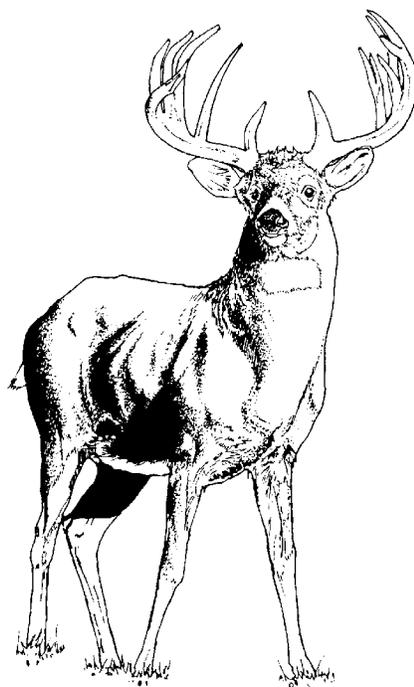


**Illinois Chronic Wasting Disease:  
2008-2009 Surveillance/Management Summary**



**Paul Shelton and Patrick McDonald  
Forest Wildlife Program  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources**

**September 30, 2009**

## Background:

Prior to July 1, 2008, Illinois Department of Natural Resources personnel sampled more than 36,000 wild deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), and identified 227 individual deer infected with chronic wasting disease (CWD). The most concentrated areas of known disease occurred in two distinct clusters; one just to the northeast of Rockford (Winnebago County, IL) and the other just to the southeast. Both clusters were centered approximately on the Boone County-Winnebago County line. Outside of these clusters, disease distribution was primarily along riparian corridors to the east across Boone County, western McHenry County, and northern DeKalb County. Isolated, outlying CWD-positive deer had been identified in Stephenson and western Winnebago counties, Ogle County, southern DeKalb County, and LaSalle County, defining the outer margins of known disease locations (Figure 1).

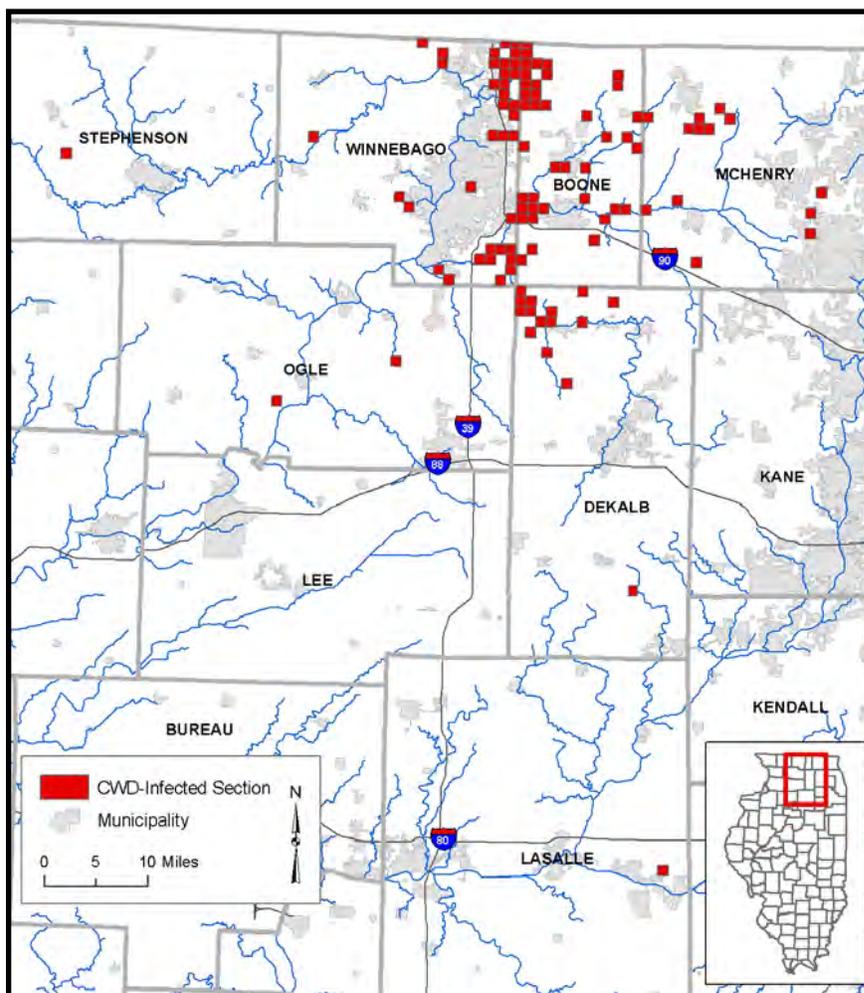
## CWD Surveillance Activities During FY2008-2009:

All CWD testing was conducted at Illinois Department of Agriculture's (IDOA) Animal Disease Laboratories located at Galesburg and Centralia, Illinois, both of which are certified for CWD testing by USDA. Immunohistochemistry (IHC) was the testing method used. Sampling was accomplished primarily by collecting tissues from (1) hunter-harvested deer; (2) suspect animals reported to IDNR staff; (3) road-killed deer in known CWD-infected areas; (4) deer taken under authority of urban Deer Population Control Permits, nuisance Deer Removal Permits, and Scientific Permits; and (5) deer taken by IDNR sharpshooters in CWD areas.

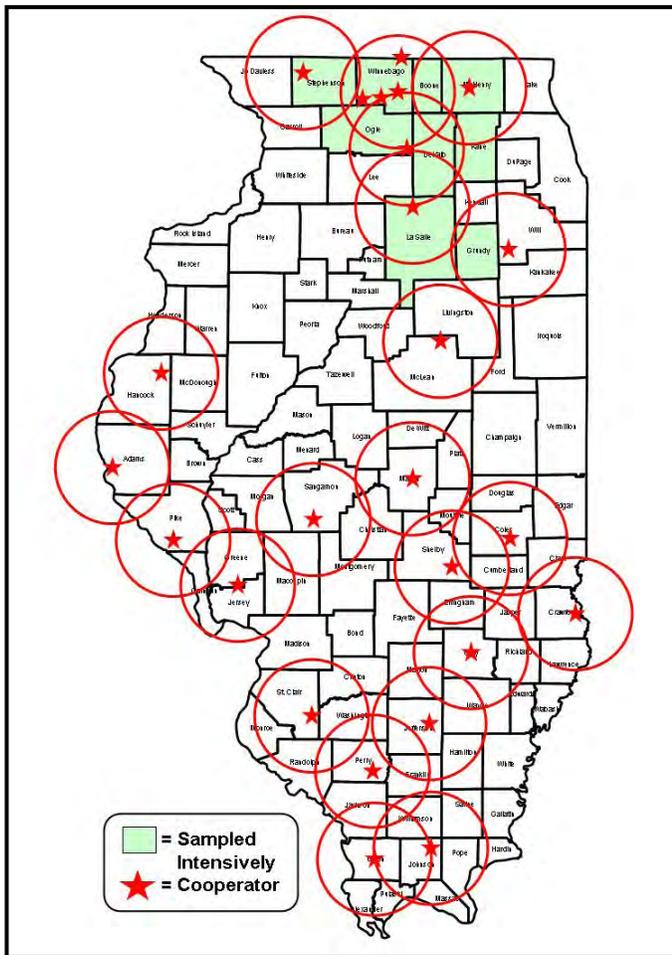
**Deer Hunting Season Surveillance.** Tissue samples (obex and retropharyngeal lymph nodes) for CWD testing were collected from hunter-harvested deer at three sources: (1) mandatory check stations in high-risk counties in northern Illinois during the firearm and special CWD hunting seasons; (2) designated self-service drop-off locations in northern Illinois where hunters during any season could leave a deer head to be tested; and (3) cooperating meat lockers at which cooperators were paid a fee to collect heads or sample tissues for IDNR. Counties with mandatory check stations for CWD surveillance, and locations of cooperating meat lockers are shown in Figure 2.

Mandatory check stations were operated during the firearm deer season for nine counties considered high-risk for CWD (Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, McHenry, Ogle, DeKalb, Kane [west of Highway 47], LaSalle and Grundy). The four most affected counties (Winnebago, Boone, McHenry, and DeKalb) and Kane County were also open to a special CWD deer season with mandatory check stations. Tissue samples were taken by IDNR staff from all willing hunters throughout each season (Firearm = November 21-23 and December 4-7, 2008; Special CWD = January 16-18, 2009), with a target goal of at least 500 samples per county. A sample size of 500 allows 99% confidence of detecting a 1% disease prevalence rate. Samples were collected only from adult deer until January, after which fawns were also sampled. Harvest location was recorded to the nearest square mile according to the government land survey (Township, Range, and Section).

