
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 25 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DISEASES OF FARMED CERVIDAE

SUBJECT MATTER: CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE STRAIN EVALUATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The farmed cervidae industry and free ranging cervidae continue to be plagued with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) outbreaks and more needs to be known about the characteristics of the CWD prion.

The European Union uses the Western Blot test as a standard on every positive transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE). The Canadian Food Inspection Agency uses the Western Blot and immunohistochemistry (IHC) on every confirmed CWD positive sample. The United States uses IHC as the gold standard CWD test.

Scrapie is a TSE, as is CWD. Many different Scrapie strains have been found by using the Western Blot test. More work needs to be performed to evaluate whether there are different CWD strains.

There are epidemiological reasons why determining the different strains of CWD is necessary.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service to evaluate the potential diversity of Chronic Wasting Disease strains.