



# CWD Surveillance and Management in Minnesota: Fall 2020 Updates

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September 1, 2020, Legislative Update

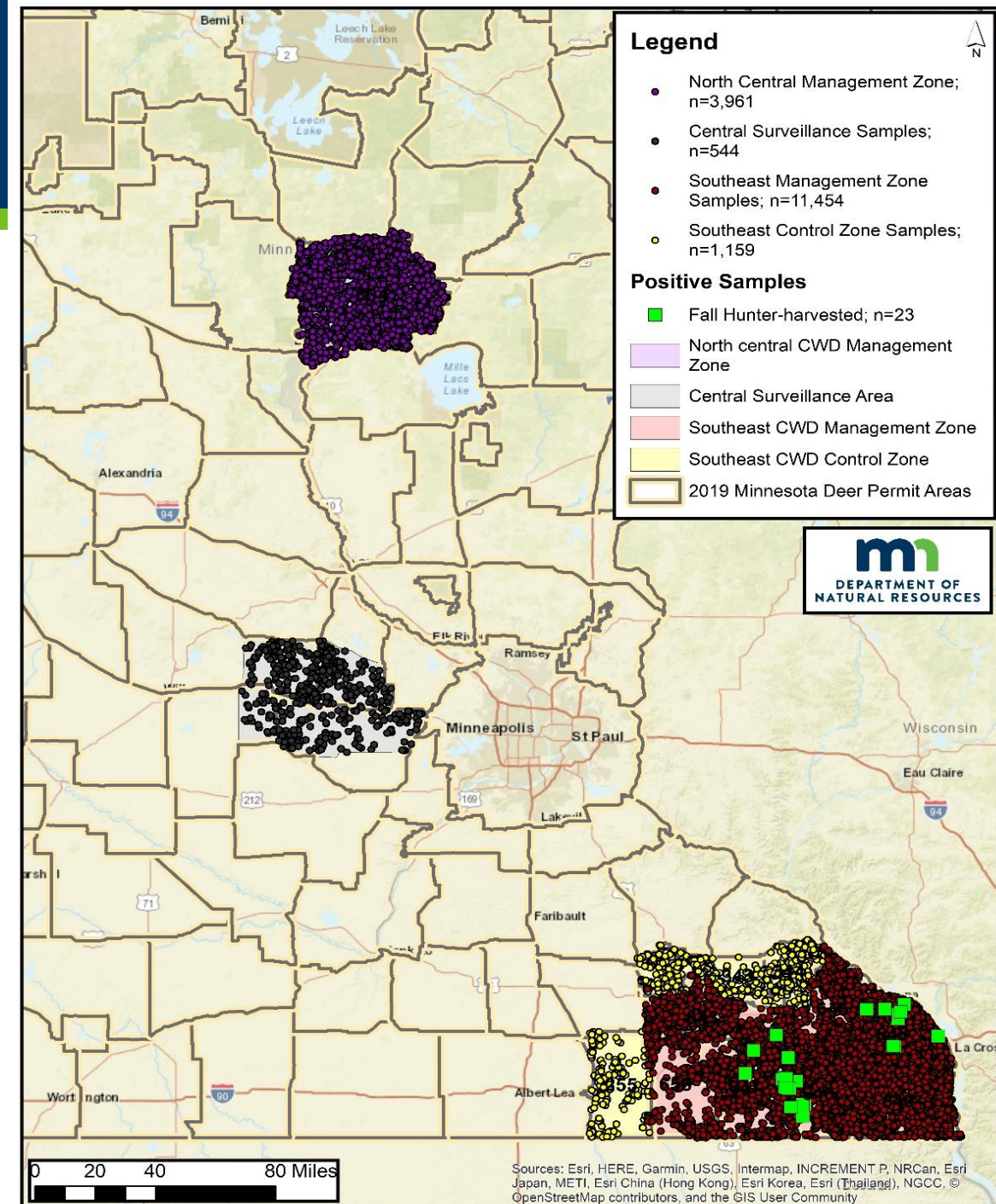
- Recap of Fall 2019 efforts
- New areas with increased risk for CWD
  - Douglas County – CWD-infected deer farm
  - Pine County – CWD-infected deer farm
  - Dakota County – CWD-infected wild deer
- Dumpster Program
- CWD surveillance changes for Fall 2020
- Southeast Deer Movement Study



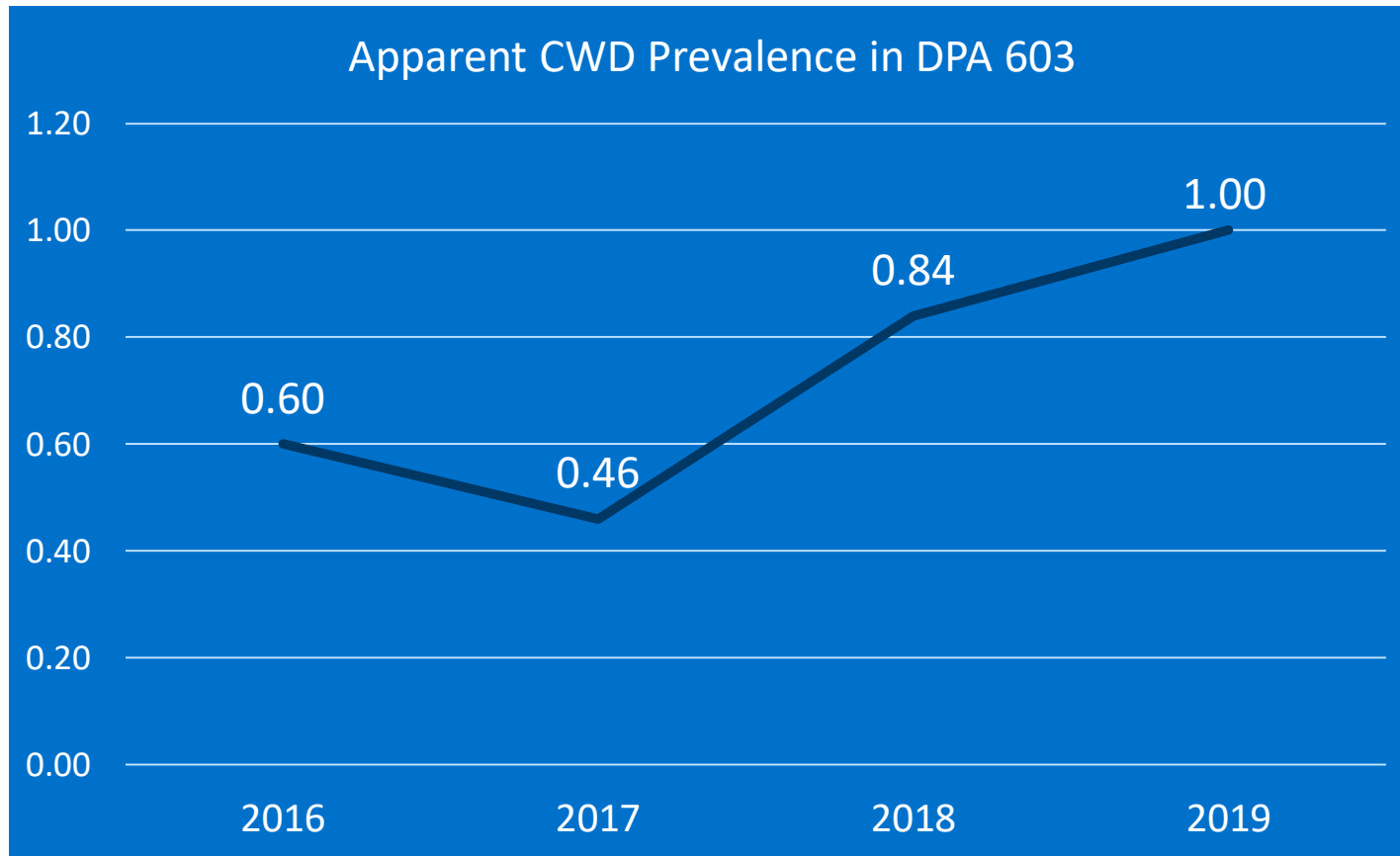


# CWD Testing Results from Fall 2019

- Total hunter-harvested samples collected during fall 2019: 17,118
  - 23 CWD-positives, all in the southeast
  - No positives in the North-Central or Central Zones
- An additional 1,040 were sampled post-season in the southeast through special late hunts (567), landowner permits (10), and agency culling (463)
  - 10 CWD-positives
- 358 deer were sampled opportunistically statewide (vehicle-killed, found dead, reported sick)
  - 3 CWD-positives, all in the southeast
- To date, >90,000 deer tested since 2002
  - 88 positive wild deer in 6 counties: Olmstead, Fillmore, Winona, Houston, Crow Wing, Dakota



