



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WILDLIFE VETERINARIANS

Quarterly Newsletter of the AAWV

Fall 2001 — Winter 2002

USDA Declares CWD Emergency

[Editor's note: This is the full text of the USDA Emergency Declaration and, as such, contains much basic information and may not appropriately convey the sentiments of many AAWV members.]

Chronic wasting disease (CWD), a disease of deer and elk, is part of a group of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE's), a group that also includes scrapie and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). While considered rare, the incidence of CWD is on the rise among both wild and domestic cervids. The disease, which occurs mostly in adult animals, is progressive and always fatal. The origin and mode of transmission of CWD are unknown. The disease has become of particular concern due to its fatal nature, lack of known prevention or treatment, its impact on the farmed cervid industry, and its possible transmissibility to cattle or other domestic livestock and humans.

CWD is known to be endemic in free-ranging deer and elk in a limited area in the western United States. Officials have detected it in free-ranging deer and elk in southeastern Wyoming, northeastern Colorado, and southwestern Nebraska. State departments of wildlife are taking steps to conduct surveillance in the endemic areas and to control the spread of CWD in wild cervids. In recent years, CWD has been found in 14 captive elk herds in Colorado, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and South Dakota. Some of these herds have since

been depopulated. Of the 2,300 farmed elk herds (with a total of 110,000 animals) in the United States, currently only 4 (with a total of approximately 1,000 animals) are known to be CWD-positive.

We do not know the full extent of infection in farmed elk in the United States. Limited funds and the absence of a CWD program have allowed the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to conduct only minimal surveillance and testing, and not depopulation. Presently, herds are placed under State quarantine when infection is found. While current efforts have been sufficient to depopulate or send to slaughter a number of positive herds, primarily through State indemnity programs and voluntary depopulation, APHIS has determined that this method will not work to eliminate the disease in farmed cervids. First, there is no live animal test for CWD, so it is impossible to determine whether a live animal is positive; nor is there a vaccine to prevent the disease. Second, the incubation period is lengthy, and 3 to 5 years of continued surveillance is needed (with no new infection found) before a herd can be declared free of CWD through quarantine. To date, only 1 of the 14 known CWD-positive herds has been declared free of CWD following quarantine. Indemnity from State programs has not been adequate to pay fair market value for depopulated elk, so each depopulation has caused considerable financial loss to

the herd owner. Because no funds are available within APHIS for depopulation and payment of indemnity, the only option for producers to gain some compensation for eliminating a CWD-positive herd is to slaughter the animals for human consumption. This option represents a very limited incentive for producers to participate in an eradication program. Also, it poses potential problems related to contamination of slaughter facilities and potential human exposure to preclinical infected animals that are not detectable with our current testing tools.

Aggressive action in controlling this disease now will decrease the chance of having to deal with a much larger, widespread, and costly problem later, such as the situation with BSE in Europe. The European Union is struggling to rebuild consumer confidence in Europe's beef after

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President's Comments

By Terry Kreeger

The other day a deer hunter stopped by the office. As we were chatting, the mail came in and this apparently reminded the hunter of the anthrax scare that was affecting the east coast. He kind of shook his head and said, "This anthrax really doesn't worry me. Maybe it should, but I'm really more concerned about chronic wasting disease."

After the hunter left, I started thinking about what he had said. We know what anthrax is. We know that it will kill humans if inhaled in sufficient enough quantities. On the other hand, we know very little about chronic wasting disease (CWD). Yet, CWD is rapidly becoming a disease of national concern.

Recently, the Secretary of Agriculture declared a national emergency calling for the eradication of CWD (see Cover Story). The Secretary stated "although there is currently no evidence that CWD is linked to disease in humans or in domestic animals, other than deer and elk, a theoretical risk of such a link exists. Public perception and consumer fears that CWD from deer and elk could cause disease in humans or in domestic livestock..."