**Fig. 1. Distribution of CWD-infected deer identified in Illinois prior to July 1, 2008.**



**Fig. 2. Illinois counties intensively sampled for CWD during 2008 hunting seasons (shaded), and locations/estimated service area of cooperating meat lockers for CWD sampling.**



Additional samples were taken by Illinois Natural History Survey and University of Illinois personnel in conjunction with special archery and firearm hunts at Allerton Park in Piatt County. A total of 3,052 usable samples were collected at check stations, with 13 CWD-positive individuals identified from four counties (Boone [3], DeKalb [2], McHenry [3], and Winnebago [5]). Appendix A provides a tabulation of the number of usable samples taken in each county via all collection methods.

In order to collect additional samples from the CWD area during other hunting seasons, and to collect samples from hunter-harvested deer throughout the state, we used a system of self-serve “drop-off” stations and also contracted with commercial meat lockers to collect samples for us. Drop-off stations were available in select northern Illinois counties to allow deer hunters during any season to donate samples for CWD surveillance. To participate, hunters filled out a card to identify themselves and the location from which they harvested the deer, and left the deer head and the completed card in a plastic bag in the provided refrigerator. IDNR staff checked stations at least twice a week, removed tissue samples from heads, and forwarded samples to the Galesburg Animal Disease Laboratory for testing. For statewide CWD surveillance efforts, IDNR contracted with cooperating meat lockers throughout the state to collect samples from hunter-harvested deer being processed at their facility. We assumed that each cooperator took in deer from an approximate 25 mile surrounding radius, and we tried to distribute cooperators accordingly. Some gaps remained unsampled, particularly in those parts of the state where processors rely exclusively on commercial renderers for offal disposal. Renderers will not accept offal from deer being tested for CWD, because of the

threat of an FDA recall in the event that an animal tests positive. Using both these collection methods, we collected usable samples from 3,181 deer in 93 counties ( $\bar{x}=34$ , range = 1-187), with 6 positive deer detected in 3 counties (Boone [4], DeKalb [1], and Winnebago [1]).

**Surveillance Using Agency-issued Permits for Lethal Deer Removal.** Recipients of special permits from IDNR authorizing lethal deer removals were required to collect CWD samples when working in high-risk CWD areas, or when working in areas in which other surveillance techniques were judged insufficient. These special permits include (1) Deer Population Control Permits (used by some agencies to control urban deer populations); (2) nuisance Deer Removal Permits (for crop depredation, etc.); and (3) Scientific Permits (various research projects). This approach provided 532 usable CWD samples from northeastern Illinois counties not open to firearm deer hunting (Cook, Lake, DuPage), as well as from properties in Winnebago, Boone, JoDaviess, LaSalle, and Kane counties (Appendix A). One CWD-positive deer was identified from Boone County.

**Suspect (“Target”) Deer Surveillance.** Upon receiving reports from the public about sick deer, IDNR staff collected samples for CWD testing from deer that exhibited signs/symptoms that could be attributed to chronic wasting disease. Samples were taken from 13 deer in 9 counties (Appendix A). One positive deer was found in Winnebago County.

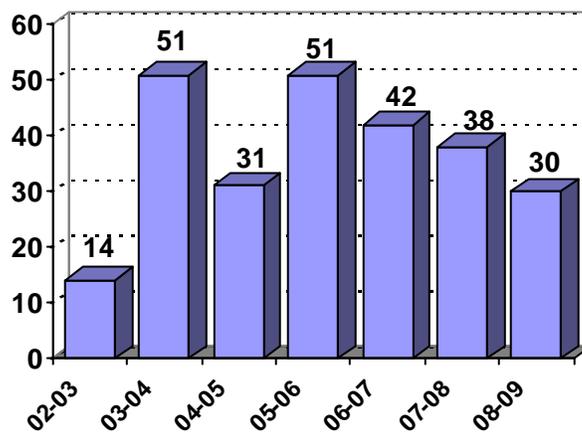
**Surveillance from Post-Hunting Season Sharpshooting.** Sharpshooting was conducted during the period January 15, 2009 - March 31, 2009 by IDNR Wildlife Biologists and IDNR Conservation Police Officers. Sharpshooting locations were confined to those parts of Boone, DeKalb, Kane, LaSalle, McHenry, Ogle,

Stephenson, and Winnebago counties in close proximity to areas where CWD-infected deer had been identified. More specific details of goals, procedures, and results of the experimental sharpshooting program are discussed in the management section of this report. Agency sharpshooters collected 720 usable samples from the eight counties (Appendix A). Nine positive deer were found in Boone (1), DeKalb (1), McHenry (1), Ogle (1), and Winnebago (5) counties.

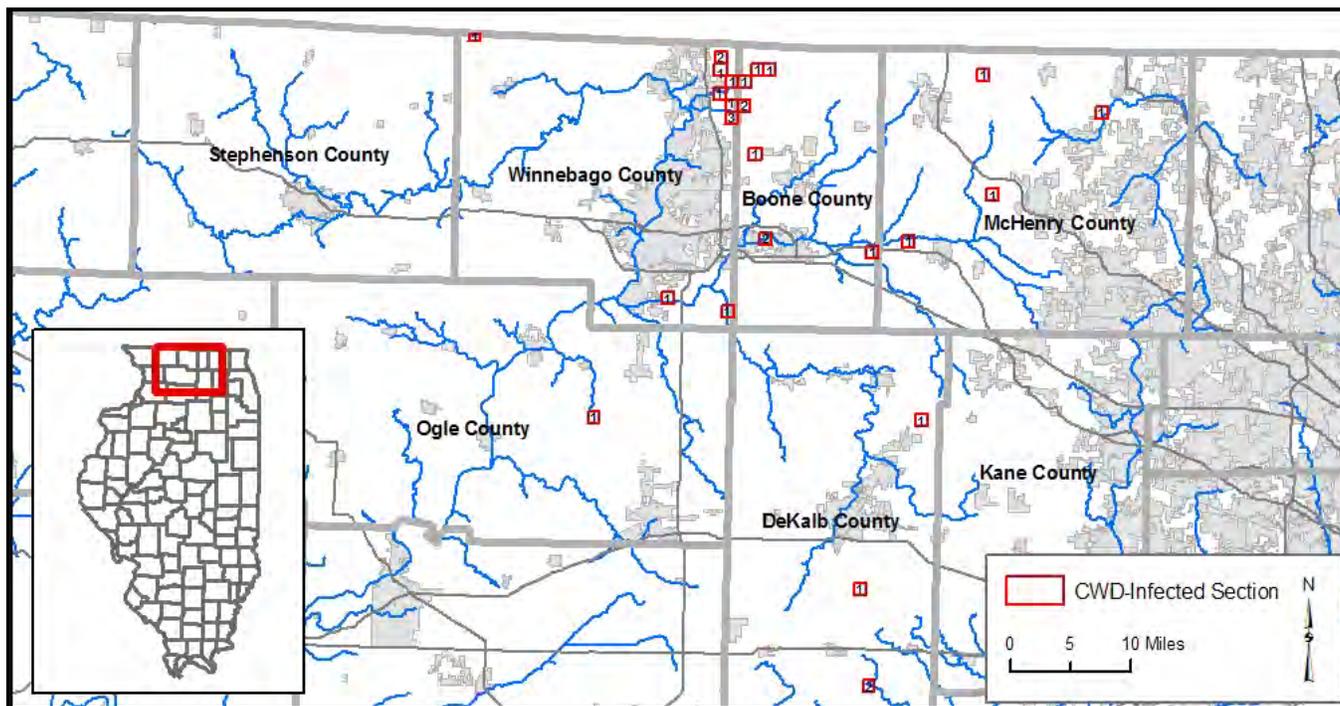
**Discussion of Surveillance Results to Date.** A total of 7,513 usable samples were collected statewide during FY08-09, resulting in the identification of 30 CWD-positive deer from five counties: Boone (9), DeKalb (4), McHenry (4), Ogle (1), and Winnebago (12). The number of CWD-positive deer identified in previous years has varied from 14 to 51, and 2008-2009 marked the third consecutive year in which the number of positives identified has declined (Figure 3).