# CWD Prevalence in the Fillmore County Outbreak



- CWD prevalence is still low in DPA 603; however, increased from 2017 to 2018
- This infection appears to be persisting in the Preston-Lanesboro area and spreading outward
- 2019 prevalence estimate only slightly higher than 2018

# FY20 Spending on CWD-related Efforts

- **Overall spending FY20: \$2,777,626**
  - DNR staff salary: \$1,006,710
  - Sample collection efforts: \$798,303
    - Includes travel, supplies, student contracts, taxidermists, meat processor, and equipment
  - CWD diagnostic testing: \$335,179
  - Agency culling with USDA: \$295,209
  - Adopt -A- Dumpster program: \$185,791
  - CWD-related research projects: \$156,434
- Funding sources: General Fund (\$1,592,162), Game & Fish (\$550,127), DNR Dedicated Accounts (\$635,337)

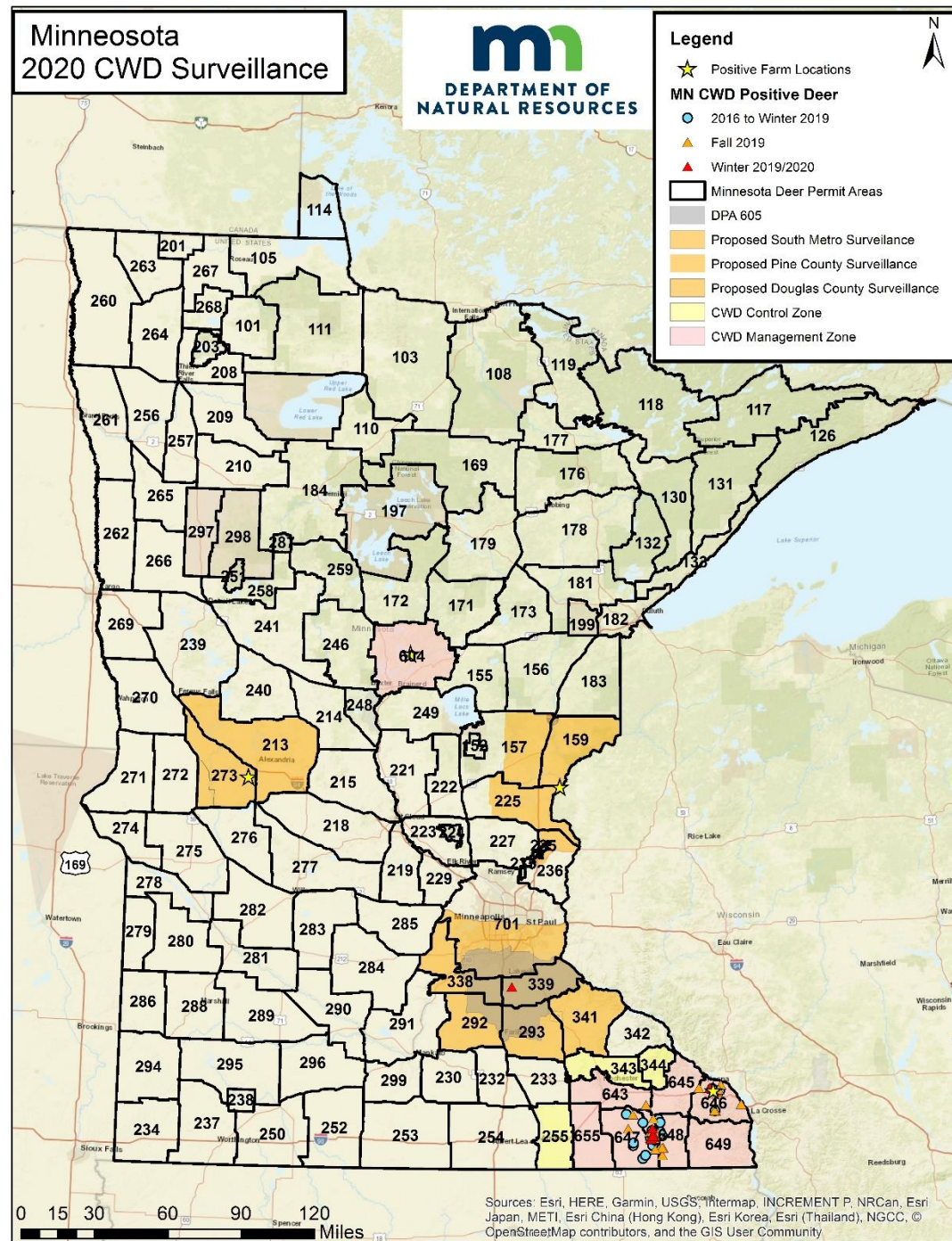


## Minnesota 2020 CWD Surveillance



### Legend

- ★ Positive Farm Locations
- MN CWD Positive Deer**
  - 2016 to Winter 2019
  - ▲ Fall 2019
  - ▲ Winter 2019/2020
- ▭ Minnesota Deer Permit Areas
- ▭ DPA 605
- ▭ Proposed South Metro Surveillance
- ▭ Proposed Pine County Surveillance
- ▭ Proposed Douglas County Surveillance
- ▭ CWD Control Zone
- ▭ CWD Management Zone