This federal declaration can now be thrown on the fire already built up by the newspapers, outdoor magazines, and internet. Hysteria about "mad deer disease" sells magazines and gives disenfranchised scientists a raison d'etre on the internet. State and provincial agencies get dragged into this media maelstrom because they do not want to appear unconcerned or ignorant. CWD is becoming a media-managed disease.

But should we be making wildlife management decisions based on perception and not data? The reality is that many wildlife management decisions are at least modified or influenced by public perception. Should we accept this situation or should we work harder to get the facts out

to the public and stand up to the pressure of public perception?

Part of the perception problem, though, is of our own making. Within the scientific community there are zero risk tolerant and risk tolerant folks (and kinds in between). The zero risk tolerants (ZRTs) see catastrophes everywhere; the risk tolerents (RTs) either consciously or unconsciously appraise the data, calculate a probability of occurrence, then react according to that probability. Many RTs, however, have their "objective" analyses influenced by agency or public perception pressures. This may be a good survival technique for their careers, but is it what scientists should do?

Am I saying that CWD can't be transmitted to livestock or humans? No, I'm

agnostic on this; I don't know. And because I don't know and because I'm somewhat of an RT, I think we should be conducting sound research on transmission, species susceptibility, and the like (which we are). Then make a rational management decision on what to do, if anything, about CWD, but not before.

However, the ZRTs have the momentum and do not want to chance CWD becoming a livestock or human disease. There is a lot of appeal to their concern, which I can certainly understand. Nonetheless, I believe that this country will go down the road of CWD eradication, with or without scientific justification.

And I think we're going to be killing a whole bunch of perfectly healthy animals before this is over.

AAWV Treasurer's Report

By Dave Jessup

Over the last two years, income has about equaled outgo. Current balance is approximately what we had when I took over in 1999. We have seen increased receipts from dues, despite some decline in membership, but increased costs for web page, newsletter and other expenses. We can expect (hope for) some income from the annual meeting that may exceed expenses. I will transfer \$10,000 to the incoming AAWV Treasurer, Dr. Walt Cook along with all bank records and ledgers, immediately after the annual meeting and send the remainder after outstanding obligations are met.

June 1, 2000 to July 15, 2001

BALANCES (as of mid-July 2001)

Checking	\$ 4,873.06
Money Market	10,392.10
T-Bill	5,100.00
Total	\$ 20,775.16

RECENT CHECKS

Web page	\$ 225.00
Newsletter (layout, printing and postage)	2,500.00
Office Asst., Treasurer	222.00
Kinko's	32.33

APPROXIMATE CURRENT BALANCE (9/15/01) \$ 17,746.00

Business Meeting Minutes

By Dave Jessup

The AAWV business meeting was held in Orlando, Florida, in conjunction with the AAZV/ARAV/AAWV meeting. There were six members in attendance. The meeting was called to order by Dave Jessup, Treasurer, as Terry Kreeger, President was absent. A treasurers report was given, showing AAWV being in good financial condition (see Treasurers Report below).

The results of the recent AAWV election were announced. Terry Kreeger remains President, Julie Langenburg will become Vice President, Kirsten Gilardi will remain Secretary and Walt Cook will become Treasurer. Mike Ziccardi will remain newsletter editor. This same information was presented at the conference banquet by Dr. Jessup. The need for review of election procedures in light of contested elections was noted.

Several items were discussed. The pending Minor Use, Minor Species (MUMS) legislation was discussed at length. Some members have written their congressional representatives and it was urged that others do so. This legislation has been modeled after the Orphan Drug Act and, as such, is not expected to have significant opposition.

The AVMA Euthanasia Guidelines were discussed. Although there was consultation with wildlife veterinarians during the development of those guidelines, comments and suggested changes are not reflected in the version adopted by AVMA. A number of other veterinary groups (AAZV, AAV, ARAV) have problems with these guidelines failing to deal effectively with exotic species and wildlife problems. Dorcas O'Rourke of AAZV is working on a comment letter to AVMA pointing out these problems and AAWV may be asked to support that. If wildlife and exotic animal concerns are not met, these groups may develop alternative euthanasia guidelines that address specific exotic and wildlife species and situations.