No new counties were identified with chronic wasting disease. Half of all positive deer (15) were found within 3 miles of the Boone-Winnebago county line northeast of Rockford, which represents our most persistent (and oldest) known disease cluster. Most other positives identified consisted of widely-dispersed deer to the east and southeast (Figure 4). Newly-identified disease locations of note included northern McHenry County, northeastern DeKalb County (near Kane County), and northwestern Winnebago County (Durand). Findings of additional CWD-positive deer in southeast DeKalb County (2) near Hinckley, and in eastern Ogle County (1) near Stillman Valley represented the first finding of disease in these locations since Fall 2006 and Fall 2005, respectively. No positives were found in Stephenson County, where disease was identified in Fall 2007.

**Figure 3. Number of CWD-positive deer identified in Illinois by year.**



**Figure 4. Distribution of CWD-positive deer identified during FY08-09.**



Using surveillance data collected from hunter-harvested deer only, disease prevalence rates were calculated for the 7 counties in which CWD has been identified (Table 1). Since no hunter-harvested positives were found this year in three of the counties (LaSalle, Ogle, and Stephenson), their estimated prevalence rates were zero. Other countywide adult prevalence rates estimated from hunting season data ranged from 1.0% ( $\pm$  1.2, 95% confidence interval) in McHenry County to 7.6% ( $\pm$  5.4, 95% confidence interval) in Boone County. One CWD-positive fawn was identified by sampling during the hunting season, which is the first time that this has occurred. Not surprisingly, the fawn was taken on January 17, 2009 during the Special CWD Deer Season. No instances of positive fawns have been found in Illinois prior to mid-January.

**Table 1. County CWD prevalence estimates in northern Illinois for the period 1 July 2008 through 30 June 2009. Estimates are based only on samples collected from hunter-harvested deer.<sup>1</sup>**

| County            | Deer Age    | # of Samples <sup>2</sup> | # of Positives <sup>2</sup> | Percent Positive | 95% Confidence Interval (+/-) |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Boone</b>      | Adults only | 92                        | 7                           | 7.6%             | 5.4%                          |
|                   | Fawns only  | 8                         | 0                           | 0.0%             | --                            |
|                   | All deer    | 100                       | 7                           | 7.0%             | 5.0%                          |
| <b>DeKalb</b>     | Adults only | 163                       | 3                           | 1.8%             | 2.1%                          |
|                   | Fawns only  | 30                        | 0                           | 0.0%             | --                            |
|                   | All deer    | 193                       | 3                           | 1.6%             | 1.7%                          |
| <b>LaSalle</b>    | Adults only | 890                       | 0                           | 0.0%             | --                            |
|                   | Fawns only  | 0                         | 0                           | --               | --                            |
|                   | All deer    | 895                       | 0                           | 0.0%             | --                            |
| <b>McHenry</b>    | Adults only | 303                       | 3                           | 1.0%             | 1.1%                          |
|                   | Fawns only  | 15                        | 0                           | 0.0%             | --                            |
|                   | All deer    | 318                       | 3                           | 0.9%             | 1.1%                          |
| <b>Ogle</b>       | Adults only | 643                       | 0                           | 0.0%             | --                            |
|                   | Fawns only  | 2                         | 0                           | 0.0%             | --                            |
|                   | All deer    | 661                       | 0                           | 0.0%             | --                            |
| <b>Stephenson</b> | Adults only | 471                       | 0                           | 0.0%             | --                            |
|                   | Fawns only  | 1                         | 0                           | 0.0%             | --                            |
|                   | All deer    | 473                       | 0                           | 0.0%             | --                            |
| <b>Winnebago</b>  | Adults only | 370                       | 5                           | 1.4%             | 1.2%                          |
|                   | Fawns only  | 24                        | 1                           | 4.2%             | 8.0%                          |
|                   | All deer    | 402                       | 6                           | 1.5%             | 1.2%                          |

<sup>1</sup> Estimates derived from hunter-harvested deer represent populations throughout the entire county.

<sup>2</sup> Summing the figures for adults and fawns may not equal the numbers presented for "All deer" because of individuals for which no age was identified.

In order to evaluate disease prevalence at a smaller scale, prevalence rates were also calculated within a grid across northern Illinois in which each unit consisted of four townships (approximately 144 mi<sup>2</sup>)(see Figure 5). For these prevalence estimates, we used samples collected by all methods except suspect animal surveillance within each unit (block). Estimates were made only for adult deer, as sample sizes for fawns were too small. Calculated prevalence rates (with 95% confidence intervals) for blocks with at least one positive are presented in Table 2.

The highest estimated prevalence rate was found in east-central DeKalb County, but this was based on a single positive found from a sample of 10 individuals tested, so confidence intervals were extremely large ( $\pm$ 18.6%). In this area, deer habitat is extremely limited and fragmented, so deer population levels are very low even by northern Illinois standards. This single positive deer constitutes the only instance of known positive deer in this area.

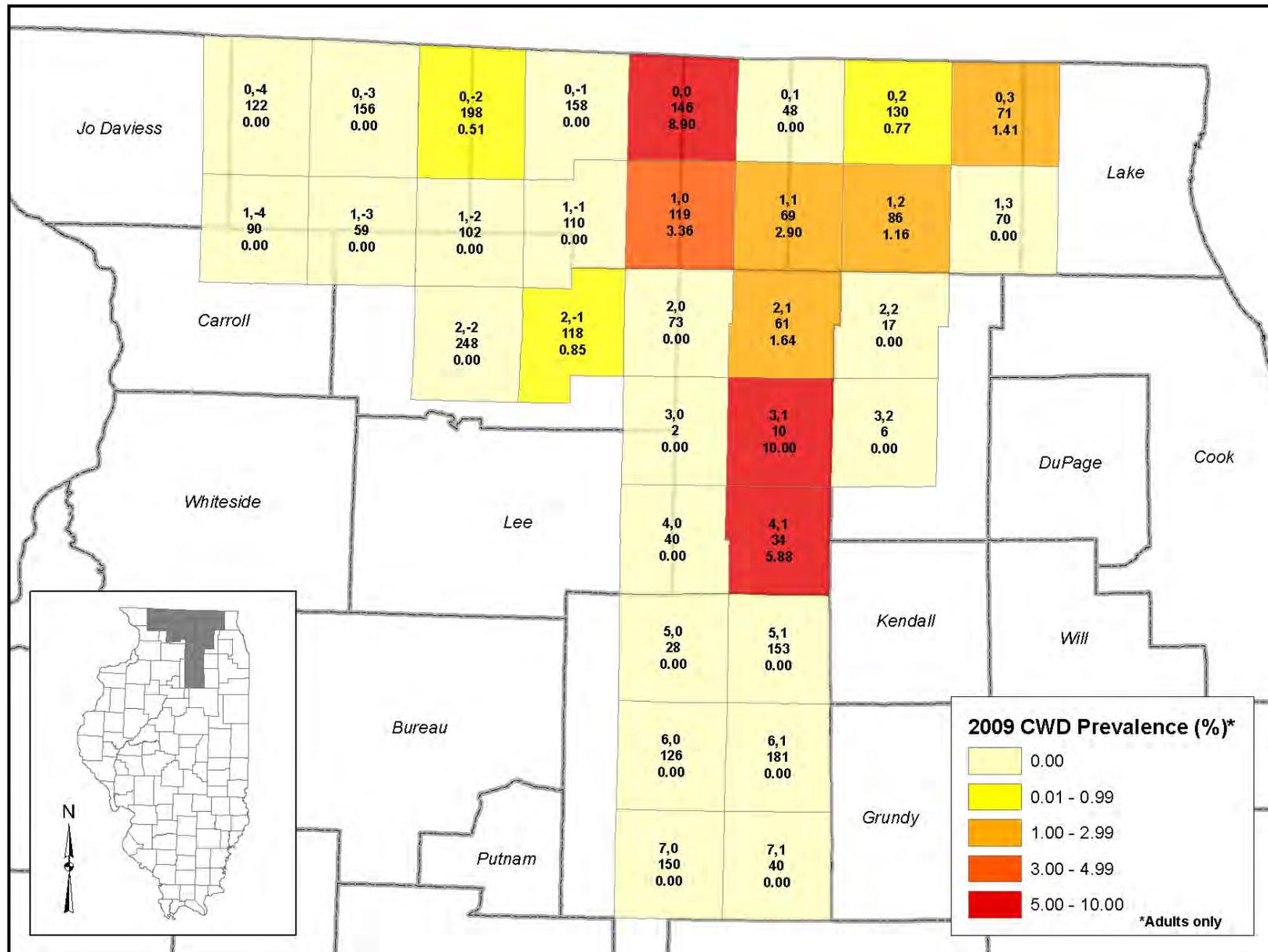


Figure 5. Localized CWD prevalence was estimated during FY08-09 using a grid consisting of 4-township blocks. Some northwestern blocks also include an extra row of sections along the Wisconsin-Illinois state line. Within each block, the upper number is the grid coordinate of the block (“name”); the middle number is the sample size; and the lower number is the estimated adult prevalence rate (%).