# 2020 CWD Surveillance

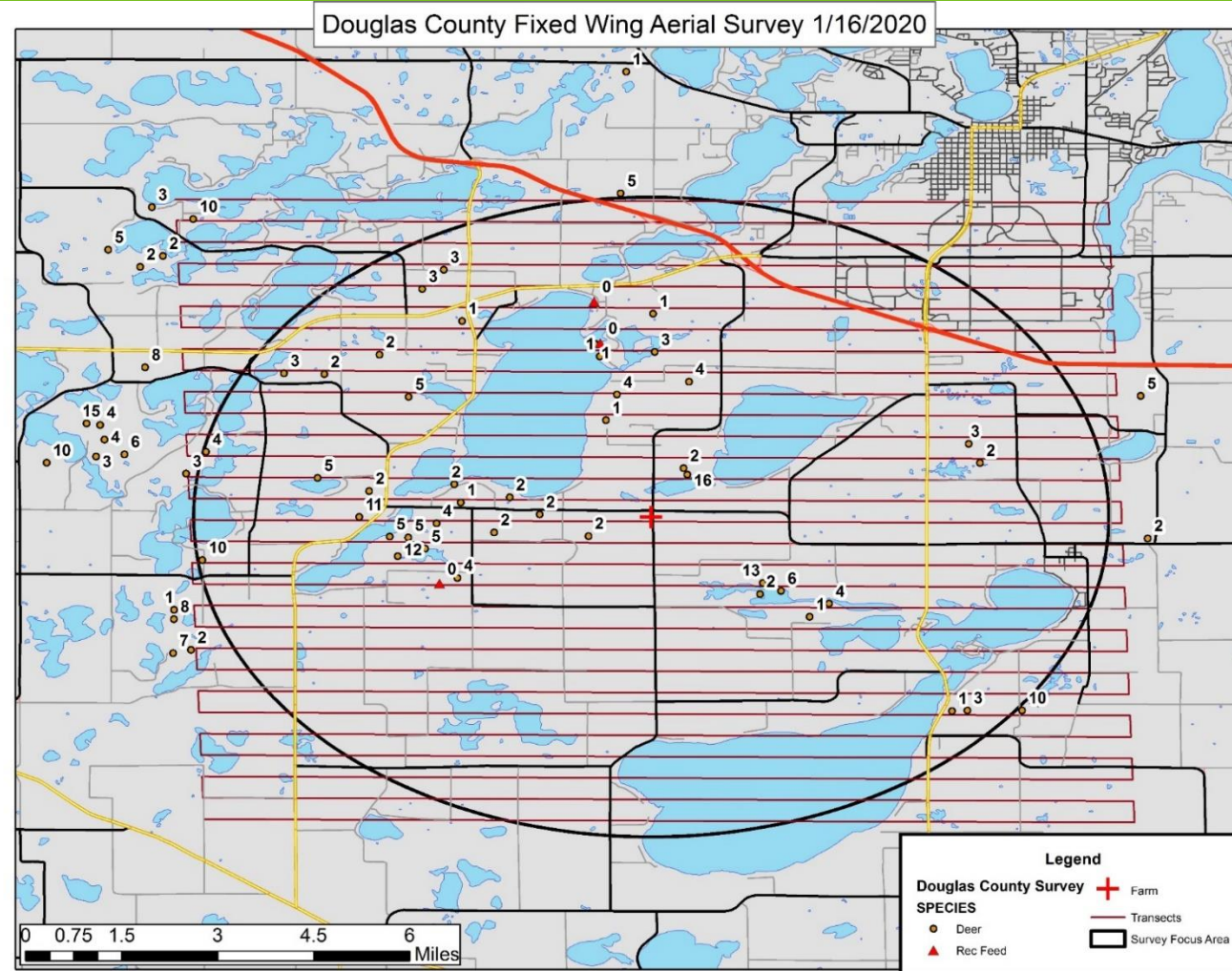
- **New:** West Central Surveillance Area  
(Douglas County deer farm)
- **New:** East Central Surveillance Area  
(Pine County deer farm)
- **New:** DPA 605 CWD Management Zone  
(Dakota County wild deer)
- **New:** South Metro Surveillance Area
- **On-going:** Southeast Management and Control Zones
- **On-going:** North Central Management Zone
- *Successfully dissolved and discontinued: Central Surveillance Area*



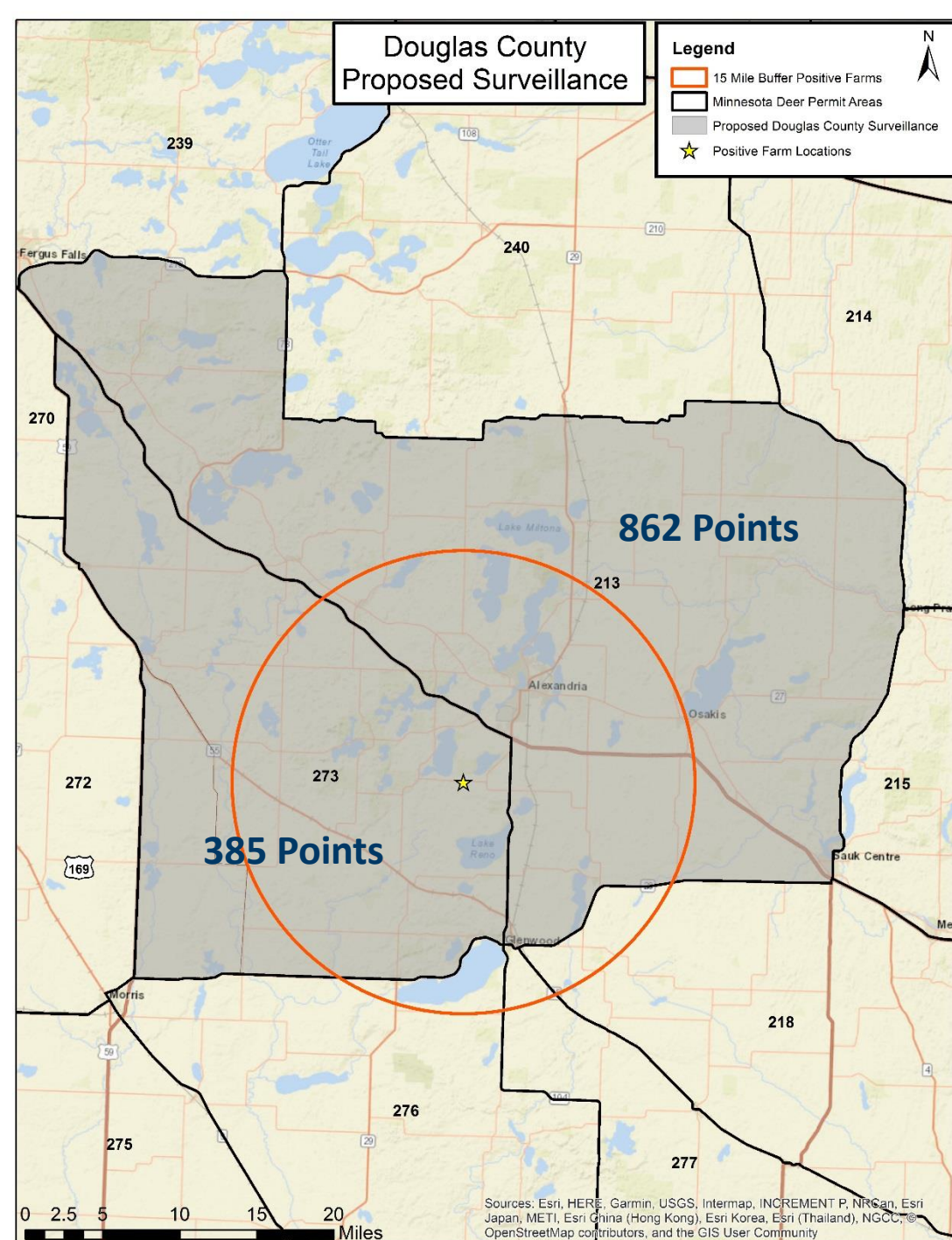
# Douglas County (December 2020)

## Douglas County Positive Deer Farm

- 2 deer (1 buck, 1 doe)
- The positive doe sourced from a Pine County deer farm
- Site visit with BAH, USDA, and DNR ENF showed not much interaction with wild deer along the fences, and not much woody habitat immediate to the deer farm.
- Aerial survey in January = 64 deer and 3 feeding sites