The activities of the National Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians (NAZWV) were discussed. It was noted that the fate of NAZWV largely depends on the upcoming January meeting with AVMA.

It was noted that two AAWV members will be taking the ACZM board certification exam in the Wildlife specialty.

The wildlife activities of the AAZV/ARAV/AAWV were discussed. AAWV sponsored two workshops: "So you want to be a wildlife veterinarian?" and "Wildlife Disease Diagnosis".

There were 46 and 43 attendees, respectively, and the instructors were Dave Jessup and John Fischer. These workshops are expected to net AAWV approximately \$2000. Two sessions were co-sponsored, one on anesthesia and one on in-situ conservation, and both were well attended. Sparse participation by wildlife vets in the meeting in general and at the auction was noted.

ONLINE UPDATE

- ✓ AAWV website: In the Members section, copies of previous Newsletters, full job descriptions, longer articles of interest to AAWV members, and an updated AAWV Membership List may be found (www.aawv.net).
- ✓ USGS National Wildlife Health Center's Field Manual of Wildlife Diseases: Now available on line and can be downloaded as one file or by individual chapters. (http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/pub_metadata/field_manual/field_manual.html)
- ✓ Other wildlife-related newsletters online
 - ✗ SCWDS (<http://www.uga.edu/scwds/briefs.htm>)
 - ✗ CCWHC (<http://wildlife.usask.ca/english/frameNewsletter.htm>)
 - ✗ WDA (http://www.wildlifedisease.org/Supplements/supp_index.html)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Jun. 9–11, 2002

Symposium on the Encroachment on Wildlife Ecosystems: New and Re-Emerging Viral Epidemics (ARTIS Zoological Gardens, Amsterdam, The Netherlands). The scientific program will include sessions on transmission between wildlife and domestic species, threats to biodiversity and human health, epidemiologic consequences of changes in ecology, and wildlife dieoffs. For more information, please contact Jeannette Schouw, Congress secretariat, Biomedical Primate Research Centre (+31.15.284.2661 or wildlife@bprc.nl)

Jul. 14–19, 2002

16th annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology (Canterbury, England). For more information, visit the SCB conference website at <http://www.ukc.ac.uk/anthropology/dice/scb2002/>

Jul. 28–Aug. 2, 2002

51st Annual Conference of the Wildlife Disease Association (Arcata, California). Special sessions are being planned on Preparing for Emerging Wildlife Diseases and Diseases of Wild Sheep. For more information, please visit the WDA Web site at <http://www.wildlifedisease.org/>

Sep. 24–28, 2002

The Wildlife Society's 9th Annual Conference (Bismark, North Dakota). The meeting will include symposia, workshops, contributed papers (oral presentations), and posters. Deadline for submission of abstracts is Feb. 15 2002. For more information, visit the TWS conference Web site at <http://www.wildlife.org/conference/index.htm>.

Oct. 6–10, 2002

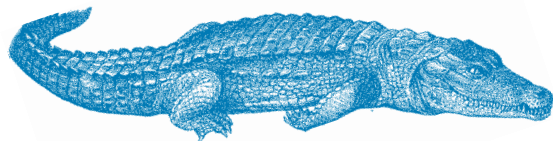
Annual Conference of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (Milwaukee, Wisconsin). Sessions will include reptiles and amphibians, avian medicine, hoofstock, carnivores, primates, case reports, aquatic animals, pathology, conservation medicine, emerging diseases, reproduction and contraception, behavior, enrichment and conditioning, and biomaterial banking. There will also be a poster session, veterinary and graduate student paper competitions, and workshops/wet labs. Deadline for authors to contact session chairs is February 15, 2002. For information regarding presentation of papers, please visit our website www.aazv.org or contact Randy Junge, St. Louis Zoo, Forest Park, St. Louis, MO 63110, (314-768-5487 or rejunge@aol.com).

