

White-Tailed Deer in Delaware

We Bring you Delaware's Great Outdoors Through
Science and Service

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

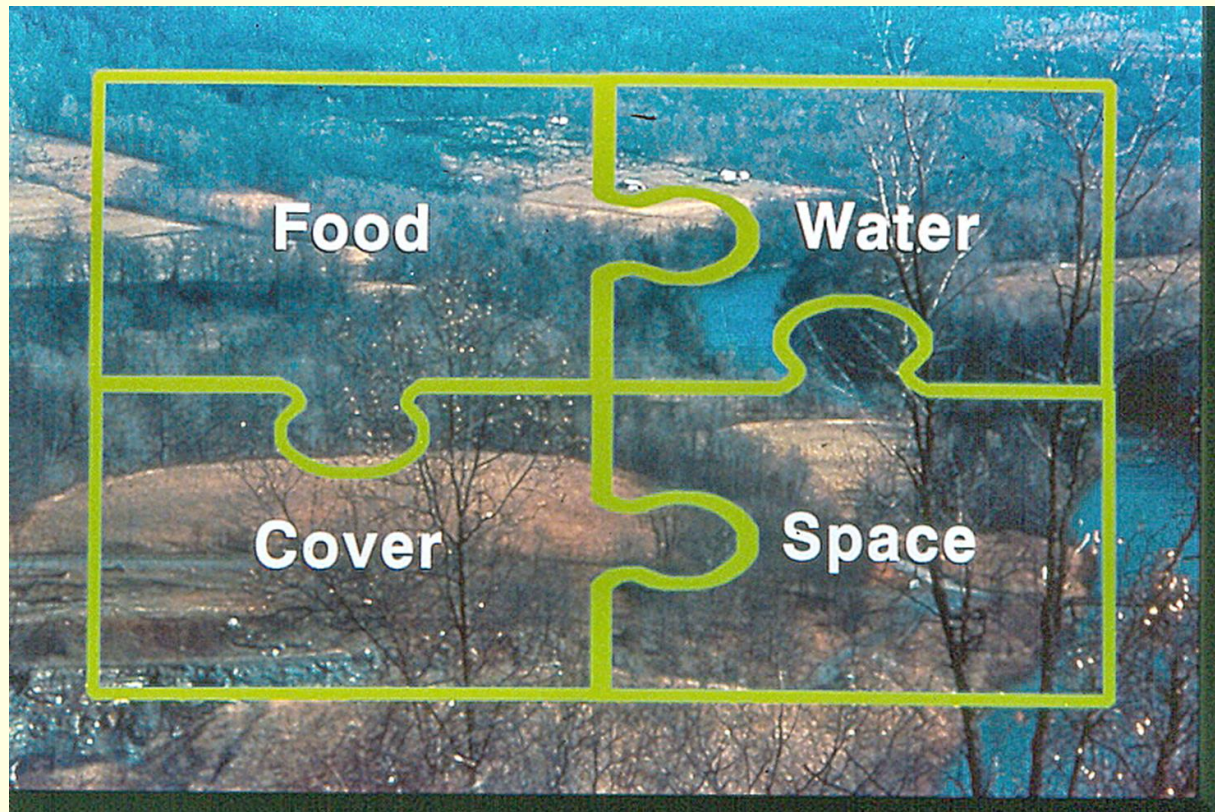
Division of Fish and Wildlife

Eric Ness

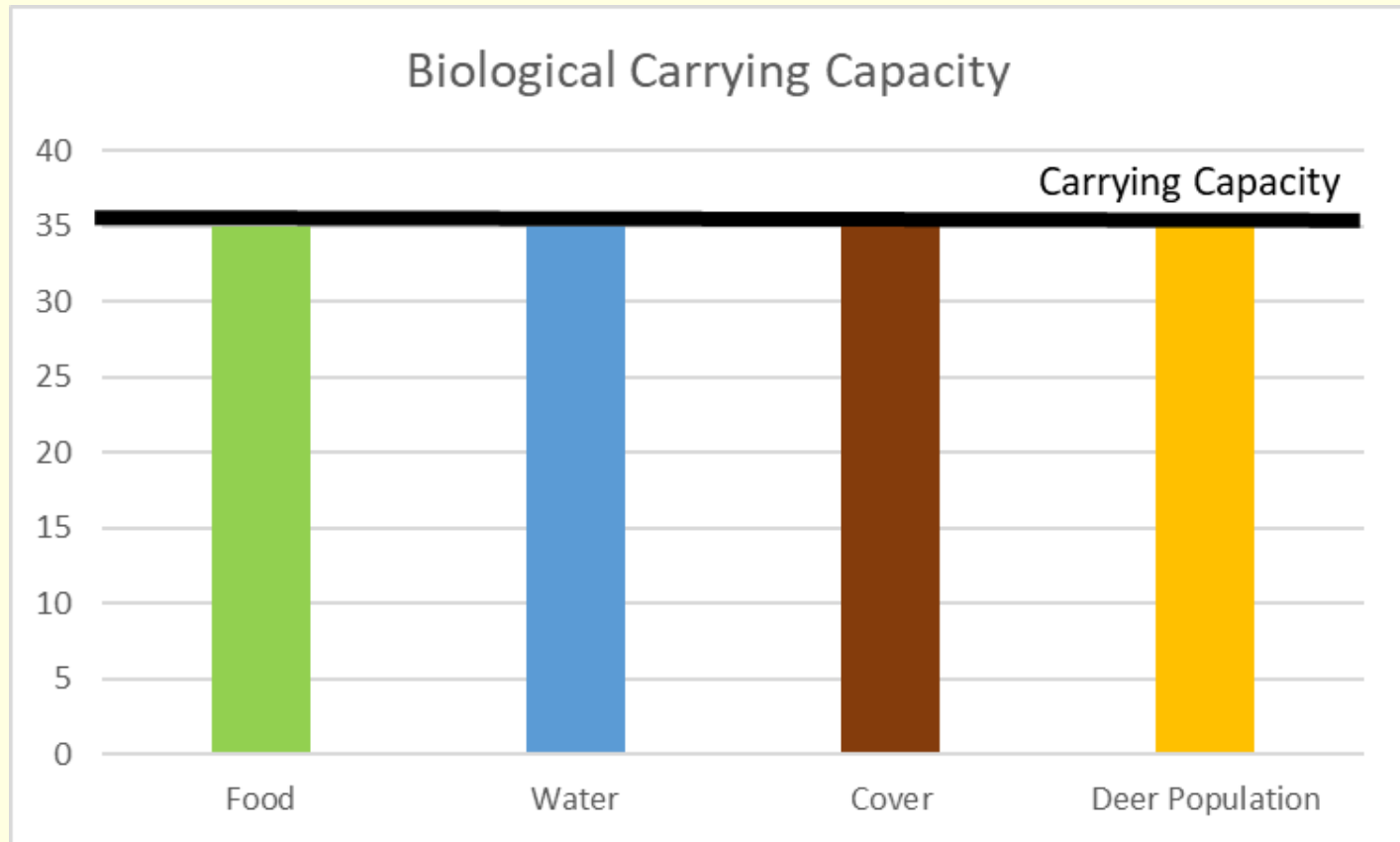


Carrying Capacity

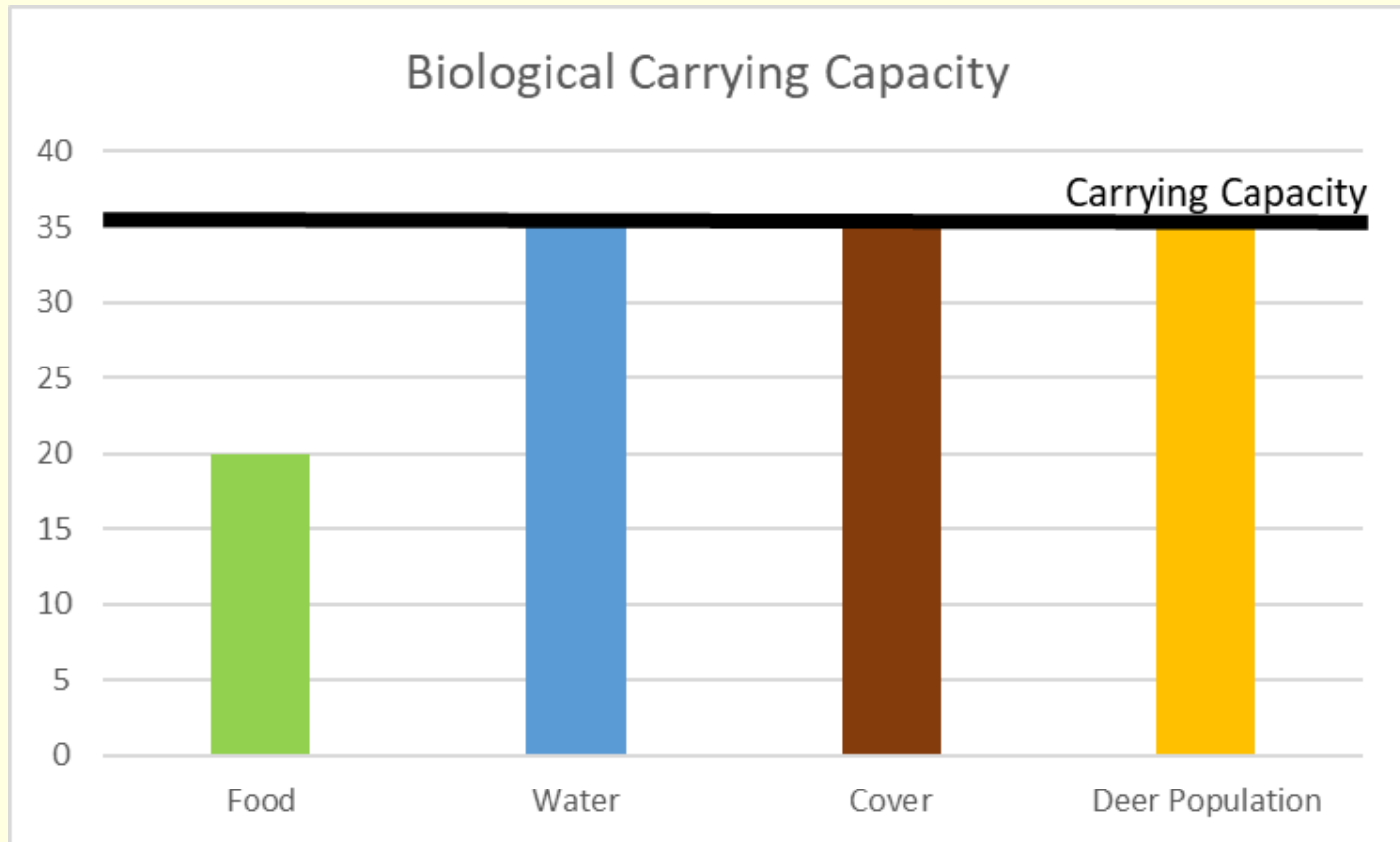
- The number of organisms that a region can support without environmental degradation



