TURKEY

Continued from Page B1

A turkey shot with a muzzleloader is only halfsmoked. On Christmas Eve, I took the bird out of the freezer, skinless and boneless, and let it sit in a brine for 24 hours. On Christmas Day, I took the bird out, scored it with a knife and coated it with pineapple/

roasted garlic Justy's Jelly. With the dark meat and jelly folded inside, the bird, wrapped in bacon, bound with string and coated with olive oil, went inside the Camp Chef pellet grill into a haze of maple, apple and hickory smoke.

We kept the juices in and let the jelly and bacon blend with that true wild flavor and tender meat. It took an hour and a half for the internal meat probe to

read 165 degrees, which is the magic number.

Speculation before Thanksgiving this year was that supply chain disruptions were making it harder to buy a Butterball. According to the USDA, frozen turkey inventories were 24% below their three-year average volumes.

Not so in the oaks and pine forests of Northeastern Oregon. From the first of December through the end of January, a hunter can use a fall turkey tag on private lands. Hunters may purchase tags through the end of the season.

That's how to smoke a turkey.

Gary Lewis is the author of Fishing Central Oregon and Oregon Lake Maps and Fishing Guide and other titles. To contact Gary, visit www.garylewisoutdoors.com.



Gary Lewis/Contributed Photo

Part of the challenge of hunting with a muzzleloader is tailoring the load to the task then patterning it at the range.

DISEASE

Continued from Page B1

Lab at odfw.wildlifehealth@odfw. oregon.gov or 866-968-2600 if you see an animal with the symptoms described.

OUTDOORS & REC

Hunters should not shoot a deer or elk that appears sick. If you find evidence of disease after you have shot it, ODFW veterinarians recommend that you do not eat the meat and call your local ODFW biologist.

What steps will ODFW take if

an animal tests positive? Unfortunately, there is no vaccine, treatment or cure for CWD and no effective way to eradicate it once it is established in a population. But if CWD is detected in Oregon, ODFW will further increase testing of deer and elk in that area to gain a better understanding of the prevalence and distribution of the disease. Knowing where the disease exists will help ODFW target monitoring and sampling efforts and control the disease's prevalence.

"Reducing the density of animals in infected populations slows the spread of the disease, particularly by culling older animals as they tend to have a higher prevalence due to more time and opportunity to come in contact with the disease," Gillin said. "Adult males also have higher prevalence due to their behaviors such as licking, grooming, bachelor groups, and breeding behavior."

If CWD is detected in Oregon, emergency regulations may be needed — including special carcass disposal rules — to avoid prions being left on the landscape or testing of all hunter-harvested deer and elk in infected hunt areas.

States with CWD infected animals have not seen large population



Wyoming Fish and Game/Contributed Photo

An elk with late-stage Chronic Wasting Disease showing typical symptoms (drooling, carrying head low, exaggerated wide posture). In most cases, it is difficult to determine if an animal has CWD until it is tested because the disease takes months to several years to cause clinical symptoms and eventual death.

declines in their deer and elk populations, Gillin said. But research indicates declines may be possible if there is high prevalence of the disease — another reason why limiting the occurrence of CWD in the population will be important even though the disease can't be eradicated.

Roadkill sampling resumes, mandatory check stations in 2022

When the Oregon legislature passed a law allowing the salvage of roadkilled deer and elk a few years ago, an administrative rule also required that salvaged animal heads be brought to ODFW offices for CWD testing. Research indicates animals with CWD are less likely to be able to avoid an approaching vehicle, making them good candidates to test for the disease.

Mandatory roadkill check-in requirement has temporarily been limited to male deer and elk since March 2020 due to COVID-related office closures. With state offices set to reopen Jan. 3, 2022, surrender of heads from all salvaged deer and elk will again be required for testing as described in the permanent rules. Anyone who salvages a deer or elk will be required to bring in the head and antlers to an ODFW office within five days for testing.

House Bill 3152, a bill introduced by the Oregon Hunters Association and passed by the 2021 Legislature, requires that anyone transporting harvested wildlife or parts of harvested wildlife stop at a check station, if they encounter one, beginning in 2022. Additional information and rule language will be available prior to the fall hunting season when ODFW expects to host mandatory check stations again.

For more information on CWD in Oregon, go to https://myodfw. com/CWD or the CWD Alliance.



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Group Meetings

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NOCC - Nazarene Church 1250 Hughes Ln. • Baker City (541)519-7227 or (541)239-7323

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 Buck Stops Here Joseph United Methodist Church, 12 pm 301 S. Lake St., Joseph (Church Basement)

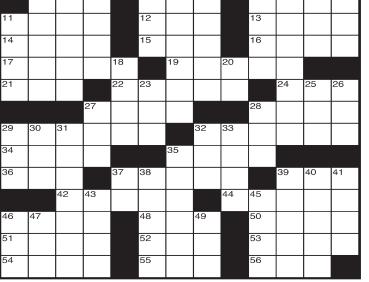
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