

Calcasieu Parish 4-H Wildlife Contest Study Guide

Please use the following study guide to prepare for the Wildlife Contest. Questions for the contests will be taken directly from this study guide AND the websites and sources listed.

The ID portion of the test will consist of picture ID, when needed a pelt of the animal will accompany the picture.

ELEMENTARY SPECIES TO KNOW

Whooping Crane

Big Brown Bat

Louisiana Black Bear

Giant River Otter

American Alligator

White Tail Deer

Raccoon

JUNIOR SPECIES TO KNOW

ALL ELEMENTARY SPECIES AS WELL AS

Nutria Rat

Mallard (Drake and Hen)

Southern Crawfish Frog

Coyote

Eastern Cotton Tail

Rock Pigeon

Scarlet Snake

SENIOR SPECIES TO KNOW

ALL ELEMENTARY AND JUNIOR SPECIES AS WELL AS

Tiger Salamander

American beaver

Feral Hog (wild pig)

Wood Duck (Drake only)

Bobcat

INFORMATION REGARDING THESE SPECIES CAN BE FOUND AT: www.wlf.louisiana.gov

PICTURES TO BE USED FOR THE ID PORTION WILL BE TAKEN FROM:

https://ag.tennessee.edu/fwf/craigharper/Documents/3_2020-WHEP-Wildlife-Species.pdf



The following contains basic information from The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife Habitat Education Program (a copy of which may be pick up from the 4-H Office or found at <https://www.whep.org/national-whep-manual/>) Links to website and news articles should also be read and contestants may be asked questions regarding information found.

Information for **ELEMENTARY** contestants will be highlighted in **YELLOW**

Information for **JUNIOR** contestants will be ALL OF THE **YELLOW** HIGHLIGHTS and **BLUE**

Information for **SENIOR** contestants will consist of ALL **YELLOW** AND **BLUE** INFORMATION AND **GREEN**

WHAT IS CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE?

CWD is a neurodegenerative disease found in most deer species, including but not limited to white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, red deer, moose and caribou. It is infectious, always fatal and there is no treatment. It's part of a group of diseases know as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) and is similar to BSE (mad cow disease) of cattle and scrapie in sheep. These diseases cause irreversible damage to brain tissue which leads to excessive salivation, neurological symptoms, emaciation and death of the animal.

HAS IT BEEN FOUND IN LOUISIANA'S WHITE-TAILED DEER POPULATION? CWD has not been detected in Louisiana. However, Arkansas, Mississippi and Texas have recorded it. The disease has been documented in 26 states and three Canadian provinces. LDWF has been monitoring and testing for CWD for more than 15 years and has checked more than 9,000 deer during that period. The state has yet to detect a positive case.

WHAT CAUSES CWD AND HOW IS IT SPREAD? CWD is caused by prions, which are proteins normally found in the body that have mutated. These prions accumulate in the brain and cause holes to develop in brain tissue. While prions are concentrated in the central nervous system, they can be found within other tissues of the infected animal, including muscle. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) continues to monitor and test the state's white-tailed deer herd for chronic wasting disease (CWD). It has not been detected in Louisiana but Texas, Arkansas and Mississippi have documented the disease. CWD is spread through direct deer-to-deer contact or through contact with urine, feces, saliva and body parts of infected deer or infectious materials in the soil. Prions will bind to soil particles once an infected deer carcass has decomposed. Once in a location, the disease is present indefinitely.

WHAT SIGNS DO DEER WITH CWD DISPLAY? Prions can be shed within six months of infection, but it can take one to two years for CWD to incubate and exhibit outward symptoms in the infected animal. Symptoms include emaciation, lethargy, abnormal behavior, and loss of bodily functions. Other signs include excessive salivation, loss of appetite, progressive weight loss, excessive thirst and urination, teeth grinding and drooping ears.

CAN HUMANS CONTRACT CWD? According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) there is no evidence that CWD can infect humans. However, the CDC recommends caution in handling



venison in the infected region and that deer be tested for CWD before consuming. CWD positive deer should not be consumed by people.

HOW CAN I REPORT A SUSPECT DEER? You can assist LDWF in disease surveillance by reporting any deer that exhibits CWD symptoms. Suspect deer should be reported to the nearest LDWF regional office.

METHODS OF TAKING DEER

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS (Additional license requirements are specified below for Archery and Primitive Firearms seasons) Basic Season License, Big Game License (or equivalent combination license), and Deer Tags are required of all persons hunting deer. See pages 8 & 9 for exceptions and exemptions.

DEFINITIONS

- Either-sex: Antlered or antlerless deer.
- Still Hunting: Stalking or stationary stand hunting without the use of dog(s).
- Antlered Deer: Deer with at least one visible antler, of hardened bony material, broken naturally through the skin.