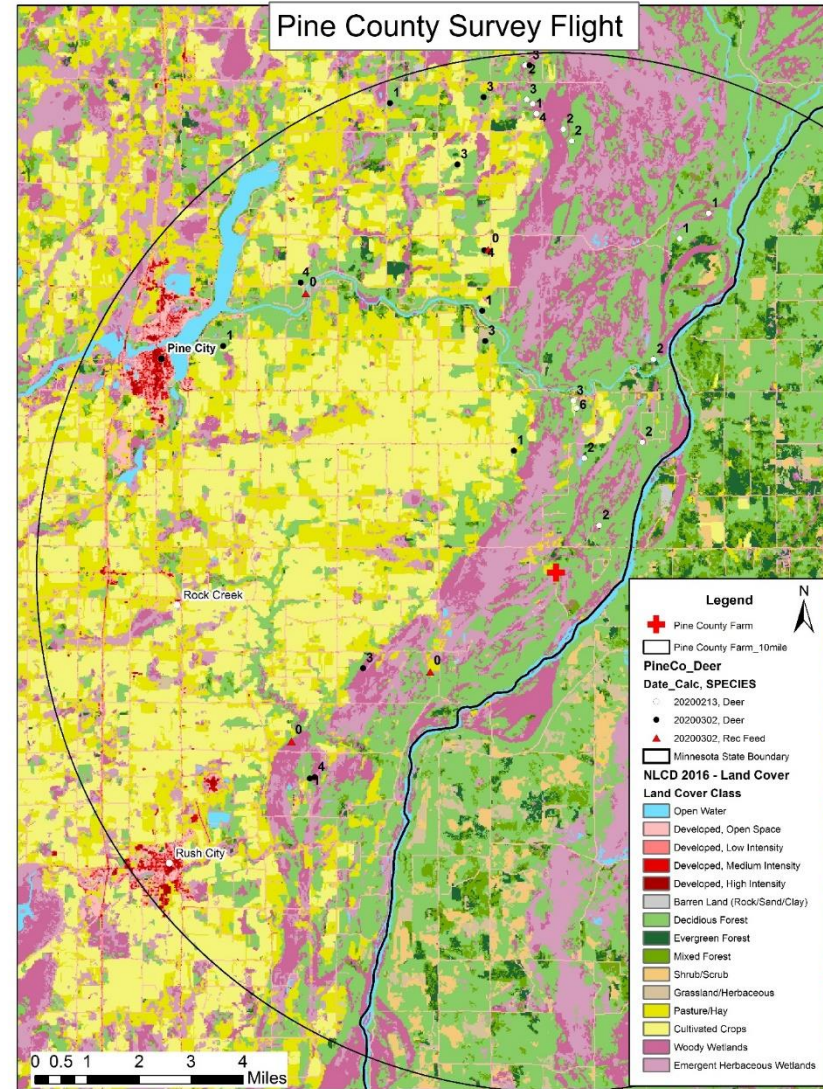
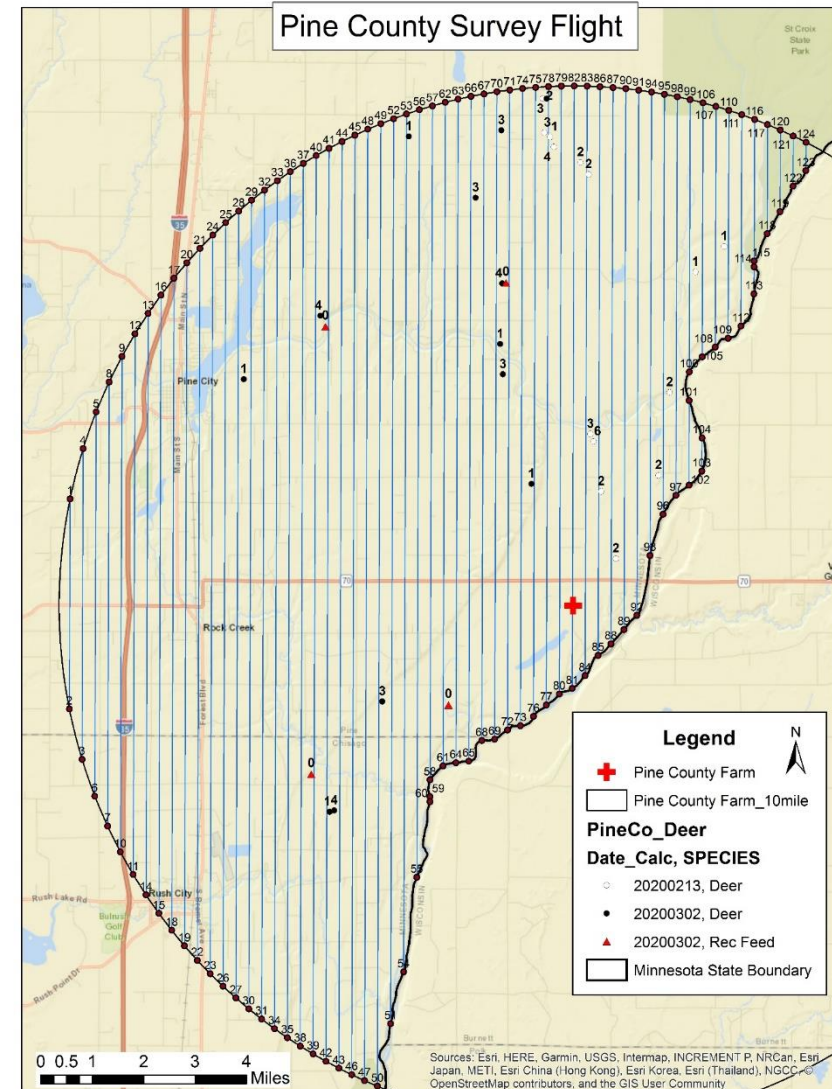
# Douglas County (West Central Surveillance Area)



- Risk based Surveillance Model: Pilot Effort
  - Samples collected are assigned points based on sample type (age/sex),
    - Yearling Male = 1 point
    - Adult Male = 3.2 points
    - Community reported sick deer = 33.3 points
  - Better detection probability with decreased samples
  - Still achieve 95-99% probability of detecting CWD if present at 0.5-1% of the deer population in this area.
  - Tennessee and Virginia are using this model
- Points can increase or decrease based on risk factors, including: deer density, presence of cervid farms, distance to wild CWD+ deer, presence of taxidermists/meat processors/wildlife (deer) rehab, and past surveillance history.
- Partnerships with meat processors and taxidermists to collect samples, 11 self-service CWD stations will be in placed throughout area for hunters, and there are no carcass movement restrictions



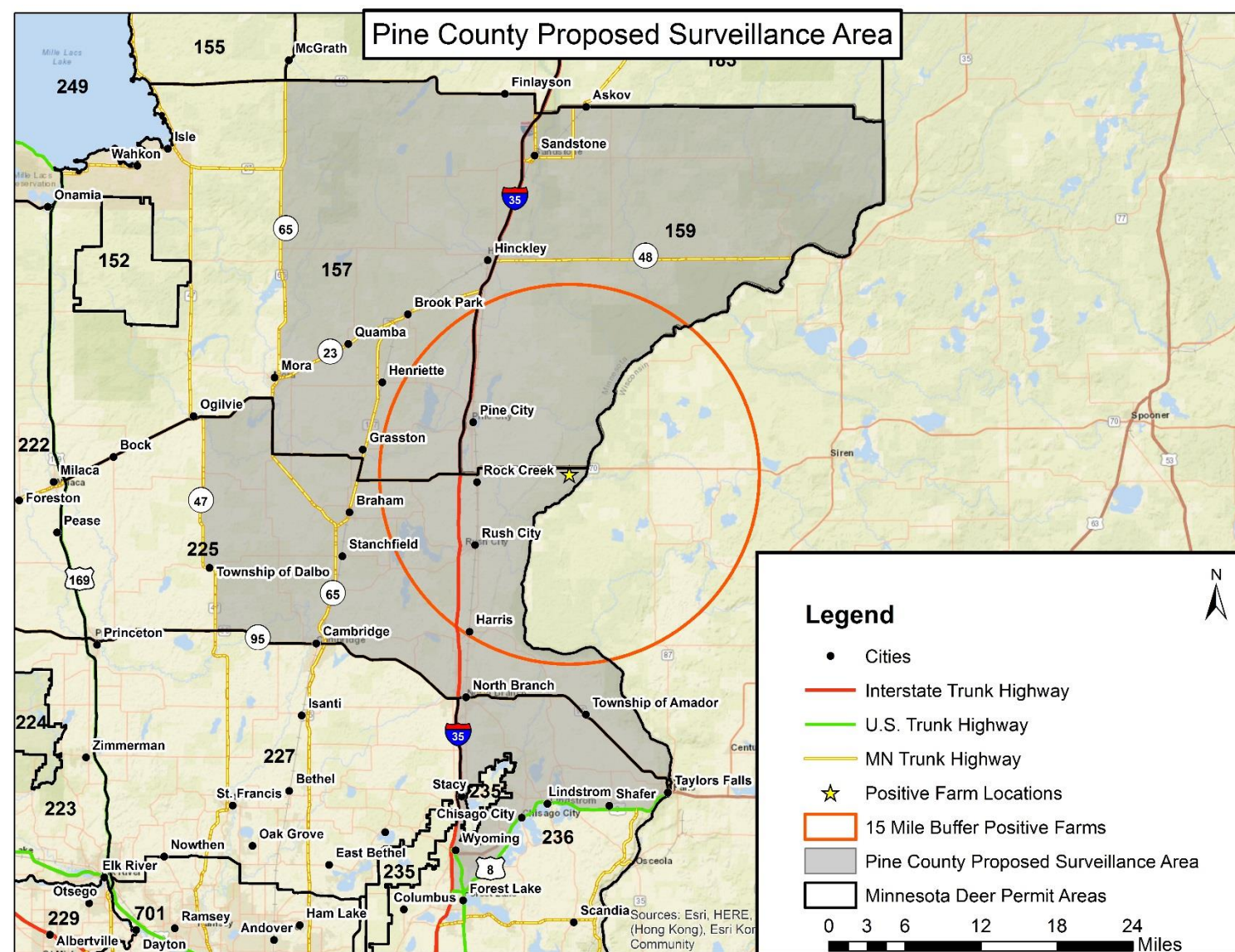
# Pine County (January 2020)



