

October 8th, 2 pm - Chronic Wasting Disease Management Update and Mass Livestock Disposal Challenges

Speakers



Michelle Carstensen, PhD, Acting Wildlife Research Manager, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Michelle has a B.S. in Animal Science from Cornell University (Ithaca, NY), and a M.S. and Ph.D. in wildlife conservation from the University of Minnesota (St. Paul, MN). Since 2004, she has been employed with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, and currently serves as the division's Wildlife Health Program Supervisor and is *acting* Wildlife Research Manager. Michelle and her team are responsible for disease management of the state's wildlife populations and has coordinated surveillance efforts for a number of diseases including chronic wasting disease, bovine tuberculosis, and avian influenza.

Lucia Hunt, Acting Director, Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Lucia Hunt graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a BS in Entomology and Conservation Biology. With that background, she was the first program manager for Ohio's emergency Emerald Ash Borer response before coming to Minnesota to manage the gypsy moth program at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. In 2014, Lucy earned her Master's in Public Administration and changed course from life science to earth science, managing the 24/7 On Call Team as they responded to pesticide and fertilizer spills, fish kills, and the improper disposal of ag chemicals.

In 2015, Lucy responded to Minnesota's Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreak, filling several critical roles on the Incident Management Team. Since that introduction to the convergence of emergency response and foreign animal diseases, she has assisted the Department's Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response by building and training an IMT, supporting agricultural industry preparedness planning and exercises, and most recently, acting as Incident Commander for the state's agricultural response to livestock supply chain disruptions due to Covid-19. She is now the acting Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Heidi Kroening, Compliance and Enforcement State Supervisor, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Heidi has worked for the MPCA since 1993. She worked for the Lake Superior Initiative in regards to hazardous waste issues with small businesses. Then moved into the Hazardous Waste Compliance and Enforcement program for 5 years. Then after that moved into the best program in the Agency...Solid Waste. She never left.