



# CEHA

## POINT SOURCE

SUMMER 2002

### Colorado Environmental Health Association

www.cehawebsite.com

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*Colorado Environmental Health Association*

*35th Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition*



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**Manor Vail Resort**

The CEHA Board has reduced the registration price for the 2002 Annual Education Conference for everyone. *The registration fee for existing members has been reduced from \$125 to \$60, and the registration for non-members has been reduced from \$155 to \$125.*

**Room rates at the Manor Vail Resort are:**

- ★ \$75.00 per night for a hotel room (1 to 2 people)
- ☆ \$85.00 per night for a studio condo (1 to 3 people)  
This is your best buy!
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Rooms will be held at this low price until September 6, 2002.

Room rates increase after August 30<sup>th</sup> and there is no guarantee that a room will be available!

Call 1-800-950-8245 to make your room reservation. For more information on the Manor Vail Resort visit [www.manorvail.com](http://www.manorvail.com)

All members will be receiving a copy of the A.E.C. Registration Brochure soon with more information!!

### Legal Limitations for Environmental Health

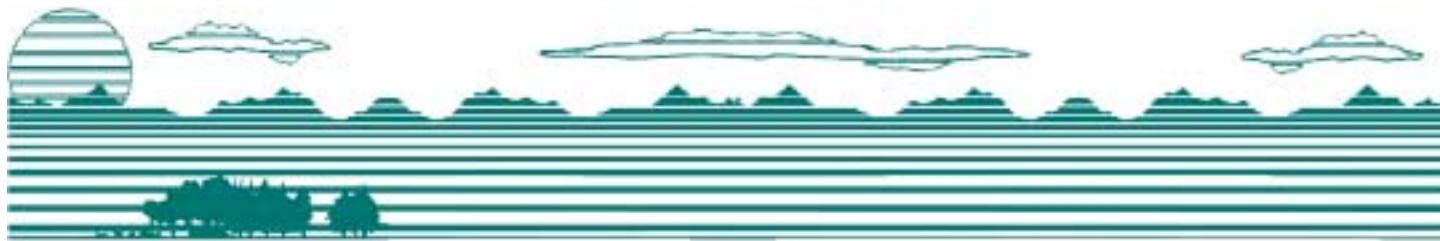
October 2, 2002

What are the legal limitations for the many programs in environmental health? How far can Health Departments legally pursue individuals that are disposing hazardous waste or sewage improperly on properties, selling un-safe foods, or discharging high amounts of contaminated air? Experts from the Colorado Attorney Generals Office, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, and a Private Attorney will be present to lead discussions on all aspects of these issues. Following will be a panel discussion for a Q&A period.

Seeya Soon  
Tom Gonzales

IN THIS ISSUE  
Expanded Coverage of this  
year's AEC

- Legal Limitations
- Onsite Waste Water Treatment Systems
- Food Protection
- Zoonosis
- Disease Outbreaks
- General Environmental Health
- Letter From President
- Chronic Wasting Disease



## LETTER FROM THE CEHA PRESIDENT

***Welcome to our PointSource Newsletter issue dedicated to the 2002 AEC in Vail Colorado October 2nd through 4th, 2002.***

Many of you know the foundation of environmental health has no doubt been shaken this year with the General Fund line item budget veto. This was made clear while listening to powerful testimonies from local agency directors at the May 15th Colorado State Board of Health meeting. Most of these agencies and their employees, many CEHA members, will begin making tough choices about department direction, objectives, and unfortunately program cuts. This will be a difficult time to manage, and will challenge the best of our leadership abilities.

The CEHA Board has switched into high gear regarding the AEC this year, and we have strengthened our resolve to bring our members the most effective training in the shortest timeframe possible. The quality of our agenda this year is stronger than ever. From a panel of legal expert to explore both sides of environmental health (county and public rights) to our OWTS and Food Safety tracks, we are proud to make this conference a successful priority.

No matter what the circumstance, our Health Professionals must have continuing education. As a result, our board has committed to making numerous adjustments for members who may have been bound financially from attending. Listed below are a few of the barriers we have removed in light of the budget issue.