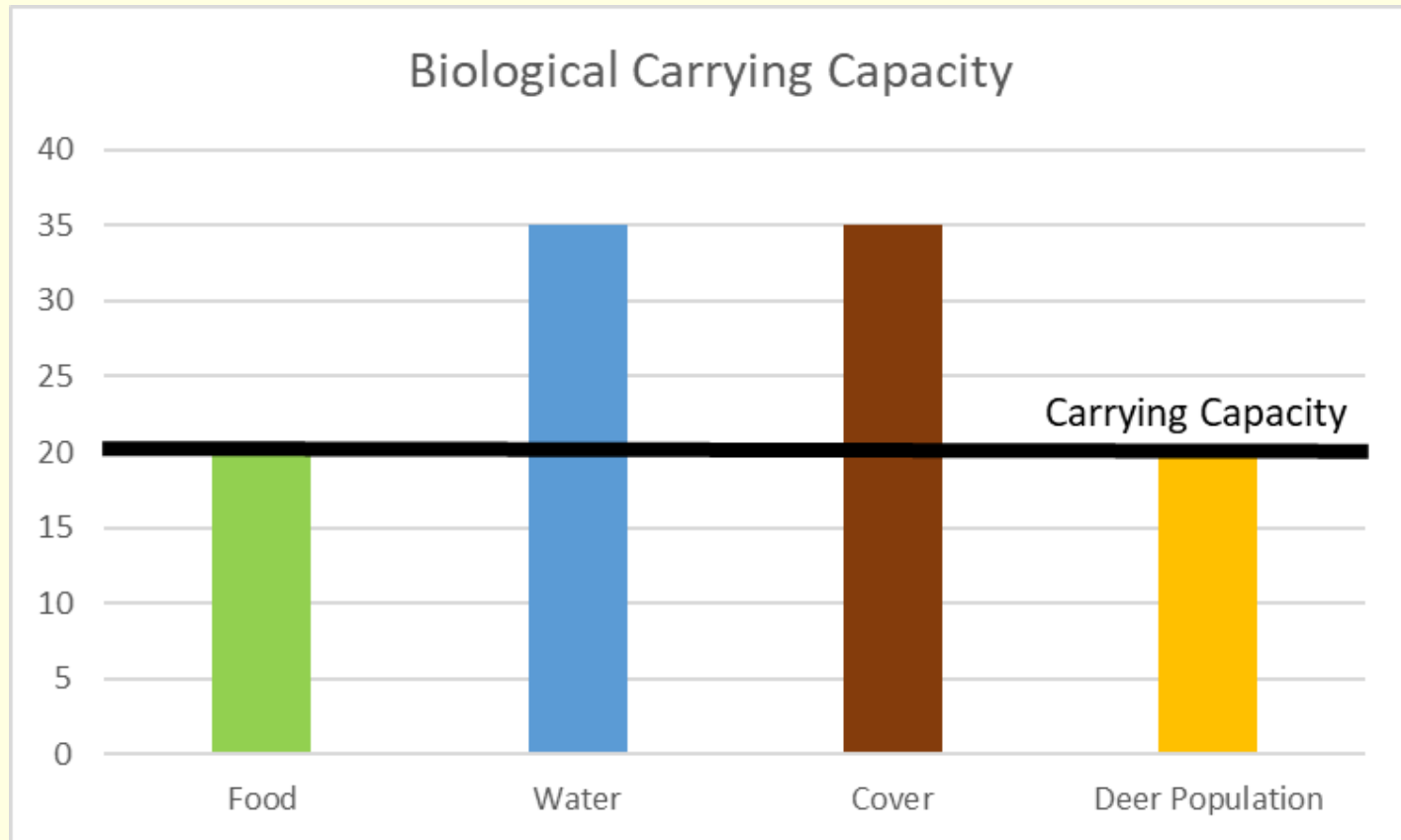
Carrying Capacity



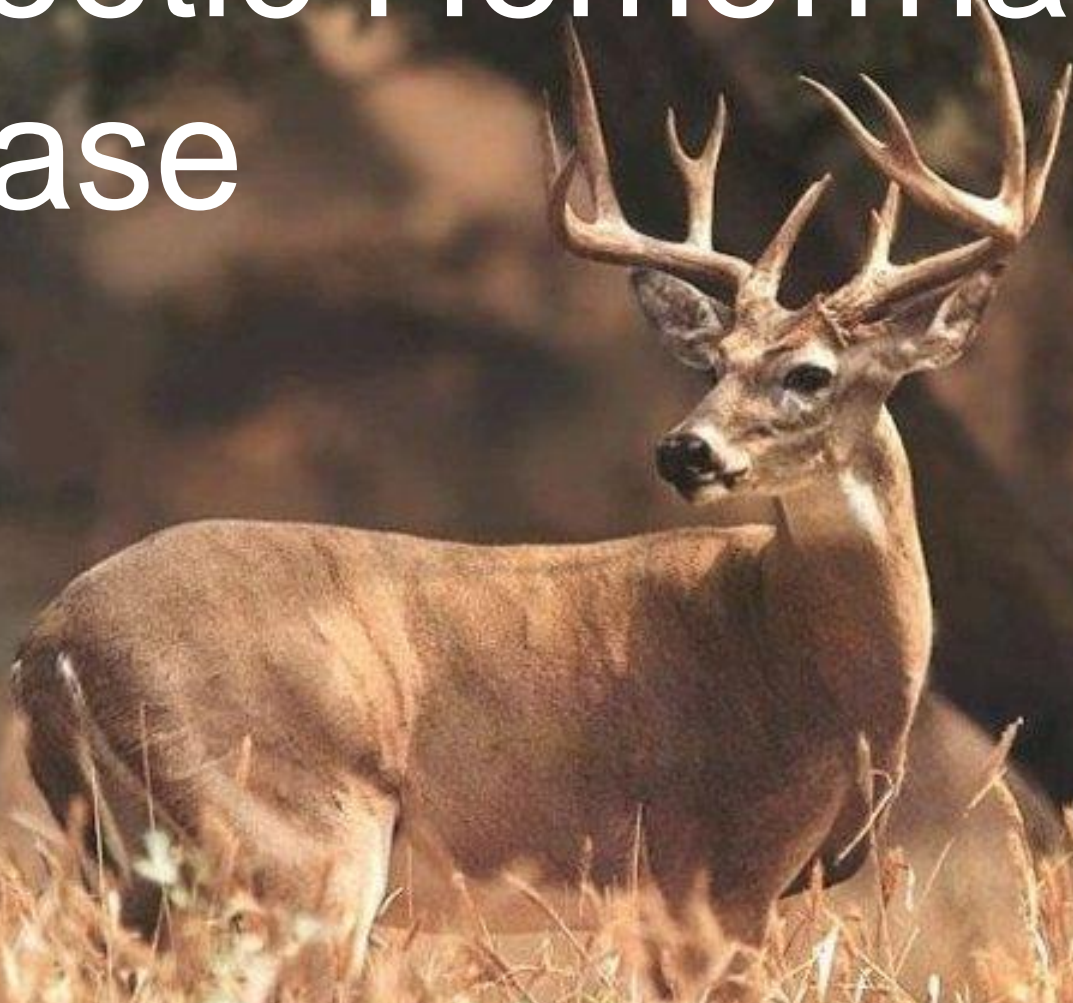
Carrying Capacity



Carrying Capacity



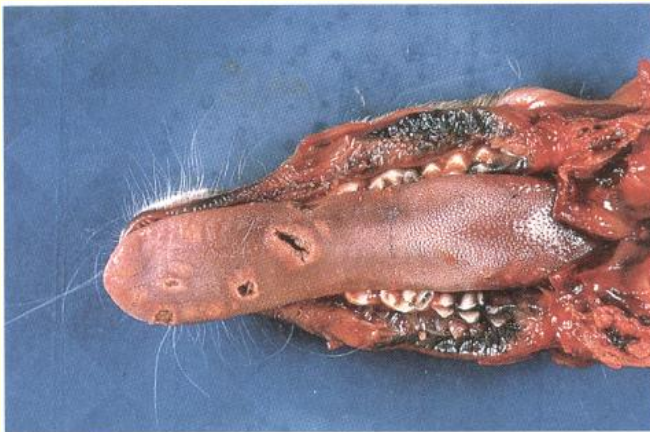
Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease



Deer Diseases

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease – EHD

- What is EHD?
- How is it spread?
- Deer population concerns
- Public health concerns