Alligator Mortalities

Date: Aug 29 2001

Source: The Orlando Sentinel [edited]

Toxins from one particular strain of toxic algae, *Cylindrospermopsis*, have been linked to the deaths of about 380 adult Lake Griffin alligators. The algae were discovered 3 years ago in the lake, about the same time the alligators started dying mysteriously. The Lake County Water Authority hopes to know by October whether algae in the Harris Chain of Lakes are producing dangerous toxins and whether the problem is widespread. The authority has commissioned a landmark study to monitor toxic algae and the toxins they produce in the 5 lakes of the chain—Dora, Eustis, Harris, Little Lake Harris and Griffin. *Cylindrospermopsis*, *Microcystis* and other strains of toxic alga have been linked to animal deaths and human health problem worldwide. The algae produce a wide variety of toxins that can destroy the liver, affect breathing, attack the nervous system, and cause cancer, in addition to milder health effects such as diarrhea, skin rashes, and eye irritation. The World Health Organization has guidelines for exposure to toxic algae in both recreational and drinking water, but neither the United States nor Florida has adopted standards on toxic algae. Florida Department of Health officials say they have no documented cases of people being harmed by algal toxins in this state.



Colorado CWD Emergency

Date: Oct 19 2001

Source: Colorado Wildlife Commission [edited]

The Colorado Wildlife Commission approved 2 emergency regulations on 18 Oct 2001 designed to reduce the risk of CWD spreading to wild deer and elk herds outside the endemic area of northeastern

Colorado. The first prohibits the movement of live deer and elk inside Colorado except for scientific or wildlife management purposes and only if specifically approved by the Division of Wildlife director. The second requires deer and elk in captive facilities may not be imported to Colorado from other states unless the animals have been certified to be free of disease for at least 36 months through a documented surveillance program. The Commission had adopted a similar emergency ordinance in September requiring at least an 18-month surveillance program. Both ordinances become effective immediately and will remain in effect for 90 days. They may be considered for permanent adoption by the Wildlife Commission at a later date. The emergency ordinances were adopted because of concerns raised by the movement of elk infected with chronic wasting disease from a captive facility in northeastern Colorado to game ranches near Del Norte in the San Luis Valley and near Cowdry in North Park. Exposed elk from the northeastern Colorado facility were shipped to more than 40 Colorado game ranches and game ranches in 15 other states. Testing is underway to determine whether other elk have CWD.

Fish Disease Database Unveiled

Date: Sept 20 2001

Source: USFWS Press Release [edited]

An extensive national database outlining the distribution of disease-associated pathogens in America's wild and free-ranging fish populations was unveiled today by the USFWS. The National Wild Fish Health Survey is the first effort to develop a readily accessible, reliable and scientifically-sound database that documents the national distribution of specific pathogens in free-ranging fish. The project was prompted in 1996, in part, when whirling disease began killing trout in Montana and Colorado. Whirling disease has also been found in trout populations in 20 other states. Biologists have expressed concern about earlier theories that more fish pathogens might be infecting fish populations previously believed immune to certain dis-

eases, but the Survey does not show that to be happening. The Survey is conducted through a partnership of natural resource management organizations, including other Federal, Native American, State and private agencies and groups. It becomes available to fisheries managers and the public today on a Worldwide Web-based internet site, at <http://wildfishsurvey.fws.gov>. The Survey divides fish pathogens into two main groups: Principal Fish Pathogens and Pathogens of Regional Importance. Principal Fish Pathogens are those tested at all nine U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Health Centers across the country. This group is extensive and includes the organisms that cause whirling disease and bacterial kidney disease. The other group of pathogens tested are those that the Fish Health Centers deem important in their part of the country. Those include largemouth bass virus in the Southeast and Asian tapeworm in the Southwest.