\* Reduced Full Conference Registration from \$125.00 to \$60.00. We will solicit \$7000 dollars from our Sustaining Members and other grants to make this possible. \$5000 has already been secured, and we are confident the balance will come through.

- \* Provide inexpensive lodging for attendees. Suites for \$85.00 per night have been negotiated which sleeps up to three. Lodging in Vail as low as \$28.00 per person makes attending hard to pass up.
- \* Developed a message board on the CEHAWEB.COM website. This allows smaller agency employees to access our website and look for partners to room with during the conference. This service is found on cehaweb.com and by locating the "Find an AEC roommate" tab under the on-line discussion tab.
- \* No decrease in other services expected by our members such as agenda topics, training programs, exhibitors attendance and breaks (we have unlimited coffee this year too). Also, meal selection and entertainment are again top quality (Industry this year will win the volleyball tournament just prior to our Awards Banquet and live Band).

Budget cuts bring challenges to CEHA this year, just as September 11th did during our 2001 AEC. Our promise to the membership is one of letting nothing stand in our way of the CEHA mission of health professional improvement.

Please make self-investment a priority by attending this conference. You are welcome to contact any of our board members via email to ask questions about this AEC. We sure would appreciate your support this year, and look forward to seeing you all soon! Thank you!

Dale M. Dunnells - CEHA President  
Ddunnells@cehaweb.com



Colorado Environmental  
Health Association,  
Annual Education  
Conference  
Colorado Disease Outbreaks  
Update Track

The Colorado Disease Outbreaks Update Track will occur in the morning of October 4, 2002. This session will inform attendees of various disease outbreaks that have occurred throughout Colorado since last year's conference. Presenters and topics include: Gina Oswald and Peter Kates, Denver County: outbreak from a large catered event, Lori Siedelman and Cheryl Darnell, Weld County: Shigella outbreak from a recreational water fountain, Ginny Linza, Chafee County: Large catered event outbreak handled by two inspectors, Alicia Cronquist, CDPHE: Salmonella in Green Grapes and Pseudomonas in Spa Body Wraps, Laura Dippold, Tri-County: C. Perfringens outbreak at a catered event at DIA and a Norwalk-like virus outbreak at a church Thanksgiving dinner. This track will be a very exciting learning experience and update on the diseases affecting the people of Colorado.

AEC Food Tract Speakers

The speakers for the food tract at this year's AEC presents an awesome lineup:

- Chuck Henry - CDPHE, and Mario Seminar - FDA, both giving us updates on what is going on with food safety at the State and Federal level
- Jill Dodsden - Decade Software, talking on computer applications for all areas
- Angel Scheuerman - Jefferson County, discussing palm pilot inspections
- Virlie Walker - FDA, going over the Salt Lake City Olympics
- Jim Stewart - AutoChlor, explaining dish machine problems
- Mary Schroeder - State Extension Service, discussing training tips
- Dennis Hall - McDonalds talking on the McDonalds way to food protection
- Mandy Kavarick - Darden's (red lobster), talking on the Darden's way to food safety

I feel we have a good mix of industry and regulatory, and am real excited to hear these speakers.

Lyle E. Moore Jr., REHS



Showoff Your County at the  
SILENT AUCTION

One of the activities at the AEC is the silent auction. Local health departments, industry representatives and higher education institutions donate items for the auction. All earnings are placed in CEHA's scholarship fund for students in the field of Environmental Health, Environmental Studies, and Public Health. All donations are tax deductible.

Last year's silent auction generated more then \$900!! The Board of Directors have set a goal of \$1,000 for this year's silent auction.

Please bring a sample of your area to help meet this goal! If your county is best known for its peaches or its college why not share with the rest of the state?

Kindest Regards,

Tom Gonzales  
President-Elect




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## General Environmental Health Session October 4, 2002

Travel to Papua New Guinea and realize what you do in the field of Environmental Health counts no matter where you are! Learn how to trouble shoot those complicated air quality issues. Then sit back and take in the new technology in chemistry and learn how to do big chemistry with little tools! We'll wrap up the session by giving you the latest updates on School Chemistry labs and what to expect from CDPHE! And we still have a surprise speaker, yet to be announced! You can't beat the price for so much information in the beautiful setting of Vail! We look forward to seeing you!