**Table 2. CWD surveillance results for adult deer in known CWD areas for the period 1 July 2008 through 30 June 2009. Blocks are those areas defined in Figure 5. Results include all surveillance samples except suspect animal testing.**

| Block Number | Location                   | Number Tested | Number Positive | Estimated Prevalence | 95% Confidence Interval |
|--------------|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 0,0          | North Winnebago-Boone      | 146           | 13              | 8.9%                 | ±4.6%                   |
| 0,2          | Northcentral McHenry       | 130           | 1               | 0.8%                 | ±1.5%                   |
| 0,-2         | North Stephenson-Winnebago | 198           | 1               | 0.5%                 | ±1.0%                   |
| 0,3          | Northeast McHenry-Lake     | 71            | 1               | 1.4%                 | ±2.7%                   |
| 1,0          | South Winnebago-Boone      | 119           | 4               | 3.4%                 | ±3.2%                   |
| 1,1          | South Boone-McHenry        | 69            | 2               | 2.9%                 | ±4.0%                   |
| 1,2          | Southcentral McHenry       | 86            | 1               | 1.2%                 | ±2.3%                   |
| 2,1          | Northeast DeKalb           | 61            | 1               | 1.6%                 | ±3.2%                   |
| 2,-1         | Eastcentral Ogle           | 118           | 1               | 0.8%                 | ±1.7%                   |
| 3,1          | Eastcentral DeKalb         | 10            | 1               | 10.0%                | ±18.6%                  |
| 4,1          | Southeast DeKalb           | 34            | 2               | 5.9%                 | ±7.9%                   |

As expected, the area northeast of Rockford where CWD was first found in Illinois (Block 0,0 North Winnebago-Boone) produced the most positive deer (13) with an estimated adult prevalence rate of 8.9% (±4.6%). Other blocks that produced >1 adult positive were South Winnebago-Boone (#1,0), South Boone-McHenry (#1,2), and Southeast DeKalb (#4,1). Estimated adult prevalence rates in these blocks ranged from 2.9% - 5.9%. No CWD positives had been identified in the Southeast DeKalb block (#4,1) since the initial finding there in November 2006, despite heightened surveillance supplemented by sharpshooting since that time.

New “outlier” positive locations were found in northwest Winnebago County near Durand (Block #0,-2) and in northeast McHenry County near McHenry (Block #0,3). In addition, new locations were found in central and northeast DeKalb County (Blocks #2,1 and #3,1), but these new locations fell within the known Illinois range of the disease.

The overall pattern of disease distribution and intensity has remained largely unchanged over the past four years, with a central core of higher prevalence focused on the Winnebago-Boone county line, and the disease becoming more diffuse at increasing distance from this core. Spread is more predominant to the east and southeast, primarily in habitats along the North and South Forks of the Kishwaukee River and their tributaries.

## **Experimental CWD Management Activities During FY2008-2009:**

**Use of regulated hunting for herd control in CWD-affected areas.** Liberal regulations remained in effect for the CWD counties, but harvest declined somewhat from levels observed during the past six years. During gun seasons (regular firearm, muzzleloader, and youth seasons), permit quotas far exceeded the number of permits sold, so anyone could have purchased additional permits if desired. The special CWD season (January 16-18, 2009) was offered in the four counties with significant numbers of identified positive cases (Winnebago, Boone, McHenry, and DeKalb), as well as Kane County which shares a check station with DeKalb. Other counties that previously offered the CWD deer season (Ogle, LaSalle, and Grundy) were included in the concurrent Late-Winter Deer Season as a cost-cutting measure, since that season uses the Automated Harvest Reporting System and does not require staff for check stations. The CWD season regulations allowed the use of unfilled deer tags from any of the previously-held seasons, as well as unlimited over-the-counter sales of permits, and successful hunters that allowed their deer to be tested for CWD were given replacement permits free of charge if they wished to continue hunting. The archery deer season (October 1, 2008- January 15, 2009; closed during the 7 days of the regular firearm season) consisted of 100 days during which no limit on antlerless harvest was in effect. In the original 4-county area (Winnebago, Boone, McHenry, and DeKalb), total deer harvest numbered 2,997, compared to the previous 5-year

average of 3,513. While deer harvest was generally down throughout Illinois (and the Midwest), this reduced harvest in the CWD area probably reflects the lower deer densities resulting from more intensive management in recent years.

**Sharpshooting in CWD “hot spots”.** Following the close of deer hunting seasons in January, teams of sharpshooters (IDNR Biologists and Conservation Police Officers) began culling deer that were wintering in or around known CWD locations. An Urban Deer Population Control Permit (DPCP) was issued to the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District to allow their staff to conduct a sharpshooting program on forest preserves in known CWD areas in southeastern Winnebago County. In a few instances, nuisance Deer Removal Permits (DRP) were issued to private landowners in CWD areas that allowed them to shoot deer to help reduce crop depredation. All IDNR sharpshooting activities were carried out between January 15 and March 31, 2009.

Objectives of the sharpshooting were: (1) to provide detailed localized surveillance information about disease distribution and prevalence rates within infected areas; and (2) to examine the feasibility/effectiveness of controlling CWD in free-roaming deer populations by [a] removing as many sick deer as possible from known CWD areas; [b] removing/sampling deer that are inaccessible to hunters because of urbanization; and by [c] reducing densities in known CWD locales to lower transmission rates.

All animals (including fawns) removed during the sharpshooting program from which suitable tissue samples could be collected were tested for CWD to determine disease prevalence in affected areas. Obex and retropharyngeal lymph nodes were removed at DNR processing facilities in the sampling zones, and transferred to IDOA Disease Laboratories for testing. Additional tissues (tongues, fetuses) were collected and archived for further research/testing at the University of Illinois Champaign/Illinois Natural History Survey.

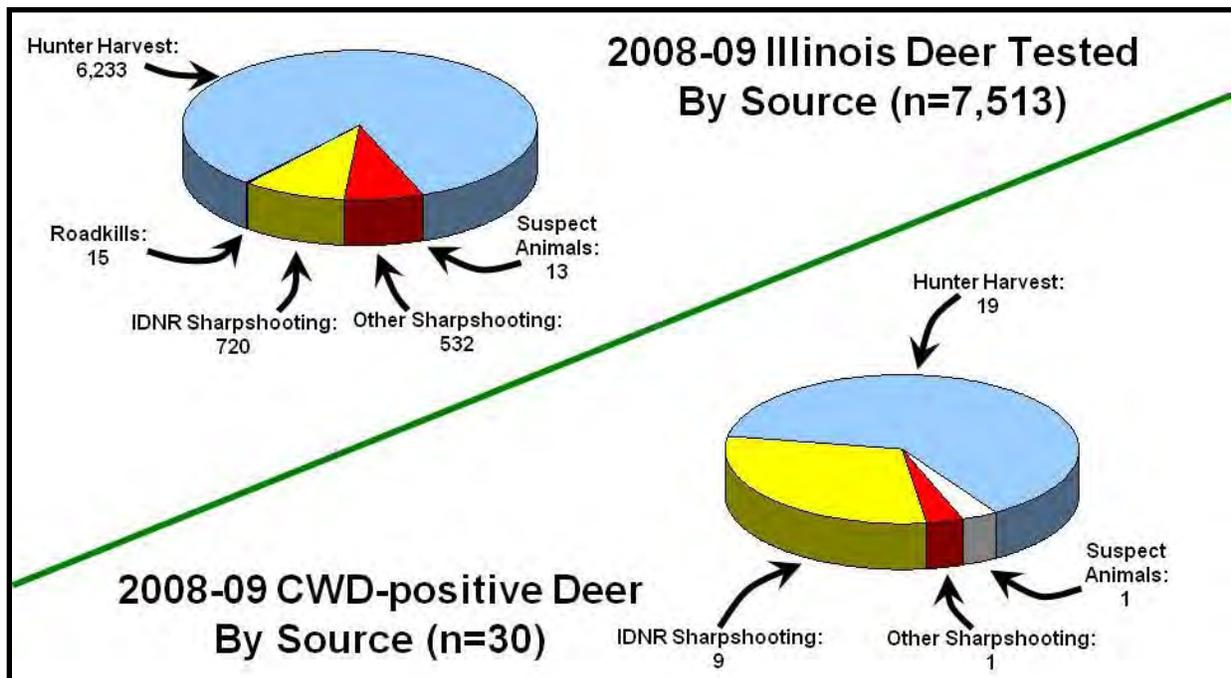
Aerial deer surveys (via helicopter) were conducted during periods of suitable snow cover to census deer wintering in known CWD areas. Surveys served to identify wintering habitat that contained concentrations of deer, and to provide estimates of deer numbers throughout the affected area. Our goal was to focus sharpshooting activities on deer in winter concentration areas that included or were nearby CWD-infected properties, thus maximizing our effectiveness. Extensive snow cover during winter 2008-2009 provided excellent census conditions. Figure 6 depicts the number of deer counted in each CWD management unit (CMU) in northern Illinois, and Table 3 presents deer densities within each of those individual units. Deer densities ranged from 0.0/mi<sup>2</sup> (CMU S - East-Central DeKalb) to 24.0/mi<sup>2</sup> (CMU P – Northwest Winnebago County), with a mean density of 5.7/mi<sup>2</sup>. No CMUs with deer densities >7.0 deer/mi<sup>2</sup> had been previously targeted with intensive sharpshooting; these were either newly-discovered “spark” areas or peripheral areas in which sharpshooting had been used to gather additional surveillance samples after finding a positive individual.