Rabies Vaccine Response in Human

Date: Aug 23 2001

Source: The New England Journal of Medicine, Volume 345, Number 8 [edited]

An article in the NEJM, entitled "Human Infection Due to Recombinant Vaccinia-Rabies Glycoprotein Virus" by Rupprecht et al., reports the case of a 28-year-old pregnant woman from northeastern Ohio who developed an arm cellulitis from the vaccine virus. The woman became infected while trying to remove bait from the mouth of her dog, and in the process sustained abrasions on her forearm and a finger puncture. At the time, the woman was 15 weeks pregnant and had a chronic skin condition, epidermolytic hyperkeratosis. Three days after the bite she developed blisters on her forearm that subsequently enlarged, became necrotic appearing, and were associated with generalized swelling of her forearm, but without fever. When admitted on day 5-6, she gave the history of the bait exposure. Despite antibiotics, her arm swelling so progressed that at 10 days it necessitated surgery. The incision revealed no pus, but a compart-

ment fasciotomy was performed. Unfortunately she developed a generalized exfoliative rash, probably from amoxicillin-clavulanate. Despite this, by day 34 she was healed, and later delivered a healthy child. Vero cell cultures of the original eschar yielded poxvirus with viral DNA identical to the bait strain of recombinant vaccinia glycoprotein. The patient's serum also demonstrated high titers of antibody against both vaccinia and rabies. Clinicians and the public in baited areas should be aware of the potential for human or pet exposure to bait containing virus sachets. They should avoid handling the sachet or bait, and instead call health authorities. The virus is probably quite safe except among those who are immunocompromised or those with chronic dermatitis. If exposed, such patients should receive vaccinia immune globulin.

National Zoo Plan for WNV

Date: Oct 5 2001

Source: American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) Press Release [edited]

The AZA today announced a national zoo surveillance plan for WNV. The plan will assist the CDC by incorporating additional WNV data into the national public health database. Representatives of the AZA, CDC, USDA, USGS, AAZV, and state and local public health, agriculture and wildlife departments, met at Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, Illinois, in June 2001 to begin collaboration on the plan. The workshop report, "Surveillance for West Nile Virus in Zoological Institutions," has been distributed to the 201 zoo and aquarium members of the AZA by Project Coordinators Dr. Tracey McNamara, Wildlife Conservation Society, and Dr. Dominic Travis, Lincoln Park Zoo. Phase I of the project is underway in several zoos within the current WNV range and includes the testing of samples from systemically ill or deceased outdoor collection birds and mammals from all AZA accredited institutions in the USA, non-collection wildlife found deceased on zoological properties, and healthy outdoor birds and mammals as part of routine

screening. CDC is funding this as a pilot project for 2001, and Cornell Diagnostic Laboratory was chosen as the site for zoo sample submission and testing for the pilot program. A centralized database for the AZA community will be created and maintained by Lincoln Park Zoo in order to summarize and communicate results to members. Zoos that participate in the surveillance program agree to share pertinent information with their local health departments, and that information will be included in reports at state and national levels as well as from the local health officials. The plan, given continued support, could lead to a standardized protocol for zoo surveillance with respect to emerging zoonotic infectious diseases of importance to both animal and human health.

WDA/STVM Resolution

Source: WildlifeHealth Listserve [edited]

In July 2001 at the Wildlife Disease Association/Society for Tropical Veterinary Medicine meeting in South Africa, a resolution was jointly prepared and released calling for the recognition of animal health sciences as critical to the design and management of sustainable programs for both livestock and wildlife. This resolution, which is targeted at the international government or government-related donor community, encourages agencies to consider potential wildlife health impacts when development projects (particularly livestock development) are being planned or implemented. The two societies, meeting together to address the issue of diseases transmitted between domestic livestock and wild animals, wished to emphasize the interrelatedness of development actions and the environment, the potential for adverse consequences in projects that neglect to consider wildlife disease issues, and the importance of considering the true and overall costs and benefits to natural as well as human-made production systems when evaluating or defining sustainable projects. The resulting "Pilanesburg resolution" can be read in its entirety on the WDA website at <http://www.wildlifedisease.org/resolution.htm>.