Seeya There  
Tracy Volkman

## CEHA AEC REGISTRATION UPDATE

The AEC is only 3 months away and the committee has been working hard to once again provide our members with a high quality conference. In order to make registration run smoothly, there have been a couple of changes made in our registration policy.

The committee requests that a check (either an agency or personal) be included with all pre-registration forms sent to CEHA. We ask that no checks be brought to the conference unless you are actually a late registrant and will be paying at the door (see AEC brochure for cut off dates for registration and late fee changes). This makes it easier on those people involved with registration and provides CEHA with the money to pay the hotel for conference meals. Once the meal count is given to the hotel, CEHA is obligated to pay the costs, whether or not someone attends.


Also, all registrations and checks are to be mailed to the CEHA, P.O. Box 460726, Glendale, CO 80246.

Thanks for your cooperation and we hope to see you all at a GREAT conference!

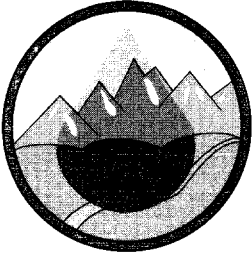
## Annual Education Conference Volleyball Tournament

What better reason do you need to come to the 2002 AEC then the opportunity to go face to face against fellow environmental health professionals in a winner take all volleyball tournament? There will be prizes for the top teams and don't forget the traveling trophy, Wilson, from the hit show "Castaway". Each year the competition has grown and we expect even more teams this year. In the 2 years the tournament has been played mountain teams have taken the top prize. The Summit County team took the prize in 1999. In 2001 the Mountain Power team of Carla Block, Sean Lieske, Dale Tanda and Jeanette Whitcomb brought Wilson home. Will there be a team from the flatlands that can take it this year or will the mountain folks take it again? Look for the volleyball signup poster at the registration area when you check in for the AEC and start practicing to be the top team.

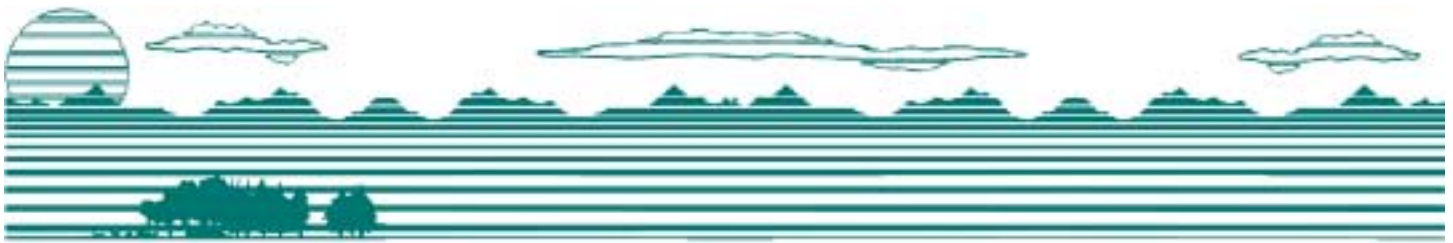
Paul Klug



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## CEHA 2002 AEC Exhibitor Registration Form

### *Manor Vail. October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2002*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Is your organization a current CEHA Sustaining Member? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Website Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enroll us now for saving on Conference Exhibit Fees.**  
**CEHA Sustaining Annual Membership = \$180.00**

Exhibitor Registration Fees	CEHA Members	Non-Members
Full Conference Exhibit Oct. 2,3 & 4. Includes one 6' Table and two chairs	No Charge	\$180.00
Additional 6' Table Power Supply – 110Volt \$25.00	No Charge No Charge	\$30.00 \$25.00
Wednesday Lunch - \$14.00ea. Specify Vegetarian	14.00 x _____ ea. = \$ _____	20.00 x _____ ea. = \$ _____
Wednesday Dinner	On Your Own	On Your Own
Thursday Lunch – 14.00ea Specify Vegetarian	14.00 x _____ ea. = . \$ _____	20.00 x _____ ea. = \$ _____
Thursday Banquet - \$30.00ea Prime Rib _____ Vegetarian _____ Salmon _____	30.00 x _____ ea. = \$ _____	40.00 x _____ ea. = \$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed	\$ _____	\$ _____

**Please send Registration forms to:**

**Dale M. Dunnells**  
**11862 West 56<sup>th</sup> Circle**  
**Arvada, Colorado 80002**  
**Ddunnells@cehawe.com / 303.463.8283 phone / 303.463.8284 fax**

Exhibitor hours to be announced.