Deer Diseases

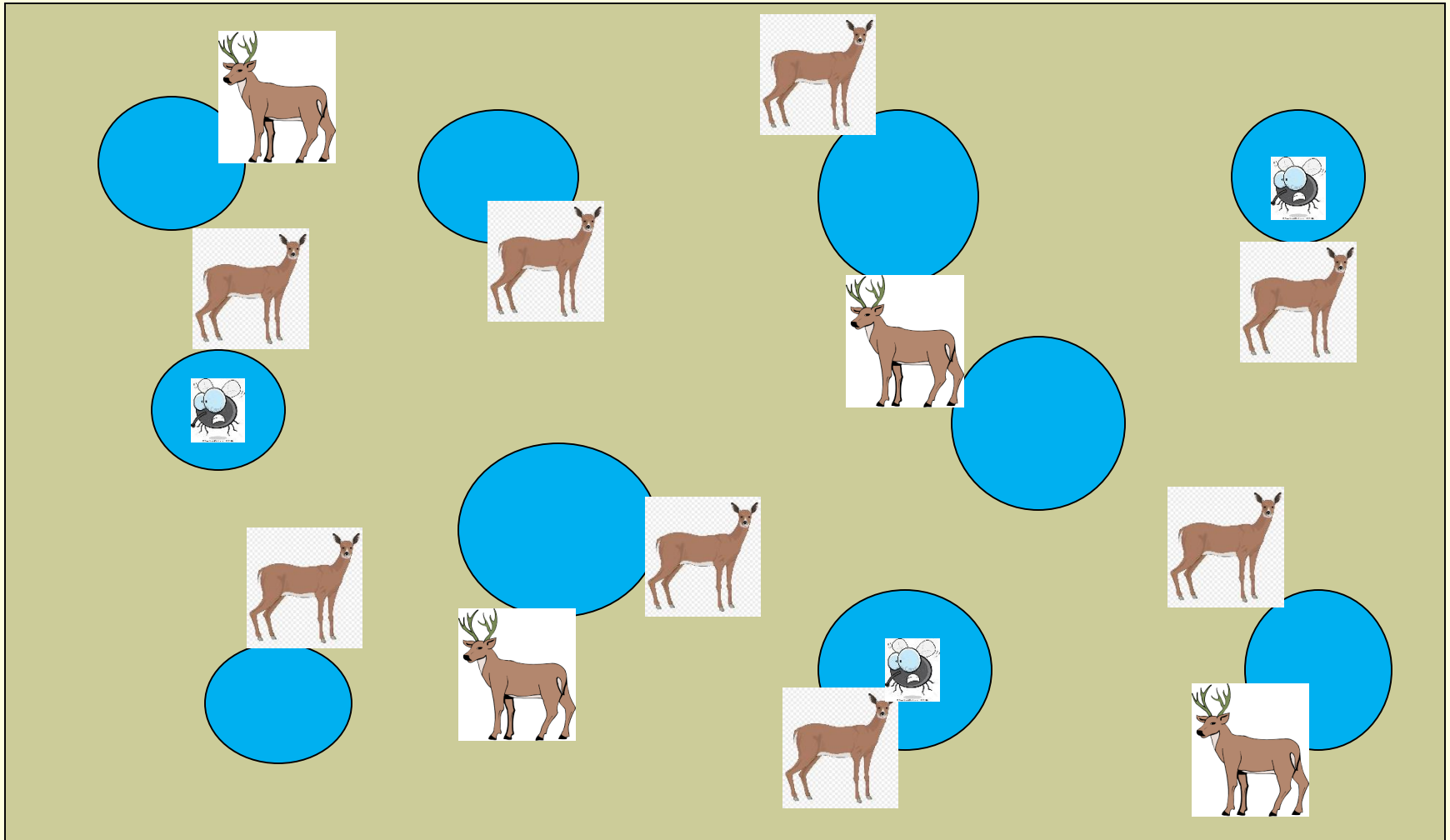
Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease – EHD

- How is it spread?
 - Spread by a biting midge (*Culicoides* spp.)
 - Sand gnats, sand flies, no-see-ums
 - Midges are commonly found near water



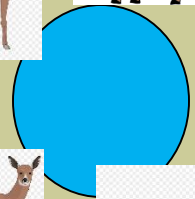
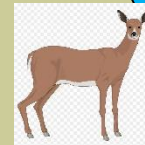
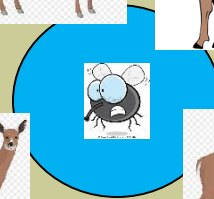
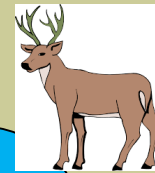
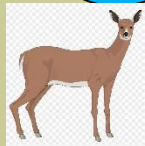
Weather and EHD

Normal Rainfall



Weather and EHD

Drought



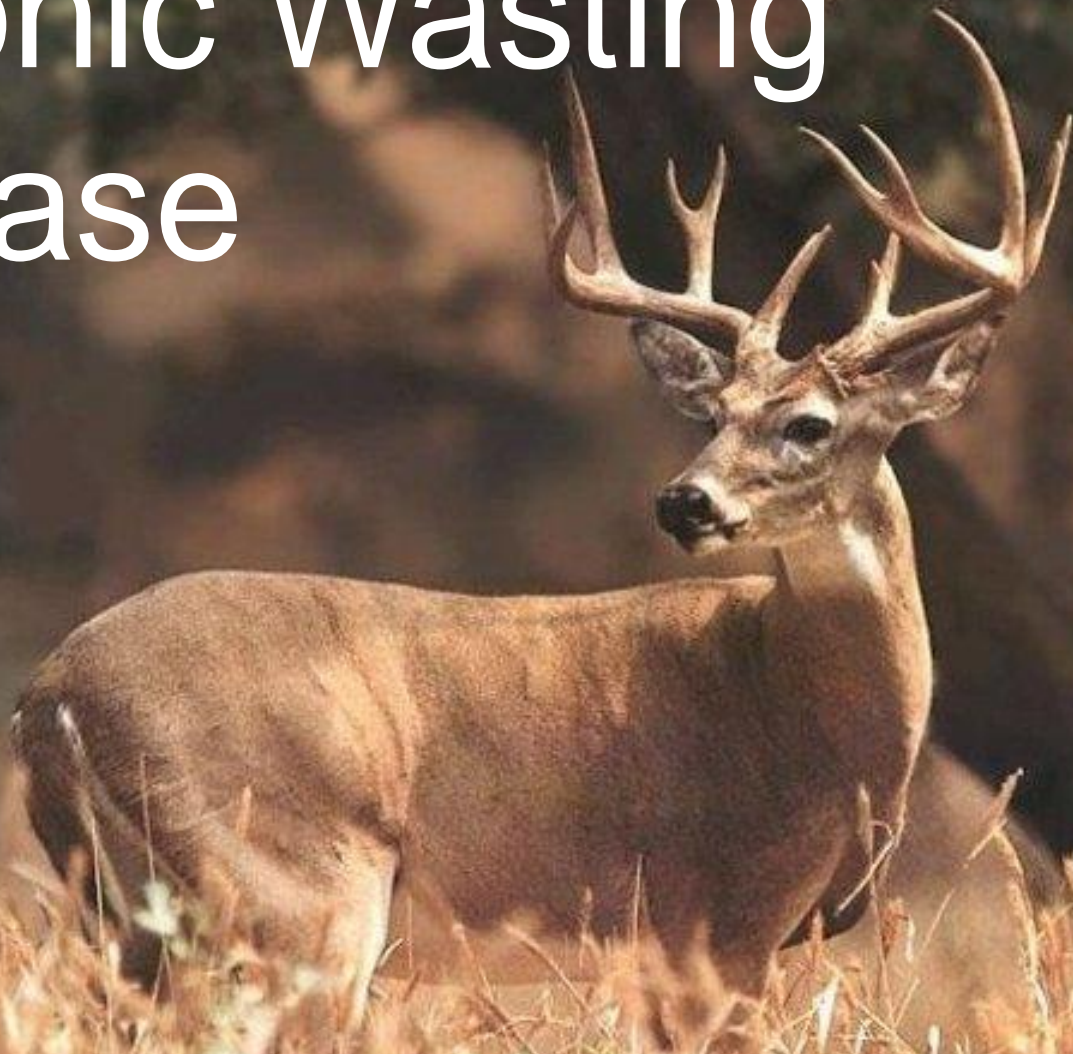
Deer Diseases

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease – EHD

- Deer Population Concerns?
 - It depends who you ask
 - Overall (state of Delaware) – the impacts are usually minimal
 - Locally (individual farm) – the impacts can be substantial
 - Deer are typically found dead near water

Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study –
“To date, repeated HD outbreaks have not represented a limiting factor to deer population growth.”

