

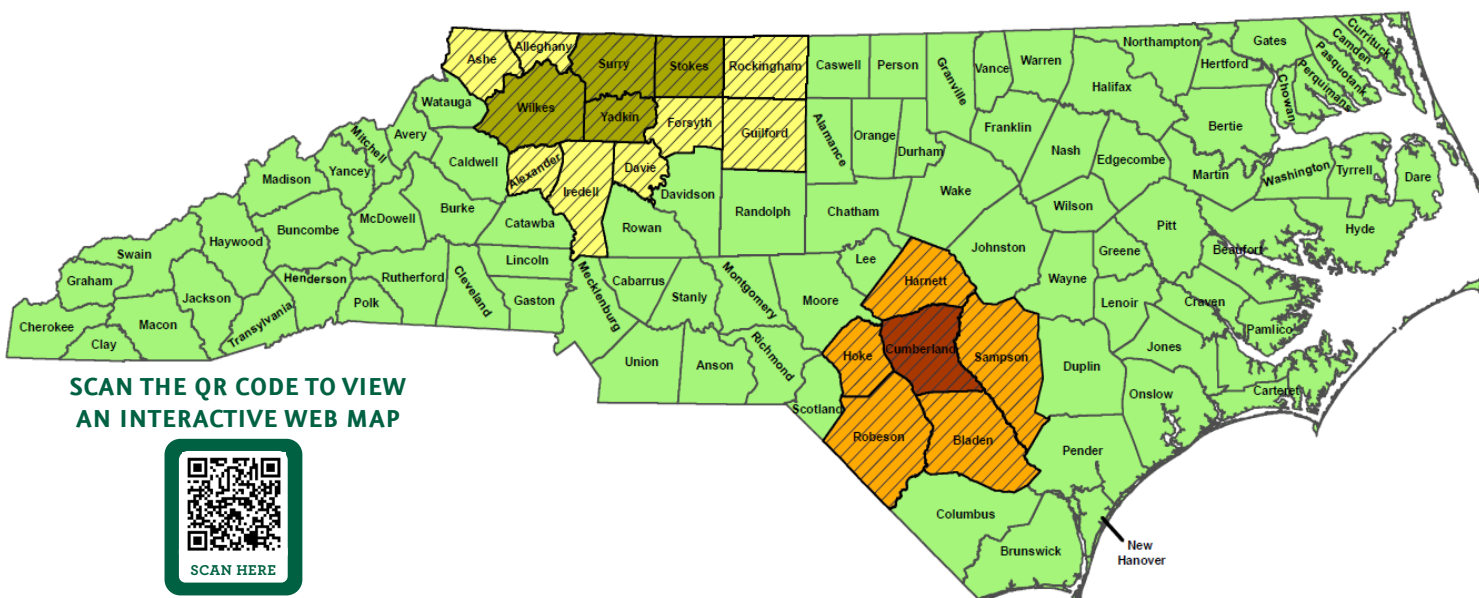


# Hunter Requirements in CWD Surveillance Areas

2025–2026 Deer Hunting Season






## ATTENTION DEER HUNTERS!

Two Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance areas have been established for the 2025–26 hunting season. Each surveillance area contains a primary surveillance area, which are counties where CWD has been detected, and a secondary surveillance area, which are additional counties around a primary. The surveillance areas are as follows:



SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW  
AN INTERACTIVE WEB MAP



	SURVEILLANCE AREA 1	SURVEILLANCE AREA 2	CARCASS TRANSPORT RESTRICTIONS
Primary Surveillance Areas	 <b>Stokes, Surry, Wilkes, Yadkin</b> No Mandatory Testing	 <b>Cumberland</b> No Mandatory Testing	Carcasses and carcass parts may not be transported out of the county of harvest, except to a contiguous Primary Surveillance Area county and except for the deboned, caped, cleaned, or taxidermy parts described below.
Secondary Surveillance Areas	 <b>Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Davie, Forsyth, Guilford, Iredell, Rockingham</b> No Mandatory Testing	 <b>Bladen, Harnett, Hoke, Robeson, Sampson</b> No Mandatory Testing	Carcasses and carcass parts may not be transported out of the county of harvest, except to a contiguous Primary or Secondary Surveillance Area county and except for the deboned, caped, cleaned, or taxidermy parts described below.
Non-surveillance Area	 <b>All counties not listed above</b> No Mandatory Testing		Carcass and carcass parts may be transported state-wide, including into or through Surveillance Areas.

## DON'T GIVE IT A RIDE!

The transportation of a deer carcass or carcass parts out of a primary or secondary surveillance area is prohibited except for the following, or as otherwise permitted by the Wildlife Commission:

- Meat that has been boned out such that no pieces or fragments of bone remain
- Caped hides with no part of the skull or spinal column attached
- Antlers, antlers attached to cleaned skull plates, or skulls free from meat or brain tissue
- Cleaned lower jawbones with teeth or cleaned teeth



# Hunter Requirements in CWD Surveillance Areas

2025–2026 Deer Hunting Season

## ATTENTION DEER HUNTERS!

### MANDATORY CWD TESTING

During the 2025-26 deer hunting season there is no required mandatory sampling in the surveillance areas. Thanks to the support of hunters, Cervid Health Cooperators, and Commission staff, we exceeded CWD sampling goals by collecting more than 23,000 CWD samples during the 2024-25 hunting season. Voluntary CWD testing is available through drop-off freezers and Cervid Health Cooperators located across the state.

### WILDLIFE FEEDING

**Minerals and Salt licks:** The placement of minerals or salt to purposely congregate wildlife is prohibited in primary and secondary surveillance areas

**Wildlife feeding:** The placement of bait, food, or food products to purposefully congregate wildlife is prohibited from January 2–August 31 in primary and secondary surveillance areas, except for:

- Bird feeders
- Hunting in urban archery seasons in participating municipalities
- Other activities specifically permitted by the Wildlife Commission

*\*NOTE: Baiting deer is legal in Surveillance Areas from September 1–January 1*

### NATURAL DEER ATTRACTANTS/SCENTS

The possession or use of any substance or material containing or labeled as containing any excretion collected from a cervid, including feces, urine, blood, gland oil, or other bodily fluid is prohibited for the purposes of taking or attempting to take, attract, or scout wildlife. This is a statewide prohibition. In addition, natural substances collected by a hunter from a cervid legally harvested in North Carolina may NOT be used or possessed in surveillance areas. In surveillance areas, these prohibitions shall not apply to the following substances:

- Synthetic products that are labeled as such
- Natural deer urine and other substances collected from a facility in North Carolina with a valid Farmed Cervid License from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) and identified/labeled as such
- Products labeled as participating in the Responsible Hunting Scent Association's Deer Protection Program

### CWD TESTING IS AVAILABLE AT:

- DROP-OFF FREEZERS
- WRC-STAFFED CHECK STATIONS
- PARTICIPATING TAXIDERMISTS/PROCESSORS (CERVID HEALTH COOPERATORS)

VISIT [NCWILDLIFE.GOV/CWD](https://ncwildlife.gov/cwd)  
FOR TESTING LOCATIONS



SCAN HERE