- 1 deer died on farm, tested positive for CWD
- 8 remaining deer indemnified, 4 tested positive
  - Total: 5 out of 9 positive on farm
- Other deer farms received deer from this facility; \*the Douglas County positive deer came from this farm
- 65 deer observed during aerial flight in February
- 4 recreational feeding sites observed



# Pine County (East Central Surveillance Area)



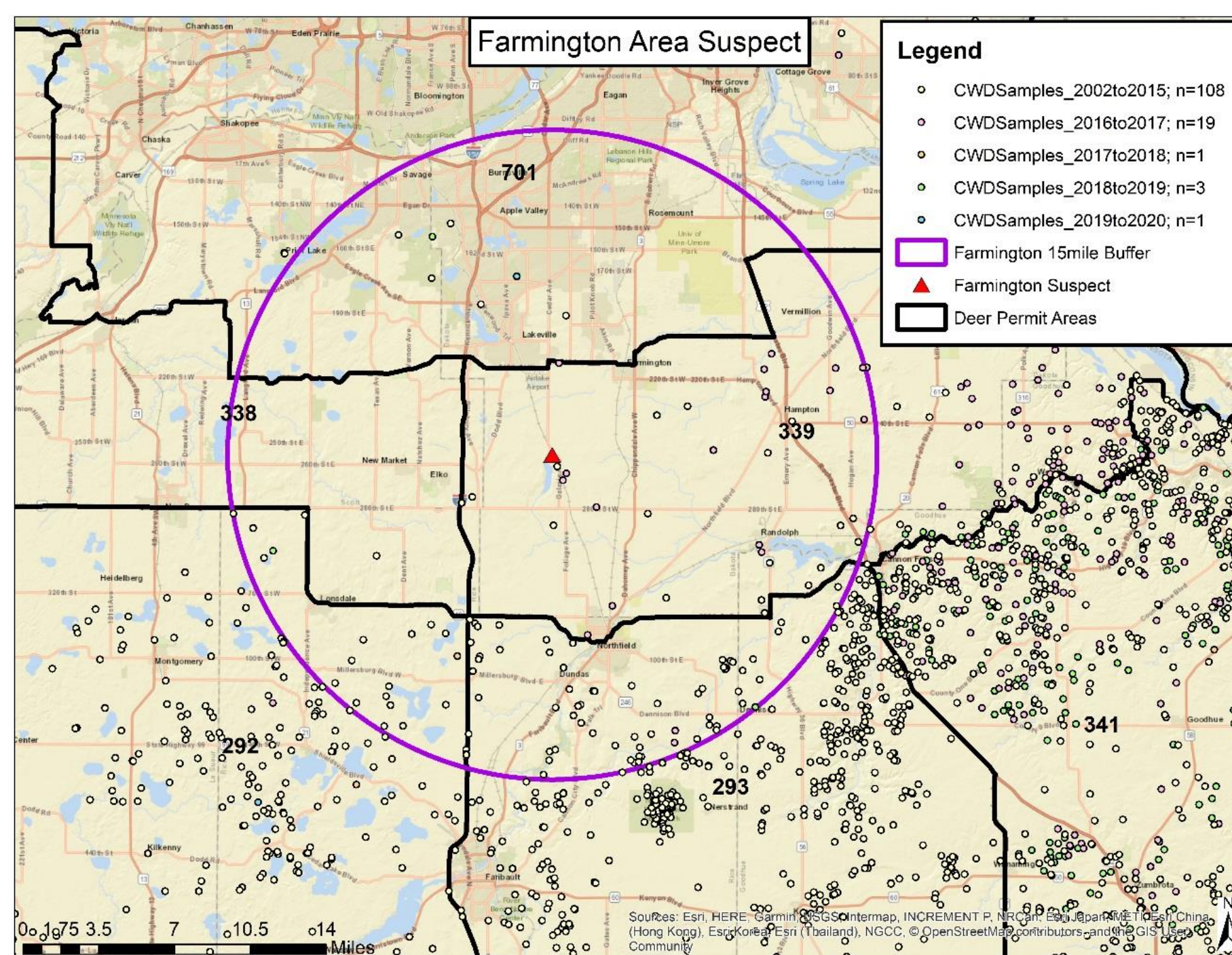
- Voluntary testing for hunters during firearms season until a goal of 1000 deer is reached
- Increased awareness for sick or found dead deer.
- Boundary extended beyond 15 miles due to increased risk
- No carcass movement restrictions
- 3 years of not detected results needed to discontinue surveillance per our CWD Response Plan



# Dakota County wild positive

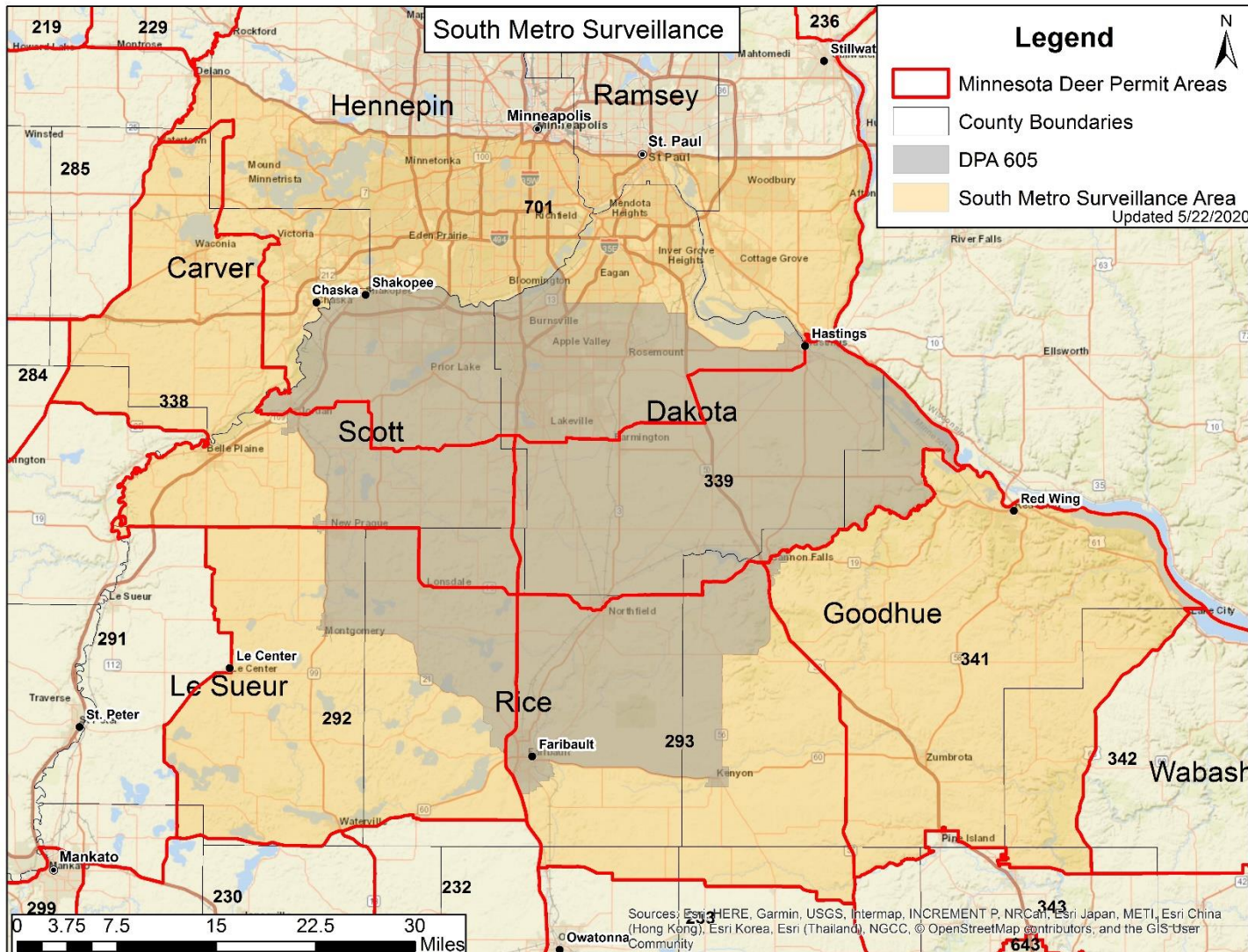
Community reported sick  
wild deer, March 2020

