

Bovine TB Makes Appearance in New York Deer Herd

Published reports say that there have been multiple reports of Bovine TB in the state's deer herd. I have no further info and that is not clear is where the known cases are emanating from. If it has been detected in captive herds, i.e., "deer farms, it would routinely become the problem of Ag and Markets. If it has been detected in wild deer, we can expect that DEC will offer advice and updates. You may recall that when CWD appeared in Oneida County it was both DEC and Ag and Markets who worked together to contain the disease. As a result of that effort the disease was eradicated from the state and has not made a reappearance.

Outward appearance of a deer infected with TB is typically normal – you will not generally know that the deer is sick – but you could detect it during field dressing or processing. You might notice different sized white, tan or yellow lesions (bubble-ish looking) pockets on the lungs, rib cage, or in the chest cavity.

Other things that hunters will need to be aware of is that Bovine Tuberculosis is airborne. There have been few cases where hunters have contracted Bovine Tuberculosis from breathing in the bacteria while they are (the hunters) are hunting or while cleaning the meat.

I will be meeting with DEC on Wednesday evening and have requested that someone from the Bureau of Wildlife be on hand to discuss the issue. I will send an update to everyone on Thursday.