



SEP 26 2011

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services

Washington, DC
20250

Dear Chronic Wasting Disease Program Participants:

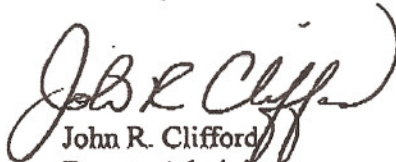
As fiscal year (FY) 2012 approaches, I would like to alert chronic wasting disease (CWD) program participants regarding potential changes to the CWD program. Although we do not know what the final FY 2012 budget we receive from Congress will be, the CWD budget will likely be reduced by \$13.9 million, leaving the program with no more than \$1.925 million in funding.

If the budget is adopted as expected, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) funding for certain program activities would be discontinued. These activities include indemnity, cooperative agreements with State wildlife agencies for wild cervid surveillance, and funding for CWD research projects conducted at the APHIS National Wildlife Research Center.

Additionally, the last day for APHIS funding for CWD testing of farmed cervids would be December 31, 2011. After that day, APHIS-approved laboratories and the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) would be using established user fees, and producers would be charged directly for routine CWD testing. NVSL will continue to conduct confirmatory testing on any presumptive CWD positive samples from farmed and wild cervids. We encourage cervid producers to submit CWD samples prior to December 31 while we believe APHIS funding will be available.

On behalf of APHIS Veterinary Services, I thank you for your interest and participation in the CWD program. We look forward to working with you and value your partnership.

Sincerely,


John R. Clifford
Deputy Administrator



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