CWD management units were delineated by including all known CWD-positive sections (all years), plus a 2-section (1 section = ~1mi<sup>2</sup>) buffer around each. Some larger units were arbitrarily divided into more manageable sizes. Sharpshooting activities in the CWD zones were generally limited to this defined area. A total of 709 deer were removed from the CMUs (Table 3), or about 12.4% of the deer counted via aerial surveys. For comparison, sharpshooters removed 1,002 - 1,358 deer during the previous five winters. Higher numbers of deer were taken from units in which management was judged most critical (along the Winnebago-Boone county line; in NE Boone-NW McHenry counties; and in NW DeKalb County [units D, E, F, and J] because of well-established disease foci or because of significant recent CWD activity. In these areas, the proportion of deer removed ranged from 13.2% to 17.3% of the deer counted. CMUs with limited deer numbers, or without recent findings of positive deer, were culled less extensively than the more critical areas. In newly-found CWD areas consisting of a single positive deer, sharpshooting was used as a method to gather additional surveillance data to characterize the area, rather than a serious attempt at herd reduction. As our knowledge of CWD distribution has increased over the years, CMU boundaries have enlarged to cover a much larger area, forcing biologists to address only the most critical management and surveillance needs. Deer removal success rates have also been influenced by declining deer densities in focal areas where culling has been ongoing for a number of years. As a result, the number of deer removed expressed as a proportion of the entire CMU population has declined over time.

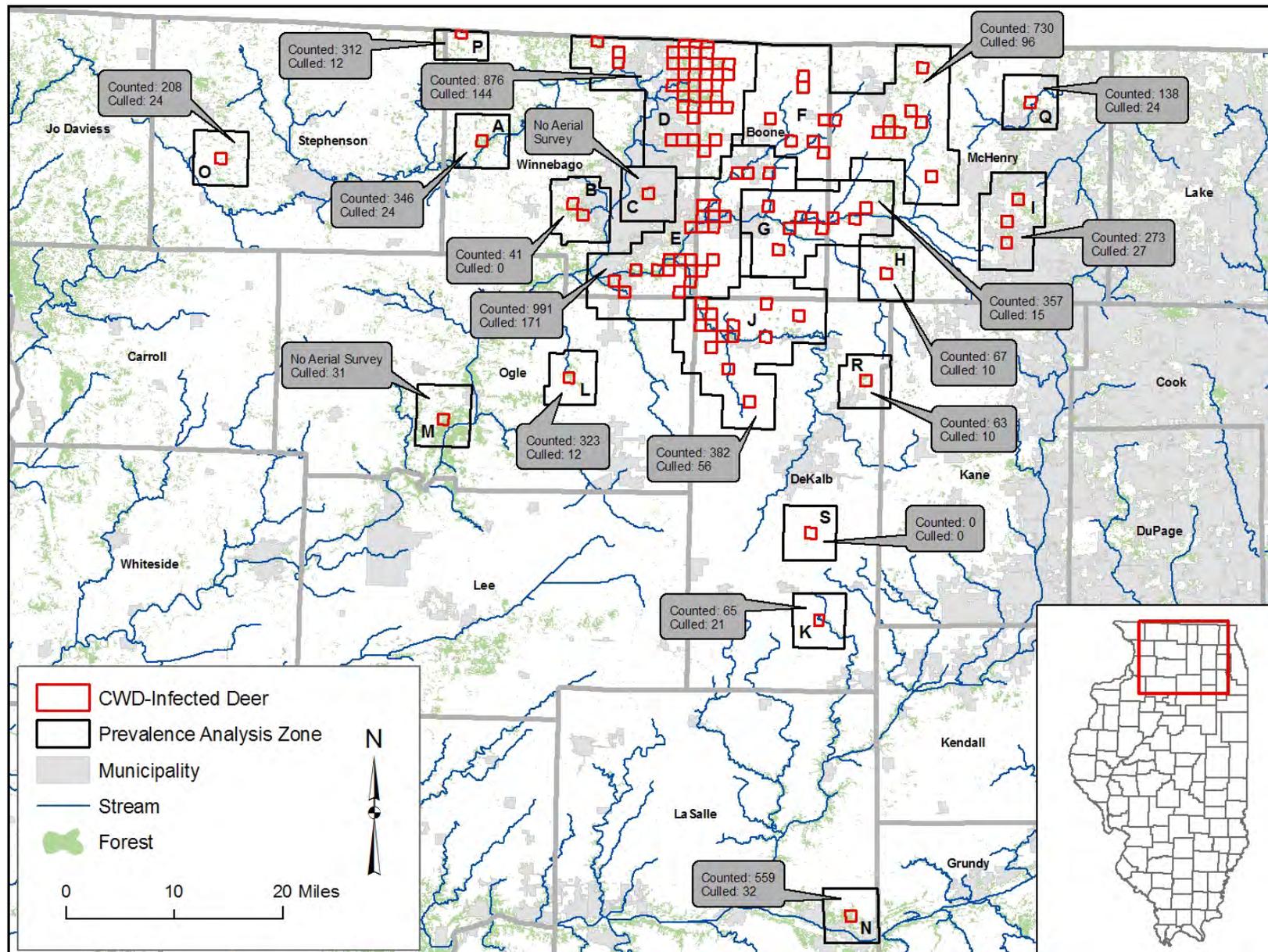
**Table 3. Deer census and sharpshooting results by management unit in northern Illinois CWD area during winter 2008-2009. Management units are those depicted in Figure 6.**

| Management Unit                     | Area (Sq.Mi.)  | # Deer Counted | Density (Deer/Sq. Mi.) | # Deer Removed | % Deer Removed (Removed/Counted) |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>A - Western Winnebago</b>        | 24.59          | 346            | 14.1                   | 24             | 6.9%                             |
| <b>B - West Rockford</b>            | 30.78          | 41             | 1.3                    | 0              | 0.0%                             |
| <b>C - Central Rockford</b>         | 24.92          | No survey      | -                      | 0              |                                  |
| <b>D - Northern Boone/Winnebago</b> | 140.17         | 876            | 6.2                    | 144            | 16.4%                            |
| <b>E - Southern Boone/Winnebago</b> | 145.98         | 991            | 6.8                    | 171            | 17.3%                            |
| <b>F - Northern Boone/McHenry</b>   | 195.17         | 730            | 3.7                    | 96             | 13.2%                            |
| <b>G - Southern Boone/McHenry</b>   | 86.93          | 357            | 4.1                    | 15             | 4.2%                             |
| <b>H - Southwest McHenry</b>        | 24.81          | 67             | 2.7                    | 10             | 14.9%                            |
| <b>I - Central McHenry</b>          | 48.03          | 273            | 5.7                    | 27             | 9.9%                             |
| <b>J - Northwest DeKalb</b>         | 124.20         | 382            | 3.1                    | 56             | 14.7%                            |
| <b>K - Southeast DeKalb</b>         | 24.18          | 65             | 2.7                    | 21             | 32.3%                            |
| <b>L - Eastern Ogle</b>             | 21.95          | 323            | 14.7                   | 12             | 3.7%                             |
| <b>M - Ogle/Castle Rock</b>         | 28.33          | No survey      | -                      | 31             |                                  |
| <b>N - Eastern LaSalle</b>          | 25.18          | 559            | 22.2                   | 32             | 5.7%                             |
| <b>O - Western Stephenson</b>       | 25.05          | 208            | 8.3                    | 24             | 11.5%                            |
| <b>P - Northwest Winnebago</b>      | 13.01          | 312            | 24.0                   | 12             | 3.8%                             |
| <b>Q - Northeast McHenry</b>        | 25.01          | 138            | 5.5                    | 24             | 17.4%                            |
| <b>R - Northeast DeKalb</b>         | 22.51          | 63             | 2.8                    | 10             | 15.9%                            |
| <b>S - East-Central DeKalb</b>      | 24.30          | 0              | 0.0                    | 0              |                                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                        | <b>1001.85</b> | <b>5731</b>    | <b>5.7</b>             | <b>709</b>     | <b>12.4%</b>                     |

