads sampled. Our staff is working to develop a program to train certified CWD sample collectors, allowing producers more options for continuing to monitor their herds in an economical way. More information will be coming about this program in the next few months.

We recognize this advisory provides relatively short notice of these changes. However, in the interest of maintaining the integrity of Indiana's CWD program, which the industry has worked so hard to build in partnership with BOAH, we want to share as much information as we can, as soon as we can.

BOAH is still awaiting a published rule from USDA about the national CWD program. Be aware that, depending on the timing and content of that rule, Indiana's program could undergo significant changes.

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