Please make checks payable to The Colorado Environmental Health Association

Registration can be mailed to above address or faxed to the above fax number.

Sustaining Memberships valid from January through December.



## Environmental Problem Solving: Addressing Mercury Impacts on Health and the Environment

Over the past year, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has been developing an approach to solve unconventional environmental problems. This structured effort is referred to as Environmental Problem Solving (EPS) and is a systematic process to identify and analyze a particular issue, measure the impact(s), and tailor an appropriate solution.

An EPS area of public health concern and CDPHE focus is mercury. Mercury is a naturally occurring metal found throughout the environment. Some of this mercury originates from natural sources while some is released to the environment as a result of human activity. Mercury is often found in household and commercial products and is released from coal-fired power plants, mining activities, industrial sources, hospitals, dental offices, schools, and many other sources. Due to its presence in Colorado's water, air, soil, and living organisms (e.g., fish), this cross-media pollutant affects air, water, solid waste, hazardous waste, and consumer protection programs. Mercury releases to the environment are difficult to address due to the multiplicity of diffuse low-level sources, the cumulative impacts of emissions, and the transport from distant sources which contribute to global and local atmospheric pools.

The toxic effects of mercury have been shown to have long-lasting health effects. Human exposure to mercury has been linked to nervous system, kidney and liver damage, impaired childhood development, and cancer. Due to its toxicity, mercury remains among the highest priority toxics for U.S. EPA

reduction and elimination efforts. CDPHE is initiating this project to vigorously address mercury releases and exposures in order to fulfill our commitment to protect and preserve the health and environment of the people of Colorado.

Major EPS project areas for reducing mercury emissions and impacts include:

- \* A public education and outreach initiative for Colorado residents and others;
- \* A pollution prevention effort which will focus on medical and dental practices;
- \* A consumer approach to reach wholesale contractors who work with mercury-containing devices (e.g., thermostats), and;
- \* The development of a specific program to reduce mercury emissions from an area steel mill.

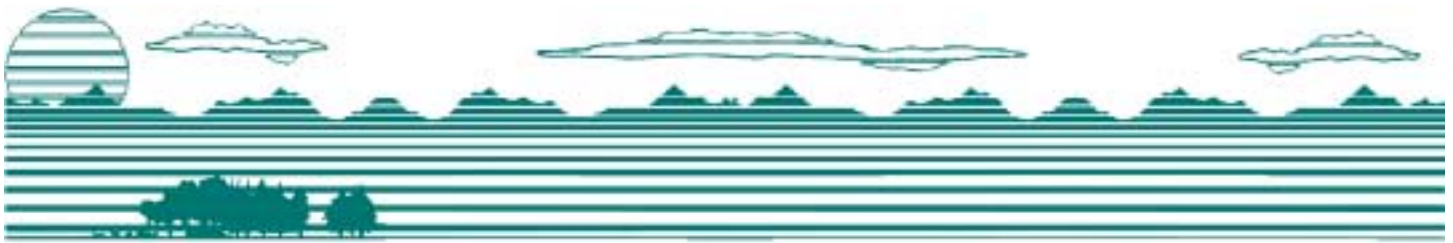
CDPHE is currently seeking assistance and insight from local agencies. If you or someone in your agency is interested in working on any of these novel mercury projects or if you would like to learn more about CDPHE efforts to reduce mercury emissions and impacts, please contact Mark McMillan of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment at 303-692-3140 or via email at [mark.mcmillan@state.co.us](mailto:mark.mcmillan@state.co.us).