Deer removed by sharpshooting consisted of 36.1% fawns and 63.9% adults. Sex ratios were 1 male to 1.46 females. County totals were as follows: Boone (130), DeKalb (88), Kane (27), LaSalle (36), McHenry (187), Ogle (74), Stephenson (32), and Winnebago (237). Note that these county totals contain some deer that fell outside the CMU boundaries described above. Ten CWD-positive deer were removed by sharpshooting, representing one-third of the total number of CWD-positives identified by all surveillance methods during FY08-09 (Figure 7).



**Figure 7. Number of CWD samples tested and number of positives identified by sampling source during FY2008-09.**



**Figure 6. Number of deer counted during aerial censuses and removed by sharpshooters in CWD-infected areas of northern Illinois during winter 2008-2009.**

## Summary

During FY08-09, a total of 7,513 usable samples from wild Illinois white-tailed deer were tested for chronic wasting disease, and 30 CWD-positive deer were identified. Fifteen of 30 CWD-positive deer originated from the primary disease focus northeast of Rockford along the Winnebago-Boone county line, with the remainder scattered within the previously-known outbreak boundaries. Surveillance in LaSalle and Stephenson counties uncovered no positives there, after initial findings of the disease in 2006 and 2007, respectively. Table 4 presents a summary of all positive locations identified to date by county of origin.

**Table 4. Number of CWD-positive deer identified in each county by year.**

|            | 02-03 | 03-04 | 04-05 | 05-06 | 06-07 | 07-08 | 08-09 | Total |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Winnebago  | 3     | 20    | 13    | 25    | 18    | 18    | 12    | 109   |
| Boone      | 9     | 25    | 13    | 15    | 13    | 11    | 9     | 95    |
| McHenry    | 2     | 2     | 4     | 4     | 4     | 0     | 4     | 20    |
| DeKalb     | 0     | 4     | 1     | 5     | 6     | 8     | 4     | 28    |
| Ogle       | 0     | 0     | 0     | 2     | 0     | 0     | 1     | 3     |
| LaSalle    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 1     | 0     | 0     | 1     |
| Stephenson | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 1     | 0     | 1     |
| Total      | 14    | 51    | 31    | 51    | 42    | 38    | 30    | 257   |

In FY08-09, IDNR and Winnebago County Forest Preserve District Personnel removed 811 deer from sites in 108 different sections, averaging 7.5 deer culled per square mile in those sections. Deer removals were complicated by lower deer densities in some previously-culled areas; mild weather without snow cover during the latter part of the culling season; a shortened removal season because hunting seasons fell late in the calendar year; and lack of access to property in some critical areas. In one or two areas, a few vocal opponents to CWD management have had some success in convincing neighboring landowners to not allow IDNR sharpshooters access to their property, which could have serious negative consequences to the entire area. In an effort to address these types of issues, we conducted a series of public meetings in the CWD areas during the summer of 2009 with a goal of educating attendees about the seriousness of the disease and the necessity/benefits of managing it.

IDNR staff continue to work with CWD researchers at the University of Illinois in evaluating the first five years of CWD surveillance and management. Preliminary results indicate that sharpshooting efforts have been effective in lowering localized deer densities when carried out for a period of multiple years, and when culling intensity is above a minimum threshold. Further, declines in CWD prevalence have occurred in young deer (fawns and yearlings), and in female deer in sharpshooting areas as well. Manuscripts are being prepared for publication in scientific journals. In light of these results, no significant changes in program direction are anticipated for the upcoming year.

As a result of recommendations by a legislatively-convened Deer Task Force during 2008, the late winter deer season and the special CWD deer season are being expanded this year. These concurrent firearm seasons will now consist of 7 days (previously 3), and will be scheduled December 31, 2009 – January 3, 2010 and January 15 – 17, 2010. Based on evaluation of the number of surveillance samples collected during previous CWD seasons and the cost of staffing mandatory check stations, the use of check stations will be discontinued during the CWD season. Instead, hunters will be required to register their harvest using IDNR's automated harvest reporting system, and surveillance testing will be available to them through cooperating meat lockers and drop-off stations.

**Appendix A. Usable CWD samples taken by county in Illinois during the 2008-2009 sampling season. Numbers in parentheses reflect the number of CWD-positive deer identified.**

| County     | Check Stations | Drop-off Stations/Meat Processors | Agency Culling | Special Permits <sup>1</sup> | Roadkill/ Incidental | Suspect | Total   |
|------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------------|---------|---------|
| ADAMS      |                | 32                                |                |                              |                      |         | 32      |
| ALEXANDER  |                | 15                                |                |                              |                      |         | 15      |
| BOONE      | 81 (3)         | 19 (4)                            | 128 (1)        | 2 (1)                        |                      |         | 230 (9) |
| BROWN      |                | 6                                 |                |                              |                      |         | 6       |
| BUREAU     |                | 12                                |                |                              | 1                    |         | 13      |
| CALHOUN    |                | 30                                |                |                              |                      |         | 30      |
| CARROLL    |                | 1                                 |                |                              |                      |         | 1       |
| CASS       |                | 6                                 |                |                              |                      |         | 6       |
| CHAMPAIGN  |                | 7                                 |                |                              |                      |         | 7       |
| CHRISTIAN  |                | 15                                |                |                              |                      |         | 15      |
| CLARK      |                | 36                                |                |                              |                      |         | 36      |
| CLAY       |                | 132                               |                |                              | 2                    |         | 134     |
| CLINTON    |                | 2                                 |                |                              |                      |         | 2       |
| COLES      |                | 62                                |                |                              |                      |         | 62      |
| COOK       |                | 3                                 |                | 176                          |                      | 1       | 180     |
| CRAWFORD   |                | 160                               |                |                              |                      |         | 160     |
| CUMBERLAND |                | 13                                |                |                              |                      |         | 13      |
| DEKALB     | 173 (2)        | 20 (1)                            | 88 (1)         |                              | 2                    | 1       | 284 (4) |
| DEWITT     |                | 30                                |                |                              |                      |         | 30      |
| DOUGLAS    |                | 6                                 |                |                              |                      |         | 6       |
| DUPAGE     |                | 2                                 |                | 112                          |                      |         | 114     |
| EDGAR      |                | 8                                 |                |                              |                      |         | 8       |
| EFFINGHAM  |                | 24                                |                |                              |                      |         | 24      |
| FAYETTE    |                | 29                                |                |                              |                      |         | 29      |
| FORD       |                | 7                                 |                |                              |                      |         | 7       |
| FRANKLIN   |                | 54                                |                |                              |                      |         | 54      |
| FULTON     |                | 9                                 |                |                              |                      |         | 9       |
| GALLATIN   |                | 2                                 |                |                              |                      |         | 2       |
| GREENE     |                | 93                                |                |                              |                      |         | 93      |
| GRUNDY     | 234            | 16                                |                |                              |                      |         | 250     |
| HAMILTON   |                | 21                                |                |                              |                      |         | 21      |
| HANCOCK    |                | 46                                |                |                              |                      |         | 46      |
| HARDIN     |                | 16                                |                |                              |                      |         | 16      |
| HENDERSON  |                | 5                                 |                |                              |                      |         | 5       |
| IROQUOIS   |                | 8                                 |                |                              |                      |         | 8       |
| JACKSON    |                | 96                                |                |                              | 1                    |         | 97      |
| JASPER     |                | 26                                |                |                              |                      |         | 26      |
| JEFFERSON  |                | 100                               |                |                              |                      |         | 100     |
| JERSEY     |                | 45                                |                |                              | 1                    | 1       | 47      |
| JO DAVIESS | 1              | 11                                |                | 47                           |                      | 3       | 62      |
| JOHNSON    |                | 96                                |                |                              |                      |         | 96      |
| KANE       | 33             | 8                                 | 7              | 20                           |                      |         | 68      |
| KANKAKEE   | 1              | 1                                 |                |                              |                      |         | 2       |
| KENDALL    |                | 10                                |                |                              |                      | 1       | 11      |
| KNOX       |                | 4                                 |                |                              |                      |         | 4       |
| LAKE       |                | 12                                |                | 108                          | 1                    |         | 121     |
| LASALLE    | 765            | 130                               | 32             | 4                            | 1                    |         | 932     |
| LAWRENCE   |                | 34                                |                |                              |                      |         | 34      |
| LEE        |                | 54                                |                |                              |                      |         | 54      |
| LIVINGSTON |                | 53                                |                |                              |                      |         | 53      |
| LOGAN      |                | 15                                |                |                              |                      |         | 15      |