Chronic Wasting Disease



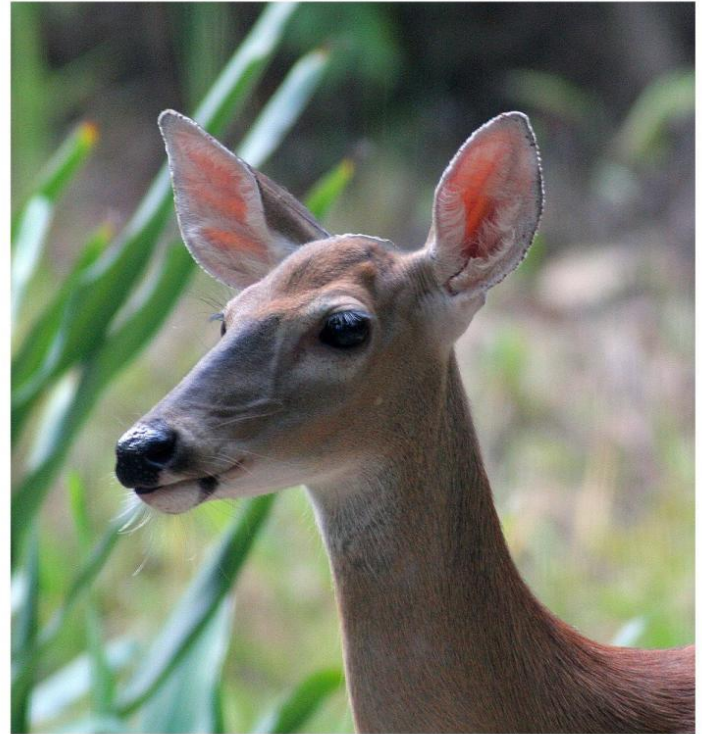
What is CWD?

- Caused by prions (abnormal, proteinaceous, infectious particles)
- Body is unable to breakdown these prions.
- Therefore, they collect in nervous tissue, creating small holes, and **ultimately causing death.**



Who Can Contract CWD?

- NOT yet documented in humans
- Members of the family Cervidae (Deer)
 - White-tailed Deer
 - Mule Deer
 - Elk
 - Moose
 - Reindeer

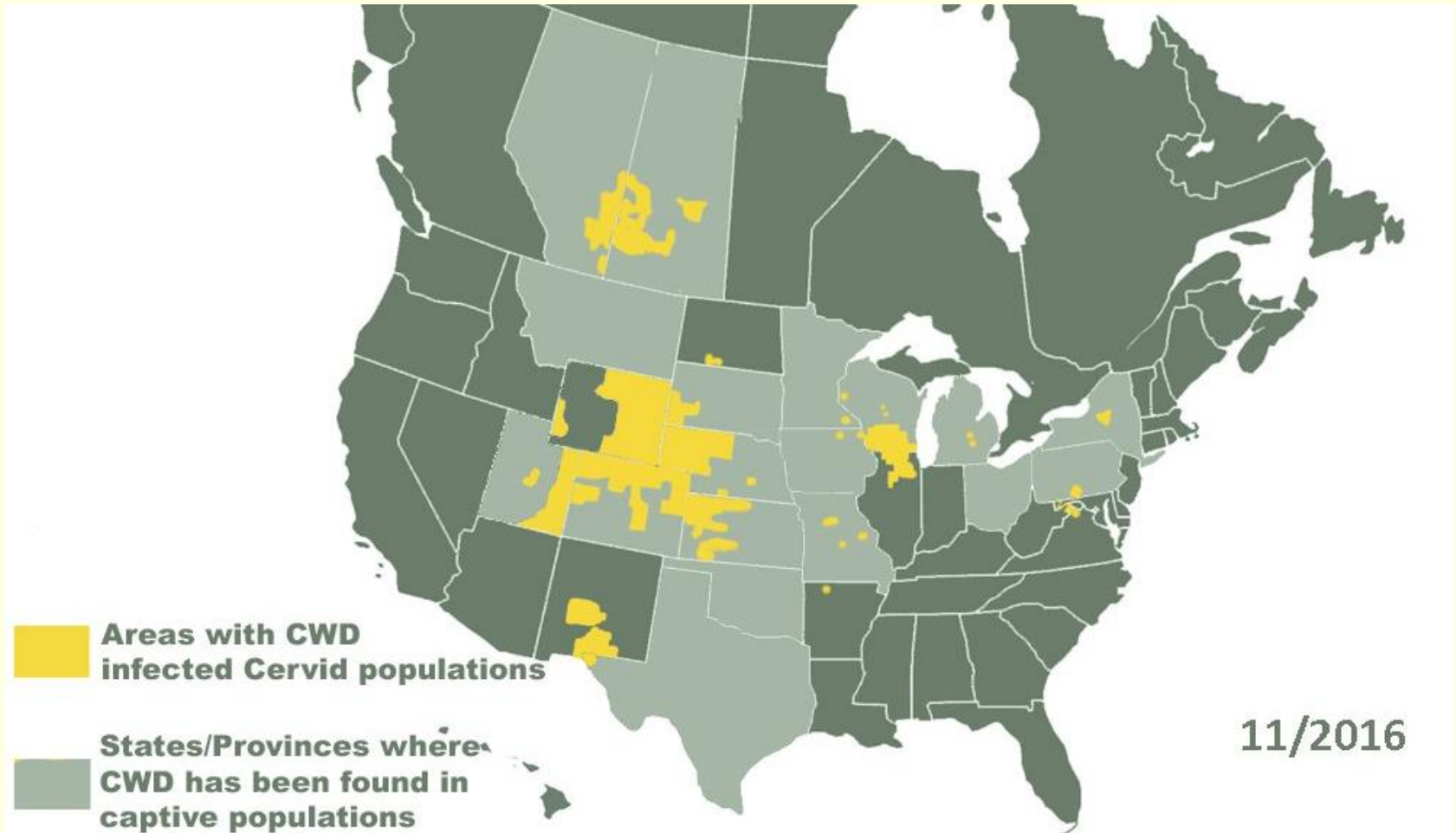


How is it Spread?