## EnviroFest 3

The third annual EnviroFest will be held on Thursday September 19, 2002. EnviroFest is an opportunity to network and mingle with others interested in environmental stewardship in Colorado. The chief activity of the event is to promote an information exchange between participants through poster presentations, table displays, and personal contact at the meeting. Last year was a success with John Fielder as the keynote speaker and 175 people in attendance. This year's speaker will be former Colorado Governor Dick Lamm highlighting the theme of "Environmental Stewardship - Our Responsibility for the Future."

The event will be held at the newly renovated Red Lion Inn (Quebec and I-70) and will begin at 5:30PM. A registration fee of \$25 will be charged and food and refreshments will be provided. Students are encouraged to attend at a reduced rate of \$20. For more information, contact John Grosskopf at 303-660-8988 or via email at [grosskopf@worldnet.att.net](mailto:grosskopf@worldnet.att.net). Please come and join your peers in this unique networking event!

Mark McMillan, MS, CTM/CL



## Call for Articles

This newsletter is published by the Colorado Environmental Health Association by, and for our membership.

We request the submittal of articles on programs, research, and/or updates dealing with environmental health for inclusion in the newsletter. We will review all information for publication in our next newsletter. *Deadline for submittal is November 1, 2002.*

Send articles to Peter Kates  
 Peter.Kates@ci.denver.co.us



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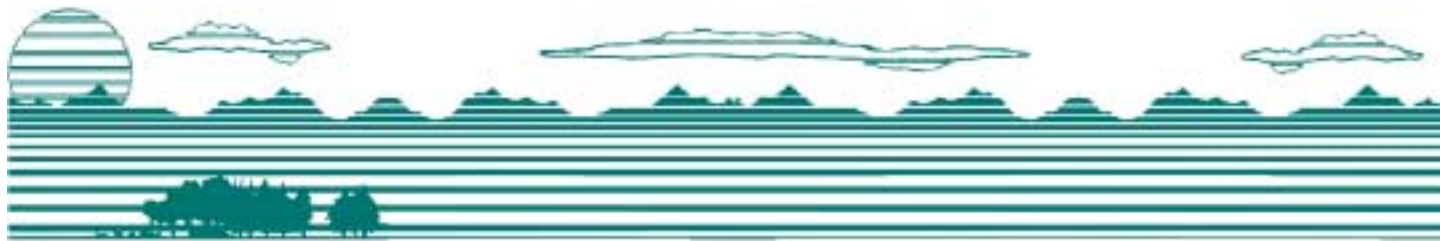
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(Editor's Note: this information was obtained with the permission of the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Further information can be found on their web-site at: <http://wildlife.state.co.us>)

## Chronic Wasting Disease

### What is it?

Chronic wasting disease is a fatal neurological disease found in deer and elk. It belongs to a family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies or prion diseases. The disease attacks the brains of infected deer and elk, causing the animals to become emaciated, display abnormal behavior, lose bodily functions and die. Besides being found in wild deer and elk, the disease has been found in captive deer and elk in five states and two Canadian provinces.

### Public Health Concerns

Epidemiologists with the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta and epidemiologists at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment have studied chronic wasting disease and found no link between it and any neurological disease that affects humans. Health officials, however, advise hunters not to consume meat from animals known to be infected with the disease. In addition, they suggest hunters take simple precautions (as listed BELOW) when field dressing deer or elk taken in areas where the disease is found.

### Where is the Disease Found?

Ongoing surveillance conducted by the Colorado Division of Wildlife indicates that chronic wasting disease (CWD) is found in wild deer and elk herds in northeastern Colorado and in wild mule deer in a portion of Routt County in the northwest part of the state. The disease has also been found in wild deer in parts of

