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NEWS RELEASE

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HOLMES COUNTY HUNTERS URGED TO PROCESS DEER IN COUNTY

New precautions part of effort to prevent CWD in wild deer herd

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio (Nov. 26, 2014) – As deer gun season approaches on December 1, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) are urging deer hunters in Holmes County to assist in minimizing the risk of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Successful hunters in Holmes County are encouraged to have their deer processed at a facility in the county and that the carcass remains within the county as well.

At this time, no cases of CWD have been discovered in Ohio's wild deer herd, and hunters should continue to enjoy deer hunting this season.

These additional precautions follow a positive test for chronic wasting disease (CWD) earlier this fall at World Class Whitetails of Ohio in Holmes County. Recently, six captive deer have been harvested outside of deer facilities in the county, two of which have been traced back to the affected facility. Neither of those deer have tested positive for CWD. ODA has also sought a temporary restraining order that would prevent the operator of World Class Whitetails of Ohio from violating the conditions of the quarantine. The shooting preserve remains under quarantine and no additional deer at the facility have tested positive for CWD since the initial case was discovered.

The request to process deer before transport applies to deer hunters only in Holmes County and has no impact on any existing deer hunting regulations including bag limits, hunting times or method of take either in Holmes County or across the state.

If you harvest a deer in **Holmes County**, ODNR and ODA ask that:

- The whole carcass of a deer not be removed from the county.
- Hunters only move processed, de-boned, or portions of meat free from any part of the spinal column out of the county.
- All deer harvested within the county be processed within the county or at the 3 designated sample collection sites in Wayne County (Canaan Meats, Shreve Meats and Yoder Custom Meats).
- Any taxidermy be done within the county.

Again, these requests apply to deer taken in **Holmes County only** and are vital in the effort to prevent the spread of CWD.

ODNR and ODA have been working closely in an effort to minimize the potential risk that CWD could spread to Ohio's wild deer herd and the state is continuing to seek the assistance of hunters in the collection of samples to submit for CWD testing. The ODNR Division of Wildlife has collected more than a hundred samples in Holmes County for testing and will continue this effort at a [number of locations](#) throughout Wayne and Holmes counties.

The ODNR and ODA will continue to dedicate resources to the area to assist hunters and the community this hunting season. For questions please contact the ODNR Division of Wildlife at 1-800-WILDLIFE.