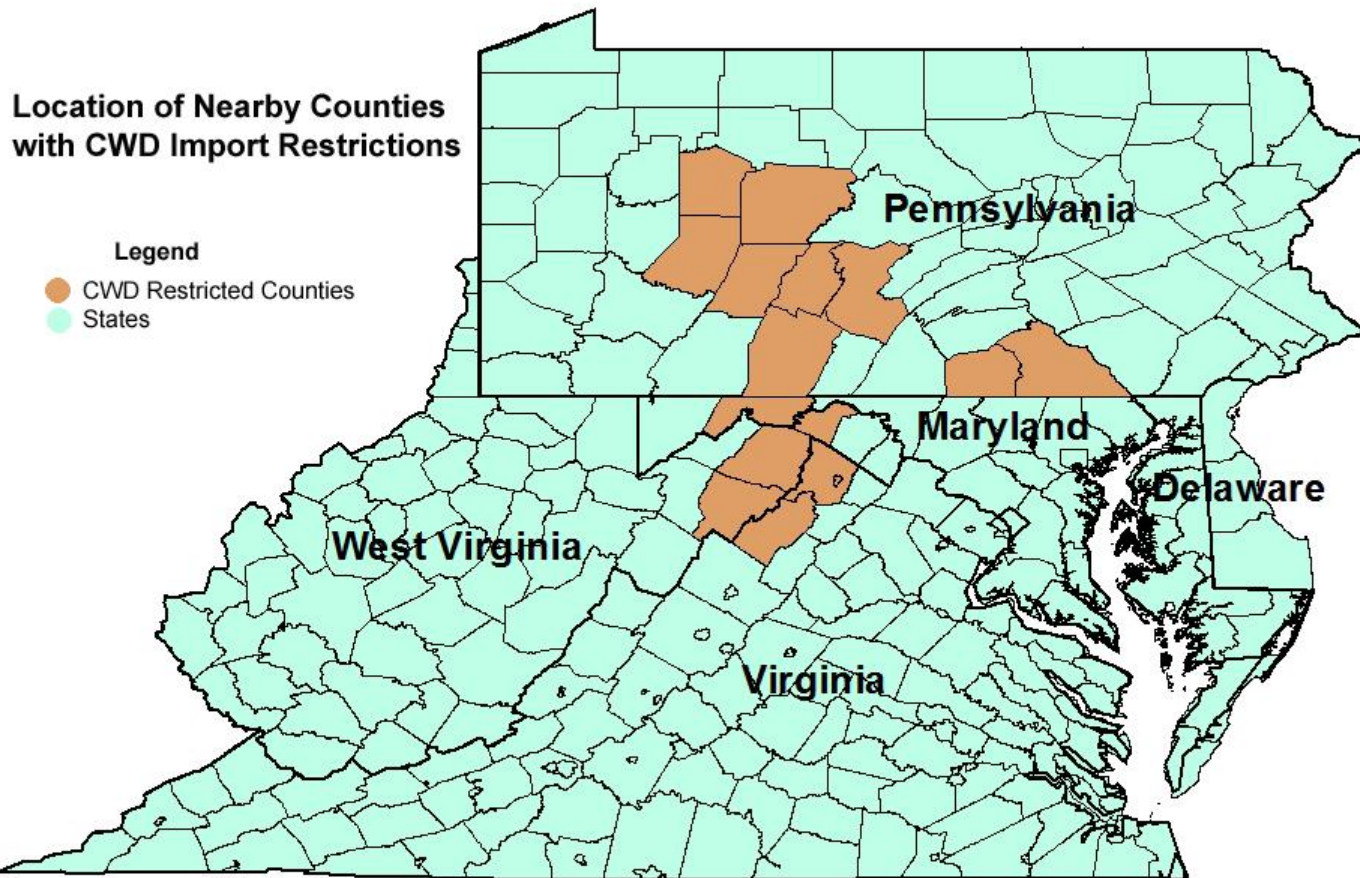
- Not exactly sure, but the prions are very resilient.
- Both Direct (animal to animal) and Indirect (contaminated environment) transmission are possible.



Distribution of CWD



CWD Map for Hunting Guide



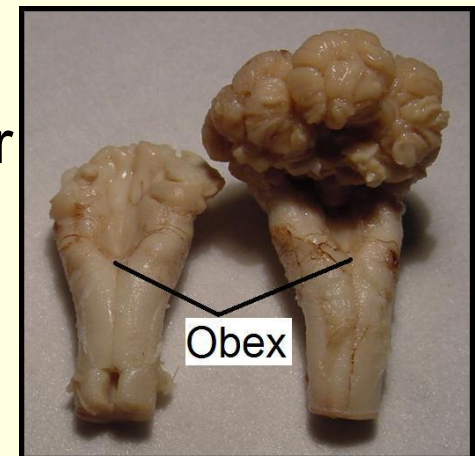
CWD Symptoms

- Droopy Ears
- Emaciated
- Slumped Head
- Lack of Coordination
- Excessive Drinking
- Excessive Urination



Delaware Surveillance

- Began testing in 2003
- 8,642 samples collected
- 600 samples/year
 - 120-300/county
 - Sample Collection Sites
 - Deer Processors
 - Opportunistic Samples
 - Targeted Surveillance of “sick” deer

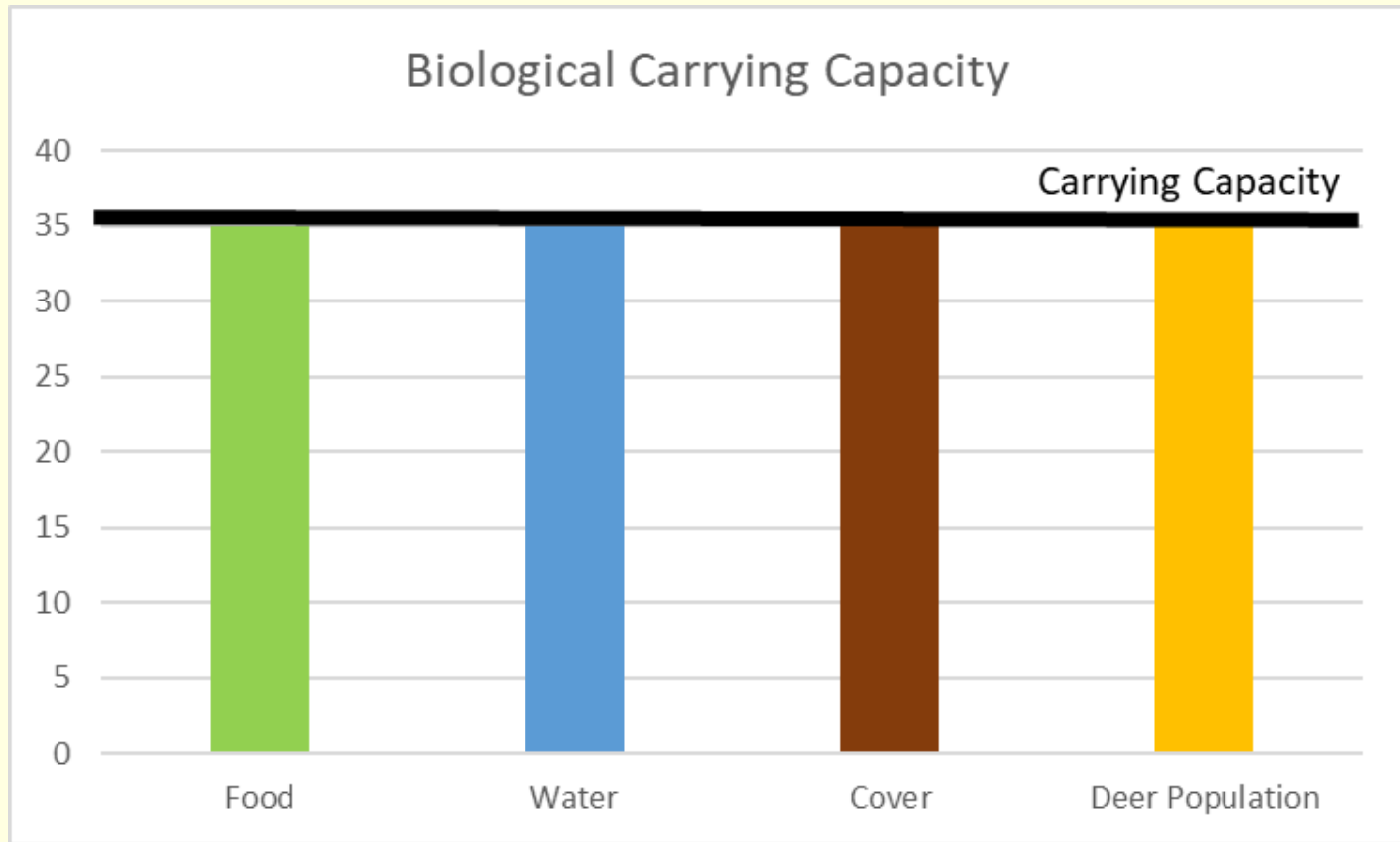


Keeping Delaware Safe

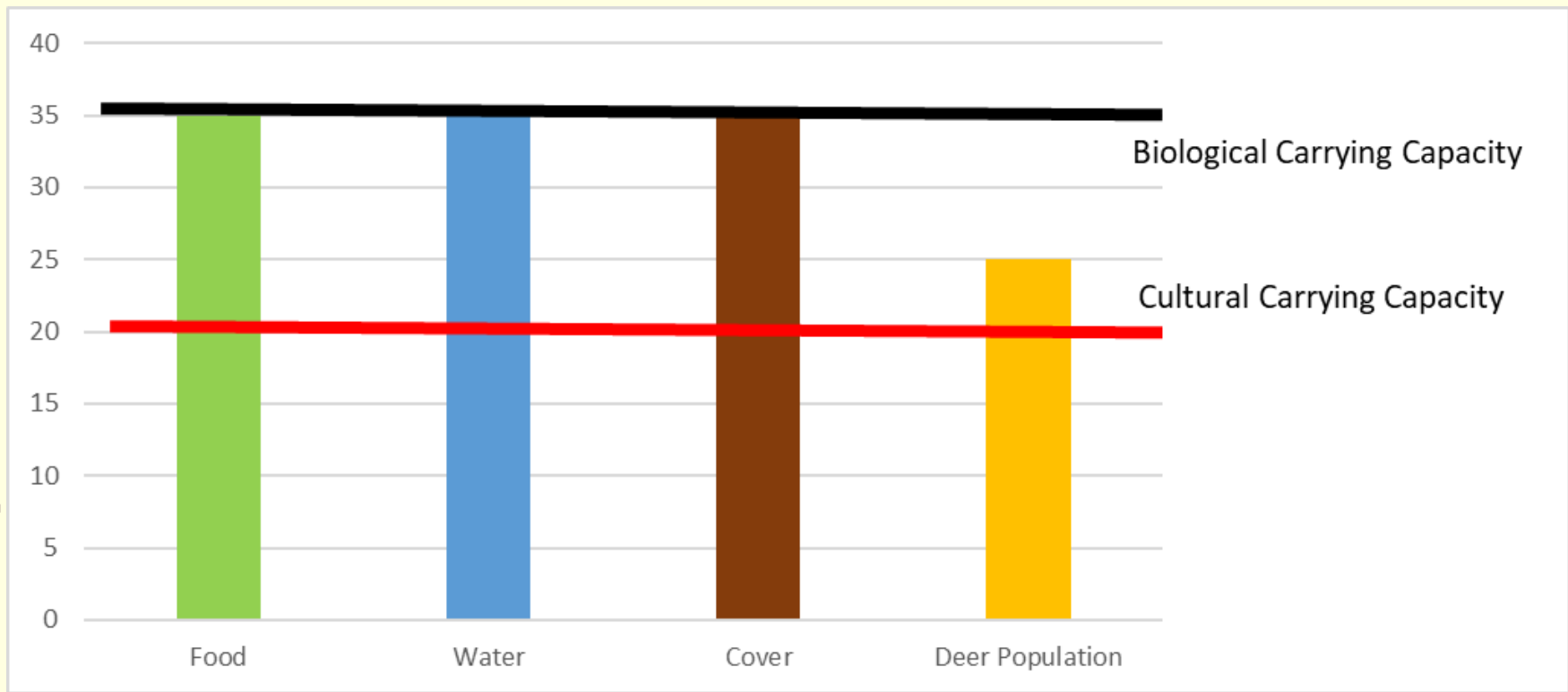
- Continue collecting samples
- Carcass importation ban
- BMPs for using urine as an attractant
- Restrict import of captive cervids



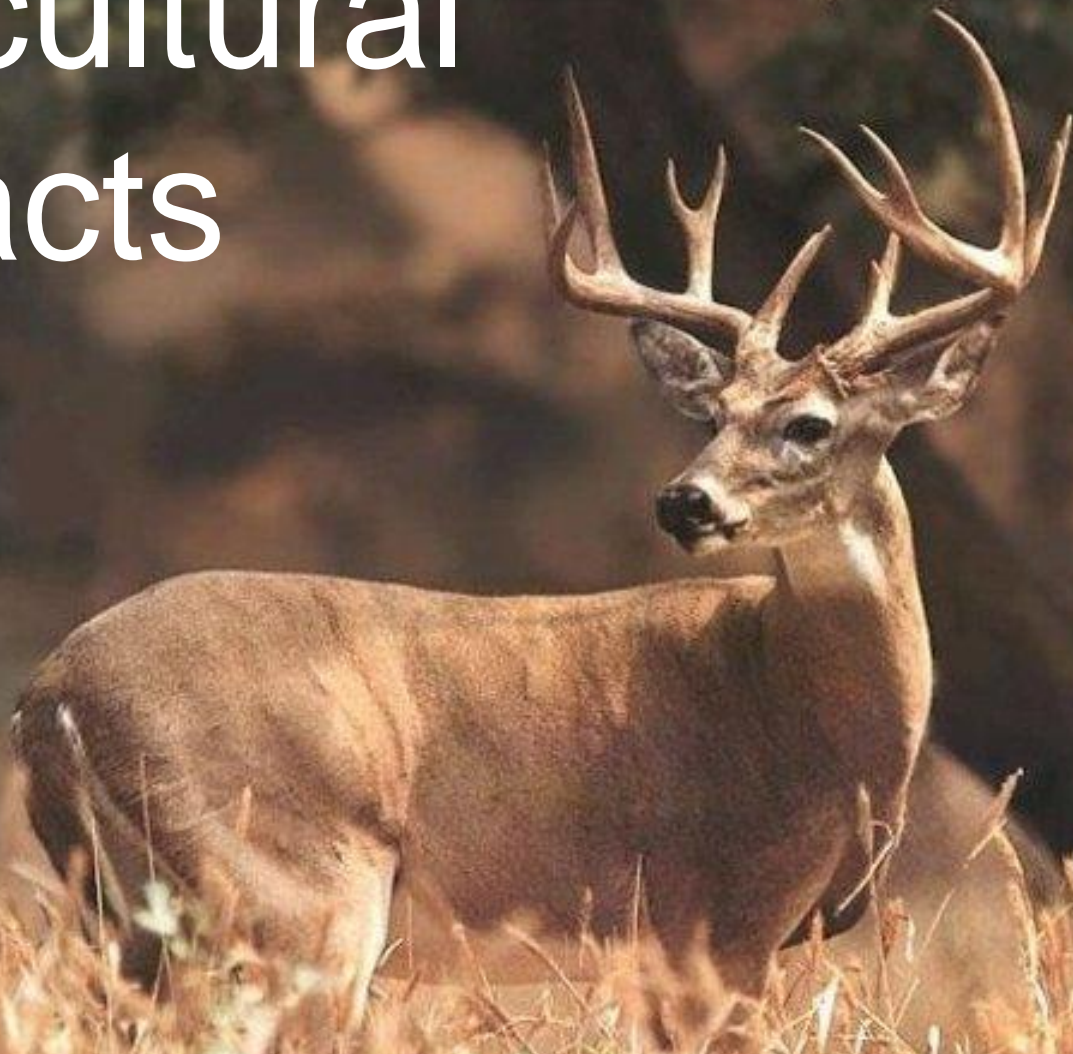
Carrying Capacity



Carrying Capacity



Agricultural Impacts



Impacts to Agriculture

- Two crop damage assistance programs offered to farmers
 - DDAP in 2018: 113 Participants
 - SDDAP in 2018: 313 Participants



Impacts to Agriculture

- Provide additional antlerless tags to farmers
 - Why antlerless?