Wyoming, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wisconsin, and it's been found in captive deer and elk in five states and two Canadian provinces. Since 1996, the Division, in cooperation with the University of Wyoming and Colorado State University, has examined more than 2,000 animals from throughout Colorado, including each of the large mule deer herds on the Western Slope. With the exception of the Routt County outbreak, none have been infected with CWD. In addition to this statewide sampling, the Division also has examined more than 10,000 deer and elk harvested or culled in northeastern Colorado; estimated infection rates in deer harvested from this area in 2000 ranged from less than one percent to 11 percent. In northeastern Colorado, chronic wasting disease is found in an area - called the endemic area encompassed by 17 game management units. These units cover approximately 10,000 square miles, about 9.5 percent of Colorado's entire land mass. Infection rates in the endemic area vary between location, herds and species. Chronic wasting disease is far less prevalent in elk than deer. Less than 1 percent of elk in the endemic area have been found to be infected. Historical infection rates in deer herds vary from less than 1 percent to a range from 3 percent to 15 percent.

Public health officials advise hunters to take the following precautions when pursuing or handling deer and elk in the endemic area:

- Do not shoot, handle or consume any animal that appears sick; contact the Division of Wildlife in Fort Collins at (970) 472-4300 if you see or harvest an animal that appears sick.
- Wear rubber gloves when field dressing carcasses.
- Bone out the meat from your animal.
- Minimize the handling of brain and spinal tissues.
- Wash hands and instruments thoroughly after field dressing is completed.

- Avoid consuming brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils and lymph nodes of harvested animals. (Normal field dressing coupled with boning out a carcass will remove most, if not all, of these body parts. Cutting away all fatty tissue will remove remaining lymph nodes.)
- Avoid consuming the meat from any animal that tests positive for the disease.
- Request that your animal is processed individually, without meat from other animals being added to meat from your animal.

### Why Are Hunters Advised Not to Eat Certain Parts of Deer and Elk?

While the agent that produces chronic wasting disease in deer and elk has not been positively identified, there is strong evidence to suggest that abnormally shaped proteins, called prions, are responsible. Research completed by the Division of Wildlife and other agencies indicate that the prions accumulate only in certain parts of infected animals - the brain, eyes, spinal cord, lymph nodes, tonsils and spleen. Research also indicates that prions do not accumulate in muscle tissue. Based upon these findings, hunters are recommended to bone out their meat and consume only muscle tissue from animals harvested in endemic units.

### Detecting Chronic Wasting Disease

Several opportunities exist during big game seasons for hunters to learn if their animals are infected with chronic wasting disease. As part of its ongoing monitoring program, the Division of Wildlife will sample deer in certain game management units to track disease prevalence and trends. The monitoring program is designed as a continuing scientific study and not a meat inspection service. However, hunters who participate in the program by submitting heads of harvested deer for testing will be notified if their animal is infected with chronic wasting disease. Participation in the Division of



Wildlife's monitoring program is voluntary. Hunters in selected units will be notified by mail prior to the hunting seasons with details on participation and drop-off sites in their hunting area. Ten weeks or more may be required to complete testing before a hunter is notified of results. Hunters pursuing game in units not included in the Division's monitoring program can have their animals tested by either the Colorado State University Diagnostic Laboratory or the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory. Contact either laboratory directly for testing details and fee information:

- Colorado State University Diagnostic Lab (970) 491-1281
- Wyoming State Veterinary Lab (307) 742-6638

Hunters with deer or elk that test positive for chronic wasting disease - as indicated by these testing facilities - will be eligible for a license fee refund. Game processing fees and other incidental expenses are not eligible for refunds. Since monitoring began in 1981, fewer than 500 animals have tested positive for chronic wasting disease in the entire endemic area.

### **Other Similar Diseases**

Chronic wasting disease belongs to a family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies. Within this family of diseases, there are three predominant variants that affect animals: scrapie, which has been identified in sheep for more than 200 years; bovine spongiform encephalopathy in cattle (sometimes referred to as "Mad Cow Disease"); and chronic wasting disease in deer and elk. Within the family, there are also two main variants that affect humans: Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, which occurs naturally in about one out of every one million people; and New Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, which has been linked to the large-scale outbreak of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in cattle herds in Great Britain. Through that outbreak and the fact that the British consumed nearly 750,000 infected cattle during a 10-year

period, approximately 100 humans have died to date after contracting New Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.