WNV Update

Date: Nov 8 2001

Source: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly [edited]

During 2001:

- Human: 42 human cases reported in Florida (10), New York (10), Connecticut (6), Maryland (6), New Jersey (6), Pennsylvania (3), and Georgia (one); dates of illness onset ranged from 13 Jul to 7 Oct 2001; and 2 persons died.
- Birds: 4251 crows and 1459 other species from 26 states and DC.
- Horses: 170 cases from 14 states (Alabama, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia).
- Mosquito pools: 736 positive pools from 15 states (Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia).

Salmon Virus in Maine

Date: Sept 6 2001

Source: Reuters [edited]

Maine fish farms have been forced to kill more than 700,000 salmon so far this year in an attempt to stop the spread of infectious salmon anemia, The Boston Globe reported. Salmon is Maine's second-highest seafood catch behind lobster, and in New England's fish markets, the same industry ranks third behind lobsters and scallops. The fish killed so far were worth an estimated \$11 million, and an additional 130,000 were to be destroyed this week after three new cases were found in Cobscook Bay, close to the Canadian border. The disease, first detected in Norway in 1984, probably migrated from Canada, where it has been present since 1997, causing more than 3 million fish to be destroyed. So far the disease has been confined to Cobscook Bay; the most important one for U.S. aquaculture with 25 farming sites and hundreds of fish pens that represent more than 6 percent of the fish in pens off Maine's coast, the Globe said.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Disease Interactions of Native and Exotic Herbivores in Patagonia

By Carolina Marull, Edited by Sharon Deem

In the last few years the status of conservation for wildlife in South America has improved. In the recent past local official organizations were not interested in wildlife conservation and it has only been recently that several international and local non-governmental organizations have begun to support wildlife health investigation projects. In this article, I present one such project in Argentina.

The Patagonian Steppe ecosystem comprises almost 500,000 km² of southern Argentina. Very little of this area is protected as National and Provincial Parks and Reserves. The rest of the land is privately owned with a focus on agrarian production and the industrial extraction of hydrocarbon and minerals. The stability of this ecosystem was severely disturbed by the introduction of large numbers of domestic sheep and wild herbivores such as the European hare. Today, desertification affects almost 30% of the steppe eco-region, placing it in a high priority category for conservation action.

All three Patagonian native herbivores, the guanaco, the choique (or rhea), and the mara (a large rodent endemic to Argentina) have experienced noticeable population reductions. The introduction of foreign species has been a critical factor in the decline of several native species and is most likely associated with new pathogens introduced to the region and shared habitat utilization by various native and introduced species.

In 1998, I began activities related to the health and epidemiology of wild species in Argentina. I finished my veterinary degree in that same year, and realized that I did not have enough university training in wildlife medicine or conservation. During 2000, I lead a project supported by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Field Veterinary Program and the New

York Community Trust, to determine the health status of free-ranging mara and to study the epidemiology of diseases shared by this species and other native (guanaco) and introduced species (European hare and domestic sheep). This project was developed under the direction and supervision of Marcela Uhart, a WCS field veterinarian. Buenos Aires University, Litoral University, laboratories such as Rosenbusch and Veterinarian Diagnostic Center, other veterinarians, biologists, technicians and students also provided useful help.

In the spring of 2000, field studies were conducted in the "Rincón Chico" ranch area (42° 47' S, 63° 41' W), Península Valdés, Chubut Province. Six maras were captured during the reproductive season, because at this time they tend to gather in large communal groups. The capture method used was steel wire snares, placed under fences at their regular transit paths. Due to the extremely excited nature of these animals, we checked the snares continuously during the 9 hours of the day when the snares were set. This ensured that we assisted the animals immediately upon capture. When an animal was captured, it was restrained and chemically immobilized using Telazol. All individuals were weighed, sexed and measured. Blood, feces and skin samples were collected. Similar samples were also taken from 20 sheep and 8 European hares, which share the area.