Full necropsy; died of CWD





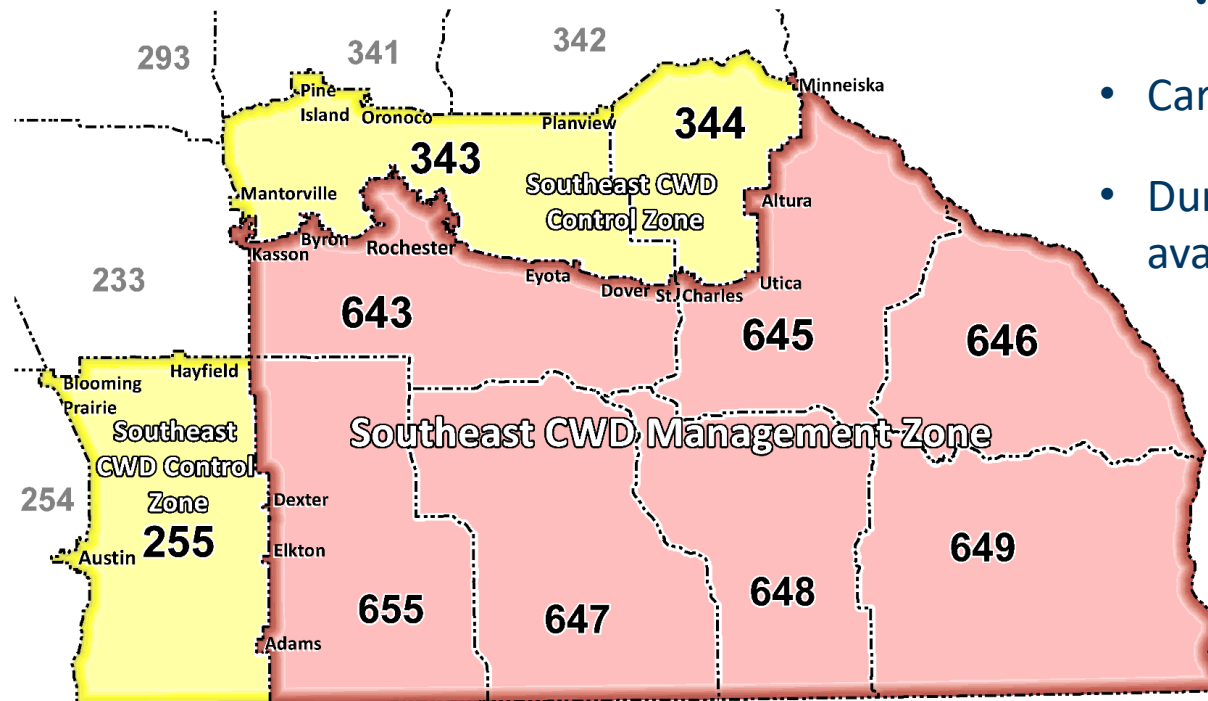
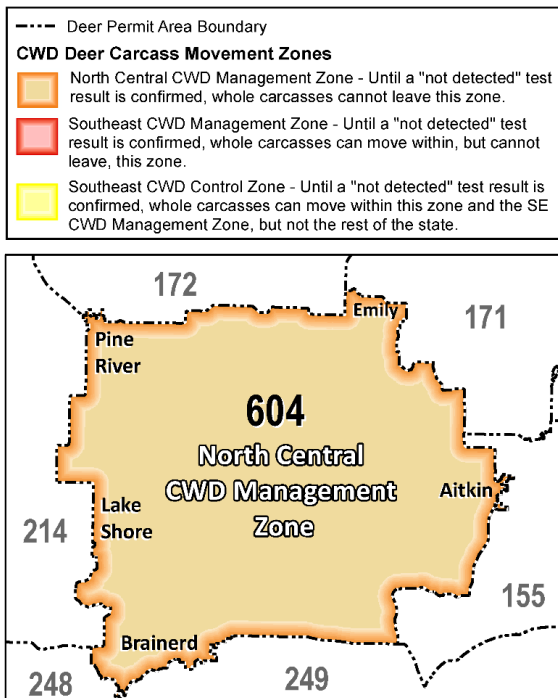
# Dakota County Wild Positive (South Metro)



- **NEW South Metro CWD Management Zone, DPA 605 (gray area)**
- Unlimited disease management permits \$2.50/each for antlerless deer only
  - 1 buck per hunter
  - Carcass movement restrictions apply
  - Voluntary sampling during all hunting season
  - Antler point restriction removed and cross tagging of bucks is allowed
  - Dumpsters available for carcass waste
- In place for at least 3 years, if consecutive not detected results then will dissolve back to historic DPA's; following our CWD Response Plan
- **South Metro Surveillance Area (orange area)**
  - Testing during firearms season only and until goal of 750 deer is reached in the surrounding DPAs

# Southeast and North Central CWD Management and Control Zones Continue

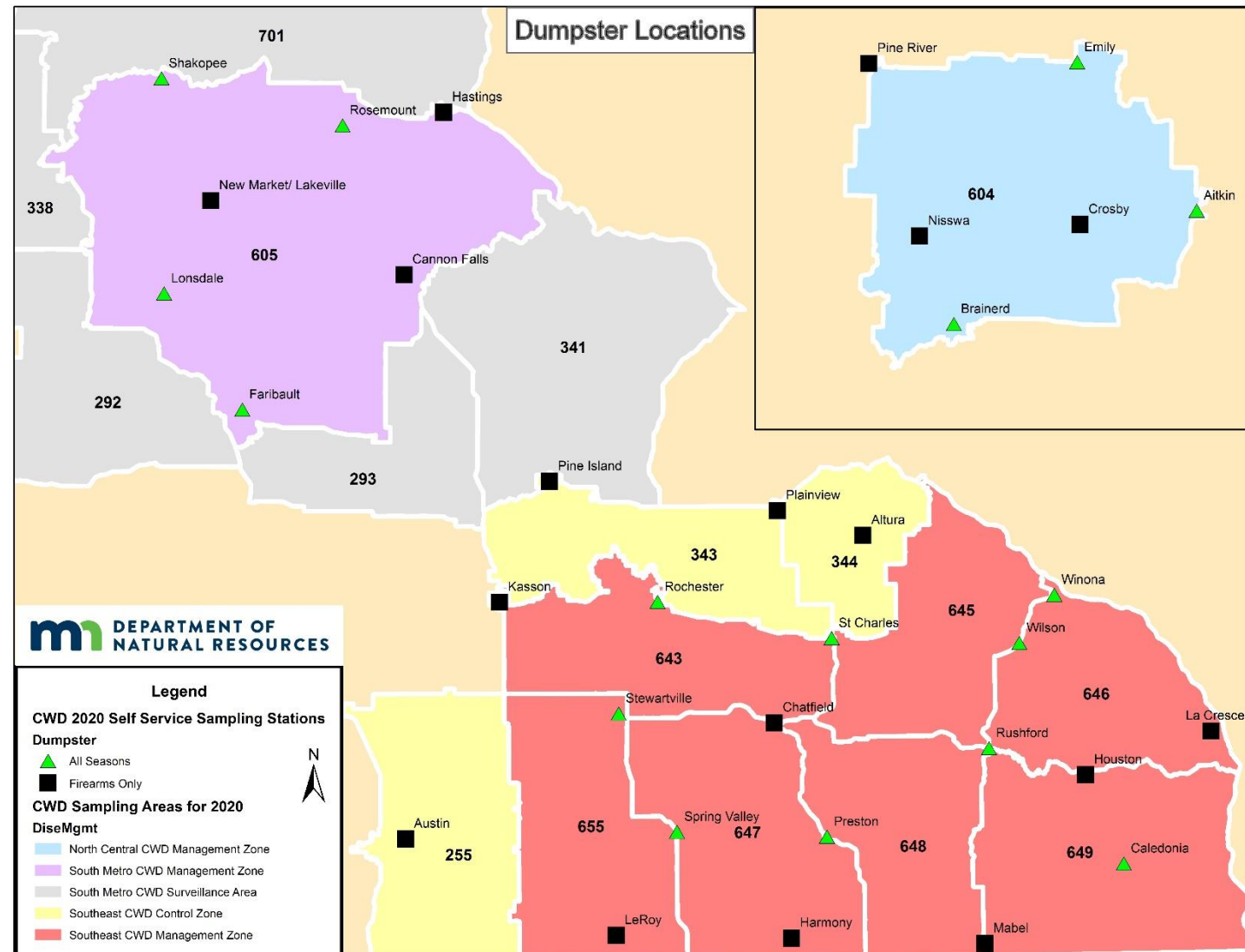
- Same boundaries as last year
- Stations available all of archery/firearm/muzzleloader seasons
  - SE = 20 stations; NC = 6 stations
- Carcass movement restrictions apply
- Dumpsters and quartering stations available