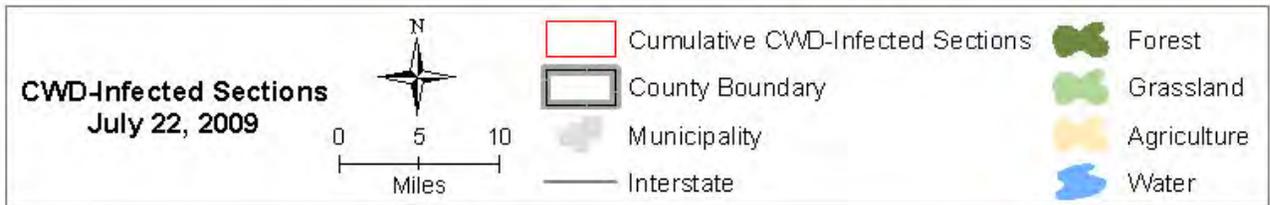
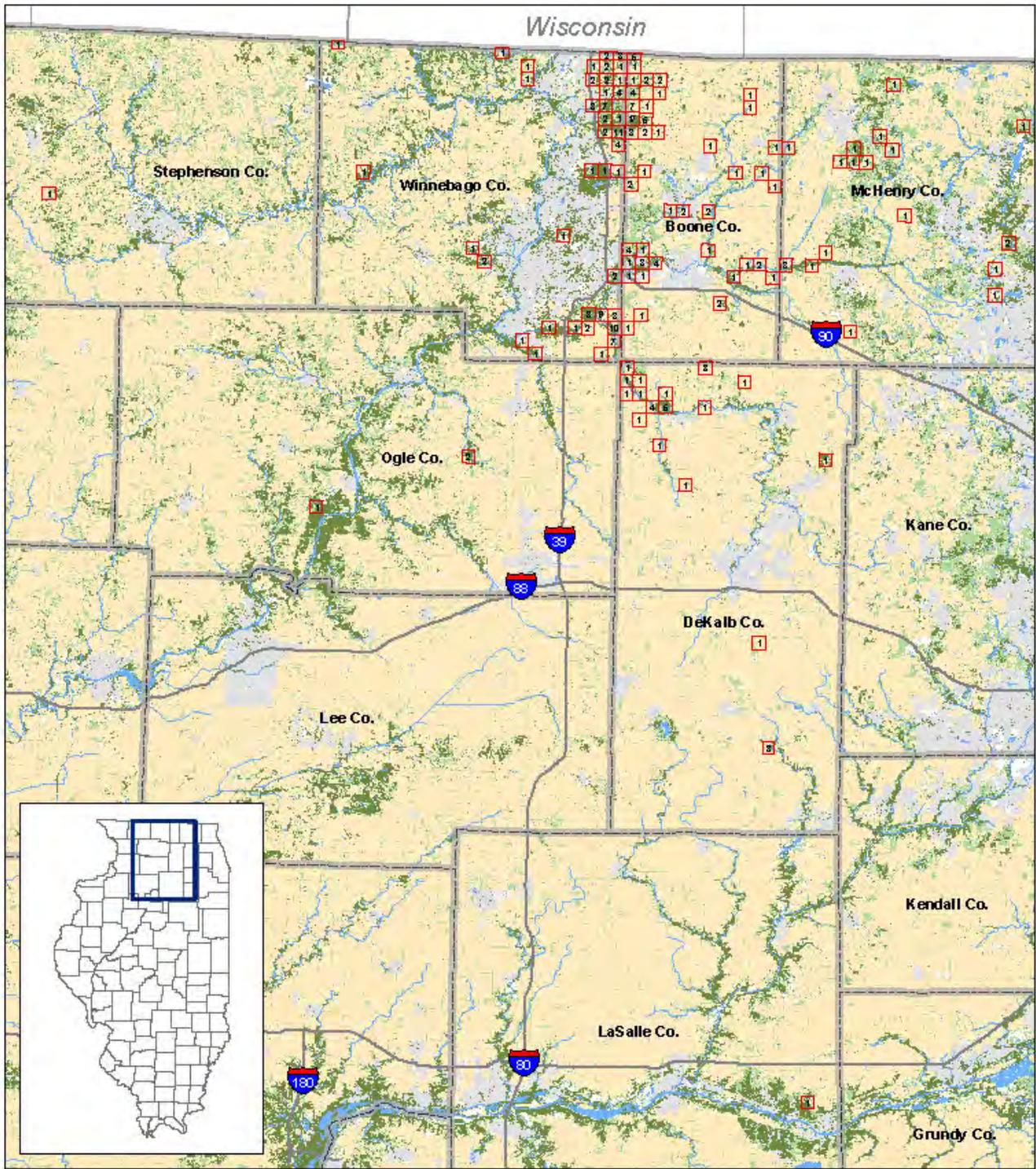
**Appendix A cont'd.**

| County        | Check Stations   | Drop-off Stations/Meat Processors | Agency Culling | Special Permits <sup>1</sup> | Roadkill/Incidental | Suspect       | Total            |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|
| MACON         |                  | 77                                |                |                              | 2                   |               | 79               |
| MACOUPIN      |                  | 17                                |                |                              |                     |               | 17               |
| MADISON       |                  | 7                                 |                |                              |                     |               | 7                |
| MARION        |                  | 33                                |                |                              |                     |               | 33               |
| MARSHALL      |                  | 8                                 |                |                              |                     |               | 8                |
| MASON         |                  | 4                                 |                |                              |                     |               | 4                |
| MASSAC        |                  | 22                                |                |                              |                     |               | 22               |
| MCDONOUGH     |                  | 101                               |                |                              |                     |               | 101              |
| MCHENRY       | 287 (3)          | 31                                | 186 (1)        |                              |                     |               | 504 (4)          |
| MCLEAN        |                  | 37                                |                |                              |                     |               | 37               |
| MONROE        |                  | 4                                 |                |                              |                     |               | 4                |
| MONTGOMERY    |                  | 8                                 |                |                              |                     |               | 8                |
| MORGAN        |                  | 8                                 |                |                              |                     |               | 8                |
| MOULTRIE      |                  | 33                                |                |                              |                     |               | 33               |
| OGLE          | 632              | 29                                | 74 (1)         |                              | 1                   | 2             | 738 (1)          |
| PERRY         |                  | 167                               |                |                              |                     |               | 167              |
| PIATT         | 34               | 16                                |                |                              |                     |               | 50               |
| PIKE          |                  | 123                               |                |                              |                     |               | 123              |
| POPE          |                  | 33                                |                |                              |                     |               | 33               |
| PULASKI       |                  | 23                                |                |                              |                     |               | 23               |
| PUTNAM        |                  | 9                                 |                |                              |                     |               | 9                |
| RANDOLPH      |                  | 46                                |                |                              |                     | 1             | 47               |
| RICHLAND      |                  | 26                                |                |                              |                     |               | 26               |
| SALINE        |                  | 23                                |                |                              |                     |               | 23               |
| SANGAMON      |                  | 21                                |                |                              |                     |               | 21               |
| SCHUYLER      |                  | 1                                 |                |                              |                     |               | 1                |
| SCOTT         |                  | 12                                |                |                              |                     |               | 12               |
| SHELBY        |                  | 72                                |                |                              |                     |               | 72               |
| ST CLAIR      |                  | 22                                |                |                              |                     |               | 22               |
| STARK         |                  | 1                                 |                |                              |                     |               | 1                |
| STEPHENSON    | 462              | 11                                | 32             |                              |                     | 2             | 507              |
| UNION         |                  | 187                               |                |                              | 1                   |               | 188              |
| VERMILLION    |                  | 3                                 |                |                              |                     |               | 3                |
| WARREN        |                  | 3                                 |                |                              |                     |               | 3                |
| WASHINGTON    |                  | 24                                |                |                              |                     |               | 24               |
| WAYNE         |                  | 90                                |                |                              | 1                   |               | 91               |
| WHITE         |                  | 3                                 |                |                              |                     |               | 3                |
| WHITESIDE     |                  | 2                                 |                |                              |                     |               | 2                |
| WILL          |                  | 25                                |                |                              |                     |               | 25               |
| WILLIAMSON    |                  | 118                               |                |                              |                     |               | 118              |
| WINNEBAGO     | 349 (5)          | 53 (1)                            | 173 (5)        | 63                           | 1                   | 1 (1)         | 640 (12)         |
| WOODFORD      |                  | 6                                 |                |                              |                     |               | 6                |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>3052 (13)</b> | <b>3181 (6)</b>                   | <b>720 (9)</b> | <b>532 (1)</b>               | <b>15</b>           | <b>13 (1)</b> | <b>7513 (30)</b> |