The samples were processed in the field to obtain the basic hematology. The plasma was then sent to specialized laboratories for biochemical and immunological testing. The results obtained thus far show a slight evidence of inter-specific conflicts between the three species. They share endoparasites, as well as positive serological evidence of exposure to an infectious disease agent, *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*.

We also found *Brucella ovis* titers in one hare. The basic health parameters for the mara were similar to those reported for other rodent species. In spring of 2002, these studies will be continued thanks to the continued.

This study provides the first data on the health status of free-ranging mara. It provides a starting point for long-term monitoring of the health status to detect future population, ecological and/or disease disturbances. Furthermore, an appreciation of the epidemiology of various infectious agents in both native and introduced species will allow us to make recommendations for the creation or modification of public or private management practices oriented towards the protection and conservation of native wildlife.

(CWD, continued from page 1)

recent outbreaks of BSE in France, Spain, and Germany. As demonstrated in Europe, once shaken, consumer confidence is very difficult to rebuild. BSE's human form, known as variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD), has killed more than 80 people in the United Kingdom and 2 in Spain. There is no known cure for this deadly disease, or for any of the other diseases caused by TSE's that affect humans or animals. Although there is currently no evidence that CWD is linked to disease in humans, or in domestic animals other than deer and elk, a theoretical risk of such a link exists. Public perception and consumer fears that CWD from deer and elk could cause disease in humans or in domestic livestock could destroy the markets for elk or deer products. Canada has prohibited the import of U.S. cervids due to CWD, and other countries are contemplating import restrictions on elk and deer and their products. Recently, Korea informed

(CWD, continued next page)

(CWD, continued from page 6)

APHIS that it is temporarily suspending the importation of deer and elk and their products from the United States and Canada.

Without a Federal program in place to depopulate infected and exposed animals, the movement of infected elk into new herds and States with no known infection will continue or may even accelerate. APHIS needs to take action to document the prevalence of the disease and to prevent its further spread. Furthermore, the Agency needs to demonstrate, as with other TSE's, that it is able and willing to take early and effective action to protect the health of U.S. animals and animal industries. Therefore, in order to address the CWD threat to U.S. livestock, APHIS has determined that additional funds are needed for a CWD eradication program. In addition to the purchase of animals, the additional funds will be used for program activities such as depopulation and disposal, clean-up and disinfection, establishment of surveillance and certification programs, testing, implementation and maintenance of quarantines, surveillance, and training for producers and veterinarians. These additional funds will reduce the spread of CWD in captive elk herds and discourage entry of positive or exposed animals into the human and animal food chains, and should save the Federal Government and farmed elk industry from having to deal with a more costly and widespread problem later.

Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of September 25, 1981, as amended (7 U.S.C. 147b), I declare that there is an emergency that threatens the livestock industry of this country and hereby authorize the transfer and use of such funds as may be necessary from appropriations or other funds available to the agencies or corporations of the United States Department of Agriculture to establish a chronic wasting disease eradication program in the United States.

Effective Date: This declaration of emergency shall become effective September 21, 2001. **Ann M. Veneman**, Secretary of Agriculture.

OPPORTUNITIES

Field and Lab Research Interns

Where: Hawaii National Park, Hawaii.

Description: Research interns will conduct field work at 9 sites on the eastern slope of Mauna Loa Volcano, Hawaii. Field work will consist of mistnetting and banding forest birds; trapping mosquitoes; and collecting data on plant phenology, vegetation structure, small mammal abundance, feral pig disturbance, and larval mosquito habitat. Laboratory work will consist of caring for and collecting blood samples from experimental birds in aviaries; microscope work to assist with the diagnosis and quantification of malarial infections in wild and experimental birds; and bench work assisting with serological diagnosis of chronic malarial infections in wild birds. Food and laundry stipend of \$400 per month, dormitory-style housing, field equipment, and field and laboratory training are provided; interns must provide their own airfare to Hilo, Hawaii.