# Dumpster Program

**Over 200 tons of deer waste generated last year!  
Program costs in 2019: \$185k**

- Dumpster program will continue as last year in NC and SE. Added new dumpsters in 605
- All bids for haulers are out now
  - 16 vendor solicitations for 33 dumpster locations
  - Bids are due 3-Sept
- Contracts will require functional lids this time.
- Deer hunting groups have been contacted to gauge interest in supporting the continuation of the program
  - Groups will be provided total costs per dumpster site this year to help plan for 2021





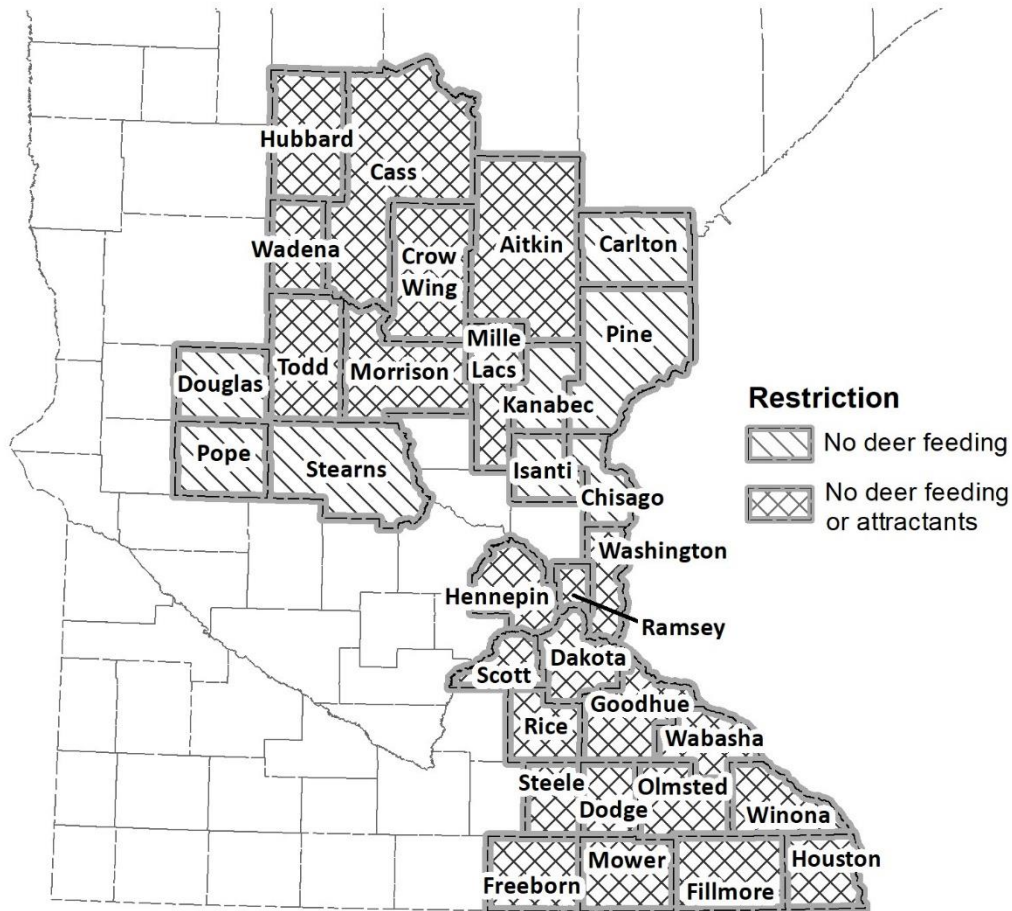
# Deer Disposal in a CWD Surveillance Areas

- Getting the carcass disposed of properly is the key.
  - If left on the landscape, an infected deer carcass becomes a source of disease; thus, the landfill is the best solution to reduce these risks by providing containment!
  - There is no human health risk associated with landfilling, the health advisory is only tied to EATING CWD-positive venison
- MPCA has been assisting DNR to identify landfill, Waste-to Energy, or Air Curtain Incinerator options in all the new areas.
  - West-Central: Pope-Douglas Waste to Energy Facility
  - East-Central: East Central Waste and SKB landfills
  - South-Metro: Pine Bend (Republic) and Burnsville Sanitary landfills
  - North-Central: Crow Wing County (Air Curtain Incinerator)
  - Southeast: LaCrosse County (WI) landfill
  - Southeast Working with Olmsted County Waste-to-Energy System
- DNR will continue to recover any confirmed CWD-positive deer and utilize the alkaline digester at UM whenever possible