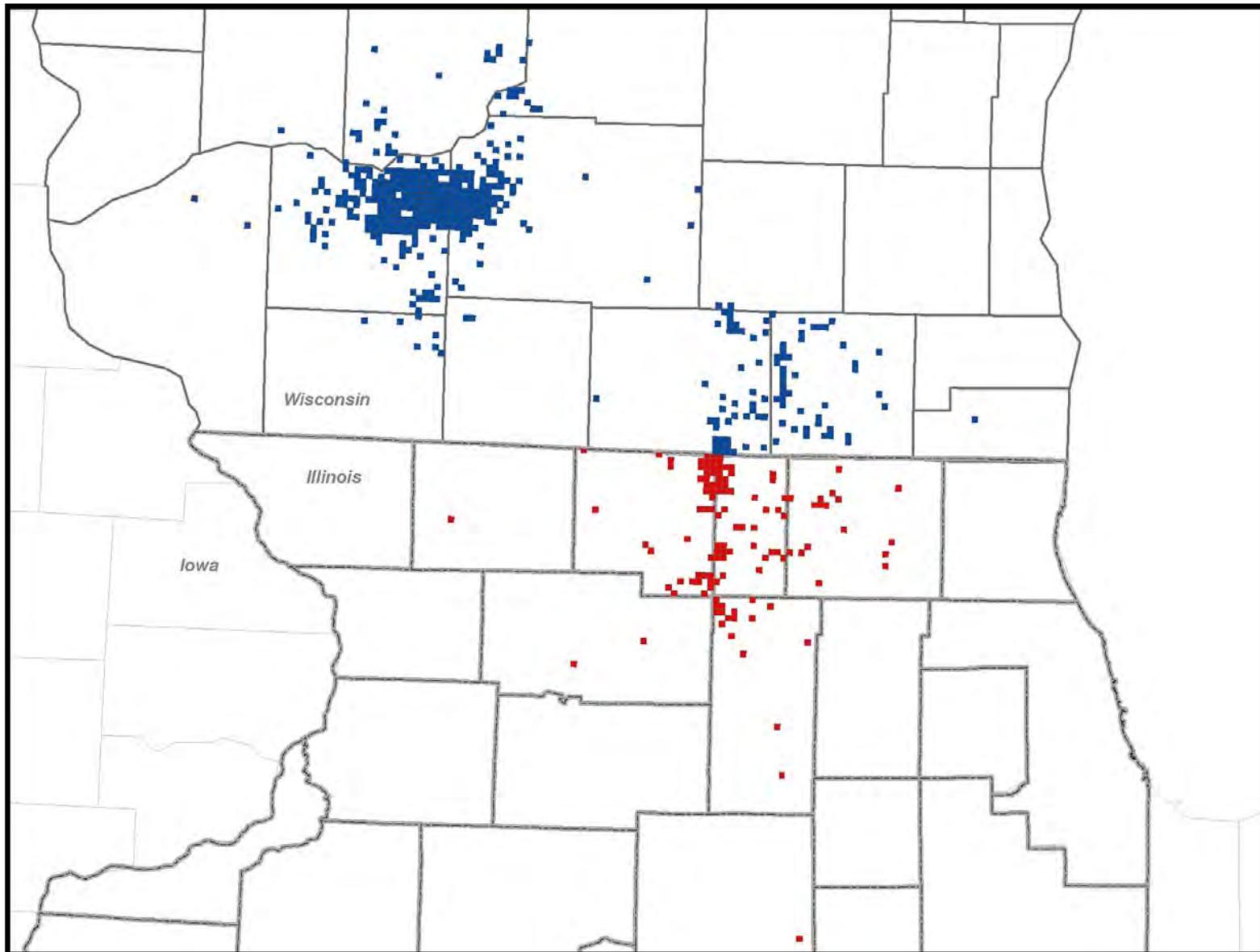
<sup>1</sup> Special permits include urban Deer Population Control Permits, nuisance Deer Removal Permits, and Scientific Permits.

**Appendix B. Summary of CWD-positive Illinois deer collected during FY08-09.**

| <b>Date Collected</b> | <b>County</b> | <b>Township, Range, Section</b> | <b>Sex</b> | <b>Age</b> | <b>Collection Method</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|
| 10/8/08               | Boone         | 344N 4E S36                     | Female     | 3          | DRP                      |
| 10/16/08              | Boone         | 346N 3E S17                     | Male       | 3          | Hunting                  |
| 10/29/08              | Boone         | 346N 3E S31                     | Male       | 2          | Hunting                  |
| 11/6/08               | Boone         | 346N 3E S31                     | Male       | 1          | Hunting                  |
| 11/14/08              | Winnebago     | 346N 2E S36                     | Male       | 3          | Hunting                  |
| 11/18/08              | Boone         | 344N 3E S28                     | Female     | 3          | Hunting                  |
| 11/18/08              | Winnebago     | 346N 2E S26                     | Female     | 2          | Suspect                  |
| 11/20/09              | DeKalb        | 338N 5E S31                     | Male       | Adult      | Hunting                  |
| 11/21/08              | Boone         | 346N 3E S19                     | Female     | 3          | Hunting                  |
| 11/22/08              | DeKalb        | 341N 5E S11                     | Male       | 1          | Hunting                  |
| 11/22/08              | DeKalb        | 339N 4E S24                     | Male       | 1          | Hunting                  |
| 11/22/08              | McHenry       | 344N 6E S3                      | Male       | 1          | Hunting                  |
| 11/23/08              | Boone         | 345N 3E S20                     | Female     | 2          | Hunting                  |
| 11/23/08              | Boone         | 344N 3E S28                     | Male       | 3          | Hunting                  |
| 12/5/08               | McHenry       | 346N 6E S16                     | Female     | 1          | Hunting                  |
| 12/5/08               | Winnebago     | 343N 2E S25                     | Male       | 2          | Hunting                  |
| 12/6/08               | Winnebago     | 429N10E S20                     | Female     | 2          | Hunting                  |
| 12/7/08               | Winnebago     | 345N 2E S1                      | Female     | 5          | Hunting                  |
| 12/7/08               | McHenry       | 346N 8E S31                     | Female     | 2          | Hunting                  |
| 1/17/09               | Winnebago     | 346N 2E S11                     | Female     | Fawn       | Hunting                  |
| 1/18/09               | Winnebago     | 345N 2E S1                      | Female     | 3          | Hunting                  |
| 2/4/09                | Winnebago     | 346N 2E S24                     | Female     | 1          | Sharpshooting            |
| 2/5/09                | Winnebago     | 345N 2E S1                      | Female     | 4          | Sharpshooting            |
| 2/17/09               | McHenry       | 344N 5E S28                     | Female     | 2          | Sharpshooting            |
| 2/23/09               | Winnebago     | 343N 2E S19                     | Female     | 1          | Sharpshooting            |
| 2/25/09               | Winnebago     | 346N 2E S14                     | Female     | 2          | Sharpshooting            |
| 3/12/09               | DeKalb        | 338N 5E S31                     | Female     | 2          | Sharpshooting            |
| 3/18/09               | Winnebago     | 346N 2E S11                     | Male       | 2          | Sharpshooting            |
| 3/19/09               | Ogle          | 341N 1E S7                      | Male       | 2          | Sharpshooting            |
| 3/23/09               | Boone         | 346N 3E S16                     | Male       | 2          | Sharpshooting            |



**Appendix C. Locations and number per section of all CWD-positive deer identified through June 30, 2009. Includes deer identified in previous years.**



**Appendix D. Distribution of CWD in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois as of June 30, 2009. Squares represent sections in which CWD has been detected.**