Requirements: Applicants must be in excellent physical condition, work in remote locations (camping 4-8 days at a time may be required), live and work in close proximity with other volunteers, have full color vision and hearing, and be able to work for long periods at a compound microscope. Desirable qualifications include undergraduate coursework in ecology, ornithology, wildlife biology, microbiology and/or parasitology and prior experience mistnetting, handling, and identifying forest birds.

Start: Mid January 2002.

For more info: Carter Atkinson, P.O. Box 218, Hawaii National Park, HI 96718, Carter_Atkinson@usgs.gov.

Preceptorship in Avian and Conservation Medicine

Where: International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, Wisconsin.

Description: This four to six-week senior preceptorship will work with the Veterinary Services Unit of the Conservation Services Department in all phases of the clinical practice, but have opportunities for interaction with the Crane Conservation Department to learn captive propagation, husbandry and management of this unique family of birds. The preceptor can expect to gain practical experience in crane capture, transport, anesthesia, preventive medicine, disease surveillance and the contribution of veterinary medicine to crane conservation including field project support and professional consultations. Preceptors are encouraged to complete and report on a research or laboratory project during their stay. Opportunities for visiting the University of Wisconsin, School of Veterinary Medicine and the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison will be made available to interested preceptors. No stipend is available for this position; however, on-site housing in the ICF Guesthouse will be provided depending on availability.

Wildlife Veterinarian

Where: Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, based in Spokane, WA.

Description: The main duties of this position will be the responsibility for veterinary care east of the Cascade Mountains. Primary duties include: 1) assist WDFW Enforcement Division in immobilizing and relocation of dangerous wildlife, 2) respond to public concerns and working with landowners regarding wildlife in close association with pets and livestock, 3) independently design, conduct and publish research studies related to wildlife health issues, 4) conduct surgery, necropsies and perform veterinary tasks associated with wildlife research and population monitoring activities, 5) investigate animal die-offs and disease outbreaks, 6) work with the other WDFW Wildlife Veterinarian in developing herd health information on various species throughout the state and to design and teach WDFW-mandated wildlife disease and immobilization courses for enforcement and wildlife biologists, 7) purchase, formulate, and dispense federally regulated and controlled substances to WDFW personal, and 8) maintain a network with other wildlife health specialists via membership in the WDA, AAWV, and the Western States Wildlife Health Cooperative.

Requirements: DVM from an accredited veterinary school and three years of professional experience in wildlife health/pathology (a Ph.D. in wildlife management or research may substitute for two years of the required experience, or a Master's degree in wildlife management or research may substitute for one year of the required experience).

Desirable Qualifications: 1) PhD in Wildlife Management or related field; or equivalent professional expertise and experience, 2) demonstrated knowledge of wildlife ecology, research scientific methods, statistical principles, data analysis, and advanced research field techniques, 3) professional experience communicating scientific principles and results across a broad spectrum of people, 4) demonstrated ability to make critical strategic and tactical decisions affecting independent ongoing full time research studies, and 5) proven ability to write and edit scientific reports for publication in peer reviewed journals or other technical publications.

Closing Date: January 4 2002.

For more info: Go to Washington Department of Personnel Bulletin # 1-1-097-OC LLL (<http://hr.dop.wa.gov/bulletins/11097ocr.htm>)

For more info: Barry Hartup, Director of Veterinary Services, International Crane Foundation, E-11376 Shady Lane Road, Baraboo, WI 53913 (hartup@savingcranes.org)

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Articles, notices, and letters to the editor are welcome.
Deadline for submission is **February 15, 2002**.
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