# Expanded Deer Feeding and Attractant Use Bans

Counties with Deer Feeding and Attractants Prohibited

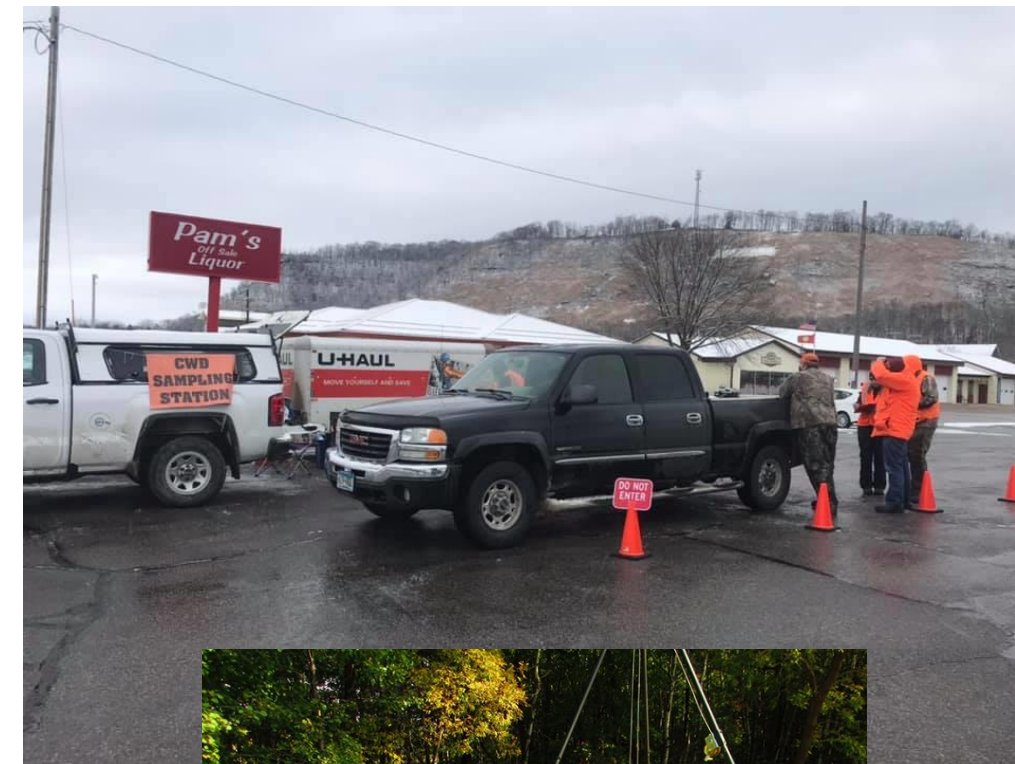


- Deer feeding is prohibited in areas where CWD was detected in farmed deer. This includes all of Carlton, Chisago, Douglas, Isanti, Kanabec, Pine, Pope and Stearns counties.
- In addition to deer feeding, deer attractants are prohibited in counties within proximity to where wild deer have been found positive for CWD. This includes Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Dakota, Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Hennepin, Houston, Hubbard, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Mower, Olmsted, Ramsey, Rice, Scott, Steele, Todd, Wabasha, Wadena, Washington and Winona counties.



# 2020: Changes To CWD Efforts

- Voluntary CWD sampling for fall 2020 to minimize social interaction due to COVID-19
  - Sampling goals are designed to maintain high level of confidence in detecting disease
    - 99% confidence for finding the disease, if present in >1% of the population
  - Hunters within our surveillance areas can make appointments with DNR staff for sample extraction if they are unable to use the self-service system
  - Partnerships have been made with >50 taxidermists and several meat processors to collect samples
- Carcass movement restrictions will remain in place for all Disease Management and Control Zones
- Sample extraction and data entry completed at DNR buildings staff and University students





# CWD Communications

- Press releases, Deer Notes, social media blasts about CWD info will continue
- New metal signs for public land hunters in disease management zones
- More vinyl signs for self-service stations; sandwich boards for dumpster locations
- Improved handouts (Brochure at self-service sampling station, flyers at big license sellers)
- Updated CWD webpage and videos
- Mass mailings = postcards to licensed hunters in all new areas

The collage features three distinct items related to CWD communication:

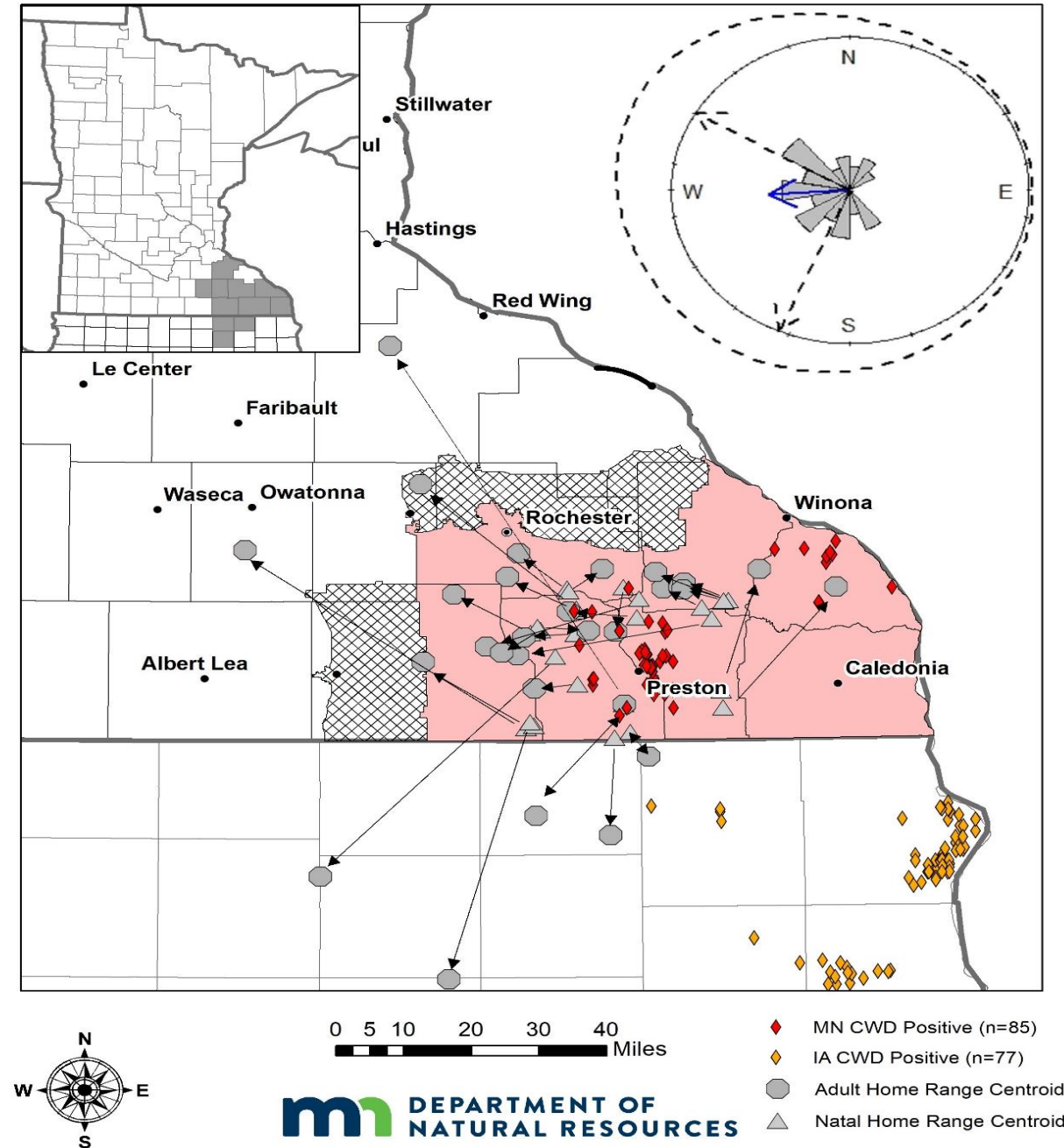
- Video Thumbnail:** A YouTube-style video player showing a deer's head. The text overlay reads "Chronic wasting disease" and "How to use a self-service CWD sampling station". It includes a red play button icon and a "Watch later" button.
- Yellow Sign:** A "Special Hunting Regulations: WHITE-TAILED DEER" sign. It lists requirements for hunters in permit areas with CWD, such as complying with testing and carcass movement rules. It is issued by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
- Brochure:** Titled "CWD AND MINNESOTA", it provides information on the disease's history in the state and offers guidance on what hunters should know before hunting, including testing procedures and carcass handling.

# Southeast Deer Movement Study

## Key Findings:

- Less than one-third (30%) of 127 GPS-collared yearlings left their birthplace to set up a new adult home range; these deer travelled an average of 13 miles before settling and most remained within existing management zones
- Dispersing deer moved in a west, northwest, or southwest direction
- 12 deer (10%) made seasonal migrations between summer and winter home ranges, including several who spent their summers in Iowa and winters in Minnesota
- Check online for more information and updates

[www.dnr.state.mn.us/cwd/deer-movement-study.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/cwd/deer-movement-study.html)





# Summary

- CWD remains a rare disease in MN
- Aggressive approach to protect statewide deer population, hunting heritage
- Adapt as we assess effectiveness
- We cannot be successful in managing this disease without the help of hunters, cooperators, and businesses





# KEEP MINNESOTA'S DEER HERD HEALTHY

STOP THE SPREAD  
OF CWD



DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES