

CWD

Truths & Myths & Facts & Lies

When I was a little boy, America was flooded with Congressional hearings, TV Ads, Magazine Ads, top University professors and Movie Stars telling us that we were going to freeze to death from “Acid Rain”. We saw pictures of children covered in black ash pollution shivering in Eastern Europe and Asia. Exhaust from American cars and industry was said to be killing the air and streams.

40 years later we have the same people telling us that we, and our animals, are going to die from Global Warming. Polar bears will be floating on tiny pieces of ice with no place to go.

There were some facts and truths mixed with those lies and myths. It turns out that only one side of the story was being told for a long time and EVERYONE believed all those facts and MYTHS and truths and LIES. But now there is ‘push back’, and new FACTS are being revealed, and jaded agendas are being exposed along with scandals and more scandals about how the facts of Global Warming have been....twisted. Is that a nice way to say it? What are we to believe?

The CWD dilemma we face today reminds me a lot of the “Acid Rain/Global Warming” debacles. We have a lot of Facts and Truths being mixed with a lot of Myths and Lies. Up to this point there has only been one side of the story being told. Since there has been no ‘push back’ for 55 years....everything they have been saying must be true....right? Times up.... we must WAKE UP and PUSH BACK!

I am just a normal guy working on our 800-acre ranch in Central Texas. I don’t get paid to sit down and research CWD and write articles for magazines. Every now and then I stick my head up and volunteer to help. I’ve been on the boards of 2 deer associations for 8 years and worked with many good people to keep our deer breeding industry alive and vibrant. We’ve faced a lot of challenges over the years, but CWD is the largest. Let me share a little of what I’ve seen in the State of Texas congressional hearings, read in Magazine articles, and heard over national conference calls the last 6 months.

Texas Parks and Wildlife along with distinguished University Biologists and prestigious Wildlife Associations continue to use CWD as their main concern and cornerstone to achieve their agendas. What are those agendas? Who cares....in the end, they all think we are morons. One group wants us to return to the well-respected and certified, “Wildlife Model of 1800’s”. Are you kidding? Since then we have abolished slavery, fought 2 World Wars, women can now vote, we’ve gone to the Moon, and video games have been invented. The last, I think, is the scourge of America. Oh yeah...our population has more than tripled since then. There are now fences and cities everywhere! And they want to bring up some ancient Wildlife

Model that was developed almost 200 years ago. They are Deer Darwins. Utilizing their prestigious Universities and PhD's to make bold claims of their beliefs to the little people below. They propose we roll back time and history. It ain't happenin! Again...the population has more than tripled. Land fragmentation and urban sprawl is the biggest threat to wildlife today. Not CWD and not Deer Breeding..... Period!

The other Agencies and Associations treat us like we are all outlaws and should be perceived and treated as guilty until proven innocent. Bank robbers and Rapist have more civil rights than Deer Breeders. Our industry is continually described and portrayed as one full of lawbreakers. I heard a presentation by a respected leader of Texas Parks and Wildlife department with facts and figures that made my head spin. I didn't know that so many violations had been perpetrated by so many Deer Breeders. They portrayed that almost 50+% of the Deer Breeding industry was involved; the number of violations vs. the number of Deer Breeders. The following presentation a few minutes later by the President of the TDA set the story straight with the facts. Only a tiny handful of people had been accused of all those violations. Almost none were ever found guilty. Evil acts like 'No Tags in some Ears' and wrong paperwork. The Agency had perpetrated a fraudulent perception of Deer Breeders and continues to misrepresent us again and again?

I am discouraged to see article after article written in respected Outdoor Magazines and Newspapers across America spreading the Myths and Lies of CWD with conviction. I am discouraged listening to respected Wildlife Associations spread the same bilge. They have all drank the Kool-Aid together. They've heard only one story for 55 years...it must be true!

I've recently listened to deer breeders in other States going through incredible ordeals because a couple of deer were found with CWD. We heard from Deer Breeders in States that were run by the department of Ag, and some that were run by the Department of Wildlife. Some breeders had won the right in their State to privatize their herds and it made no difference. They all faced huge challenges from their State Agencies. CWD is the bullet these agencies were shooting with. These various state agencies had scared their legislators with fear and ½ truths and convinced the government to give them new powers to control the CWD contagion.

There is NO CWD CONTAGION!

One...only one side of the story is being told since 1967. You hear a story for 55 years over and over again and it must be true. However, I find a lot of these people lately remind me of my dear ole dad. He told hunting stories and each time he told them the bucks got bigger and bigger. These people are making more and more ridiculous claims on CWD and there is NO ONE pushing back with facts.

First...let's look at their concern....Whitetail Deer. They are not on the endangered species list, there are more deer in America today than ever 55 Years after the CWD

contagion was found! If CWD were so damn powerful, then there should be NO deer left in America. Let's put things in perspective.

These facts are from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety Statistics.

FACT: There are 1,500,000 car accidents every year involving deer. That is 4,109 car/deer accidents EVERY DAY.

FACT: There are 29,000 human injuries in these car/deer accidents each year. That is 78 people injured EVERY DAY.

FACT: There are 200 people die from car/deer accidents every year. That is one American citizen EVERY 2 DAYS that DIE from hitting deer in the street or on the highway. FACT: \$1.1 billion dollars in damages from car/deer accidents each year. Over \$3 million dollars EVERY DAY in financial damages paid by American citizens.

And we are concerned about 2 mule deer found in far West Texas with CWD! Are you kidding me! There is no common sense in this hysteria. "We have tested more than 26,500 (\$2,650,000) wild deer in Texas since 2002, and the captive-deer industry has submitted more than 7,400 (\$740,000) CWD test results as well, said Mitch Lockwood, Big Game Program Director with TPWD. Only 2 deer tested positive in Far West Texas." That is a 0.000059 percentage of infection. You do the math. It's so small I don't know why were even discussing it, much less trying to shut down one of the largest rural and agricultural businesses in the State with proposed new regulations and typical over reaction.

FACT: 0 people have died from CWD since 1967. ZERO. NONE in 55 years!

Approximately 150,000,000 (that's 150 million for you Deer Breeders) deer have been harvested since 1967 and NO PEOPLE HAVE DIED from CWD. NONE HAVE BECOME SICK from CWD.

FUNNY FACT: The Verona Fire Department served venison during a fund raiser years ago. It was later revealed that the deer had CWD. The press scarred the hell out of everyone. Panic was created. Blah, blah, blah. I called the Fire Department recently and asked them how many people had died from eating their dinner. They laughed and said NONE. I asked how many people got sick and went to the hospital. They laughed again and said NONE.

Testing is an interesting subject. Tens of thousands of innocent deer have been killed and tested for CWD. How many more innocent deer will die to satisfy their curiosity in the worst wildlife holocaust perpetrated in the name of health and science in American history? We harvest deer at our ranch each year and hunters go home with venison and tales of their trophy. But we don't just go around killing thousands of them so that we can test them for CWD. Because the only approved test for CWD is sending their decapitated heads in to a lab for testing. There are other tests that have great success rates, higher than most bovine success test rates approved by the government, and those test do not kill the deer. But for some strange reason, that is not good enough for our precious whitetail deer. But why? It's sufficient testing success for cattle, goats, pigs, horses, sheep, but not for

whitetail deer. All logic leaves this conversation. Why kill the deer? And why blame the Deer Breeding industry? Makes you think doesn't it?

There are some great questions to ask. How long did all these deer live after found with positive CWD results? Don't know because they are all instantly shot dead. What was the positive infection rate of other deer in the herd? Don't know because they are all instantly shot dead. What was the average age of the deer that died from CWD? Don't know because they were all instantly shot dead. One thing is for sure, more deer die in the name of testing, than will ever die from the disease.

A recent deer hunter came to our ranch. Upon his arrival he asked me several questions. He had received a letter from Texas Parks and Wildlife. He was concerned and confused. His family of 4 almost canceled their hunting trip from Arkansas to Texas because they didn't want to get CWD. The letter he had received from the State of Texas was confusing, but one thing was for sure, he didn't want to take home any deer meat from Texas. He might shoot a trophy buck and have it mounted by a Texas taxidermist, but he didn't want to get arrested for taking a deer out of the State of Texas into Arkansas. We called our local game warden and asked about a letter sent out by Texas Parks and Wildlife. He was not aware of one. But the hunters' wife was shaking her head in agreement as she read the same letter and did not bring their children for fear of catching CWD. Oh, my goodness! Congratulations guys for scaring the hell out of the general public, deer hunters and State legislators. I tried to convince them for days that they would not catch CWD, but they donated their meat to the hungry Texans to eat and die.

When all is said and done, this is a Political disease and not the 'Deer Contagion' that has been foretold by our Deer Darwins. Since there is so little REALLY known about CWD, almost anything can be said and it sticks. Agendas are promoted, budget money is raised, and power is given to those that wish to employ their will upon the private land owners of America.

Our legislative period approaches soon in Texas and we need to WAKE UP and PUSH BACK. Real Facts need to be presented to everyone. We are developing a short term and long term strategy to combat the CWD Myths. Professional videos and TV shows are already being produced and Magazine ads being published, that will tell OUR SIDE OF THE STORY. Real facts and common sense data must be shared with all Americans....NOW! This is not just a Texas fight, but an American fight. It will cost money and we need to all stand up and help. If we all pitch in a bit, then we can achieve our goals. There will be fund raisers at numerous auctions in early 2013 and we must utilize those opportunities to organize our strategies and raise the necessary funds. Enough is enough. We must WAKE UP and PUSH BACK.