

Animal Health Alert Network

Your Local Information Link for Animal Safety and Security

EHD (Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease) cases in wild and captive whitetail deer have been on the increase in Iowa and surrounding states this season. EHD is a viral insect-transmitted disease primarily in whitetail deer but has shown up in cattle as a fever with difficulty eating or swallowing from tongue and oral erosions. EHD is not a zoonotic disease (is not spread to humans) and is seasonal problem in northern climates due to the transmission by insects such as biting midges. Affected whitetail deer seek out areas of water due to fever and die from the infection in a few days in most cases. Cattle are more resistant and typically recover, especially with treatment. EHD is not related to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) which can infect deer and elk.

With the upcoming deer hunting seasons and the large number of whitetail deer mortalities reported this year. There have been many inquiries about the situation. Currently, there have been over 975 suspect Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) whitetail deer cases reported by the Iowa DNR from 42 counties in Iowa, with the majority in the Missouri River counties and south, SW and central parts of the state.

In surrounding states, Missouri has received 2,941 reports, Nebraska 2,272, South Dakota about 900, and Wisconsin began receiving reports during the past week and is up to about 50 reported deaths.