### **Ongoing Research**

Division of Wildlife researchers and biologists are studying chronic wasting disease on numerous fronts - addressing wildlife health issues and assisting public health experts and scientists with their ongoing research. Division of Wildlife personnel's work and expertise on the subject is noted not only nationally, but internationally as well. Staff researchers and biologists personally conduct studies on the disease, and also collaborate and provide funding for studies conducted by other agencies and states. Employees have been involved in the following chronic wasting disease work:

- The successful development of improved, more sensitive testing procedures to detect chronic wasting disease in deer and elk.
- An ongoing field study designed to measure the relationship between deer density and disease prevalence.
- Ongoing research to track the progression of the disease through a deer's body to better understand how the disease is transmitted and how it can be better diagnosed.
- Ongoing studies to determine if chronic wasting disease can be passed to bighorn sheep, mountain lions and other animals.
- Specific studies to determine the ability of chronic wasting disease to infect cattle.
- Epidemiological studies conducted by state and federal agencies to determine if a link between chronic wasting disease and human neurological disorders exists.
- Laboratory studies to assess the potential susceptibility of different animal species, including humans, to chronic wasting disease.
- Ongoing monitoring studies to determine geographic distribution and

level of prevalence of chronic wasting disease in the state.

- Research into early detection methods to diagnose chronic wasting disease in live, healthy-appearing animals.
- Studies of deer movement patterns to determine if links between disease prevalence and deer movement exist. In addition, Division of Wildlife staff serve as a national clearing house on information and resources concerning chronic wasting disease research. Each year, staff members coordinate a national meeting of chronic wasting disease researchers to share information and collaborate on study findings.

### **Chronic Wasting Disease Management**

The Division of Wildlife's disease management efforts are focused on:

- Preventing the disease from spreading beyond the endemic area by prohibiting the transport of deer or elk from the affected area into other areas of the state.
- Reducing disease prevalence by maintaining deer and elk populations in the endemic at or below 1999 levels; enforcing regulations pertaining to the illegal feeding of big game animals; and aggressively culling diseased animals in the endemic area.
- Continuing research in conjunction with other agencies and states to further the Division of Wildlife's knowledge to manage affected deer and elk herds.



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### CEHA'S MISSION

“To promote environmental health as a profession which strives for continual improvement in environmental health quality and the growth of individual professionalism.”

#### Tell me about CEHA

CEHA was established in 1966 and enjoys an outstanding reputation statewide as an innovative, progressive organization dedicated to advancing the cause of general, professional or technical environmental health.

#### Who joins CEHA?

CEHA is open to anyone employed in an environmental health position; student working toward a degree in environmental health; anyone interested in environmental health (associate membership); and corporation, businesses or associations with an interest in environmental health.

#### Why join CEHA?

CEHA offers educational seminars throughout the year to keep you informed on current issues in the profession. Seminars feature local and national speakers.

The Association coordinates an annual educational conference designed to update membership on current trends in environmental health and to

provide personal enrichment. Through CEHA you have the opportunity to meet other environmental health professionals from across the state.

Scholarship opportunities funded by CEHA are available for student attending Colorado State University and studying environmental health.

- CEHA is active in Colorado state legislation concerning environmental health programs, topics and concerns.
- CEHA publishes a quarterly newsletter to help you stay current on the latest environmental health issues and happenings within the Association.
- CEHA is an affiliate of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), giving you the opportunity to participate in a national organization with an international membership.

Most importantly, you have the ability to set the direction of the Association and the environmental health profession in Colorado through your participation in CEHA.

-----  
Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Employer \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Registered, Licensed or Certified Environmental Health Specialist?  
 Yes     No

**Job Function**     Technical             Training  
 Administration     Research             Other  
**Education**         High School         Associate  
 Bachelor's         Master's             Doctorate

**CEHA Annual Dues** (per Calendar Year)  
 Active Membership            \$20 per year  
 Student Membership            \$10 per year  
 Sustaining Membership        \$180 per year  
 Life Membership                \$200

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid	Date	Check Number
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**COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH ASSOCIATION**



*Our Mission:*  
"To promote environmental health as a profession which strives for continual  
improvement in environmental health quality and the growth of individual  
professionalism."