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES (Additional prohibited activities listed under Archery and Primitive Firearms seasons)

- Using or possessing scents or lures that contain natural deer urine or other bodily fluids while taking, attempting to take, attracting or scouting wildlife, EXCEPT natural deer urine products produced by manufacturers or entities that are actively enrolled and participating in the Archery Trade Association Deer Protection Program, and which products have been tested and certified that no detectable levels of CWD are present, and clearly labeled as such.
- Take or possession of spotted fawns.
- Take of deer with firearms smaller than .22 caliber center-fire or shotgun loaded with anything other than buckshot or slug.
- Take of deer with rimfire firearms.
- Take of deer while deer are swimming.
- Take of deer while hunter is in a boat with motor attached in operating position, EXCEPT that this prohibition shall not apply to any person who has lost one or more limbs.
- Take of game quadrupeds or birds from aircraft, or participating in the taking of deer with the aid of aircraft or from any other moving vehicles.
- Pursuing, driving or hunting deer with dogs or moving vehicles when or where a still hunting season or area is designated.
- Training of deer dogs in still hunting areas during open still hunting seasons.

DAILY LIMIT

- One antlered and one antlerless deer per day EXCEPT when a Bucks Only season is in progress and EXCEPT on Floy Ward McElroy WMA and EXCEPT on some Federal Lands where the daily limit is one deer per day (see specific Federal Lands Regulations for details).

SEASON LIMIT

Season limit is six, not to exceed three antlered OR four antlerless deer, EXCEPT Deer Area 4 season limit is three (not to exceed two antlered or two antlerless deer), and EXCEPT Deer Area 10 season limit is three (not to exceed two antlered or two antlerless deer). Deer harvested on property enrolled in DMAP may not count in the season or daily bag limit for hunters. See DMAP Regulations (LAC 76:v.111) for more information

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Various Wildlife Management Practices (WMPs) are used to manage wildlife and their habitat. This section describes WMPs and the potential effect they can have on wildlife habitat and populations. The WMPs are grouped according to type of practice (Habitat management, Population management, Pond/Stream Management, Additional management practices specific to Urban areas)

Nesting Structures

General description

Some species den, nest, or roost in cavities or other structures they don't excavate themselves (such as bluebirds, wood ducks, owls, and bats). If natural cavities or other suitable structures are not available, artificial structures (such as nest boxes) can be used. Nest boxes are inserted into live trees for red-cockaded woodpeckers. Many species need a certain kind of cavity (certain diameter of hole, depth, area) in a certain location (field, woods, or water) and at a certain distance aboveground (height in feet). The particular design and placement of structures often determine which wildlife species use them. Nesting structures should be monitored to ensure use by targeted species. Contact your county Extension or state wildlife agency office for specific designs of nest boxes and other artificial nesting/ roosting structures. NOTE: Nesting structures for Canada geese are not recommended because resident Canada geese have become too numerous and are a nuisance in many areas. In addition, nesting structures are not recommended for mallards. Instead, creation of high-quality nesting cover (native warm-season grasses and forbs) is required to impact population recruitment.

Effect of practice

- In open areas, nest boxes are useful for bluebirds unless an abundance of nesting cavities are available in trees or fence posts. Nest boxes for bluebirds should not be placed any closer than 80 yards apart to prevent territorial fighting between males.
- Nesting structures near water sources provide secure nesting sites for wood ducks where trees with cavities suitable for nesting are limiting. Nest boxes for wood ducks should not be placed any closer than 100 yards apart and ideally, should not be visible from one box to another, to prevent dump-nesting by females not incubating a particular nest.

Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire is often the most effective and efficient method for managing succession and maintaining early successional plant communities. Prescribed fire can be used in fields, openings, grasslands, savannas, woodlands, and forest. Intensity and timing of fire dictate whether woody species are killed or if only the leaf litter is consumed.

Although a very beneficial practice, prescribed burning is not possible in all locations. Sites in close proximity to urban areas, hospitals, or busy roadways may not be suitable for burning because of safety and smoke management concerns. Burning should be conducted only when danger of wildfire is low (when the wind, temperature, and humidity allow a controlled burn) and should be conducted under the close supervision of forestry or wildlife professionals experienced with using prescribed fire. Where fire can be used, it is highly recommended over mowing or mulching to set-back or maintain succession.

Effect of practice

- Sets-back the successional process by killing existing cover and stimulating fresh plant growth.
- Burning early successional cover provides an open structure at ground level the following growing season, which is desirable for several small wildlife species, including young upland gamebirds. An open structure at ground level facilitates mobility and foraging under a canopy of herbaceous vegetation.
- Consumes litter layer and understory fuels (such as dead leaves and grass), which reduces chance of wildfire and enables the seedbank to germinate.
- Improves seed and invertebrate availability for many species (because of the open structure at ground level).
- May release nutrients (from ashes) into the soil.

ALL CONTESTANTS - Please explore the following sites and articles

https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Resources/Publications/Regulations/2020-2021_Hunting_Regulation_Low_Res.pdf

https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Hunting/Alligator/Files/alligator_regulations_2020.pdf

<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/subhome/waterfowl>



ALL CONTESTANTS – Please familiarize yourself with the URBAN ECOREGION found here:
https://fwf.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2020/07/2_2020-WHEP-Ecoregions.pdf



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