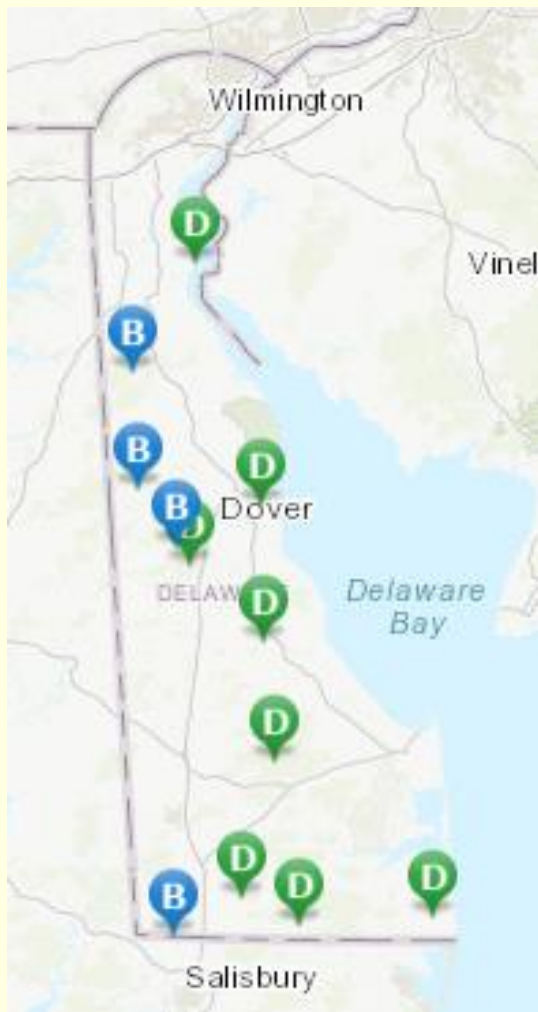


Impacts to Agriculture

- Provide additional antlerless tags to farmers
 - Why antlerless?
 - Females control the trend of a population



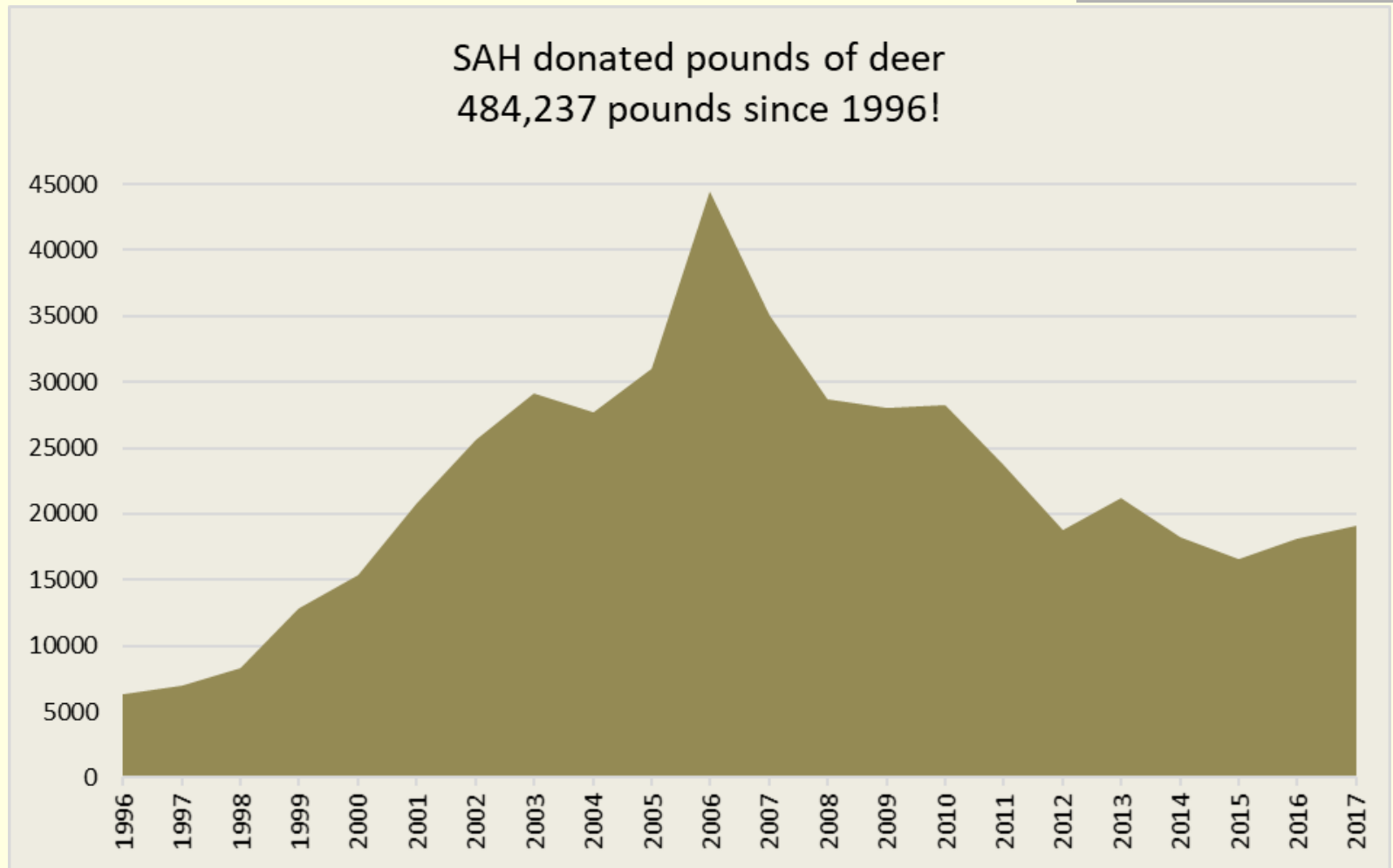
Sportsmen Against Hunger



- Est. 1992
- 8 drop off locations
- 4 participating butchers
- Provide meals to the needy



Sportsmen Against Hunger



Questions?



Contact Information

Division's Website:

<http://www.fw.delaware.gov>

Deer Information:

<http://www.fw.delaware.gov/Hunting/Pages/DeerInfo.aspx>

My contact information:

Eric Ness

(302) 735-3600

