



Statens tilsyn for planter, fisk, dyr og næringsmidler

# Chronic Wasting Disease in Norway

Surveillance, management and costs

Nordic Baltic Veterinary Contingency Group  
Riga, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Kristin Ruud Alvseike  
Norwegian Food Safety Authority



# The main topics in my presentation

1. CWD the disease
2. Status positive cases
3. Surveillance
4. Management strategies
5. Food safety
6. Costs



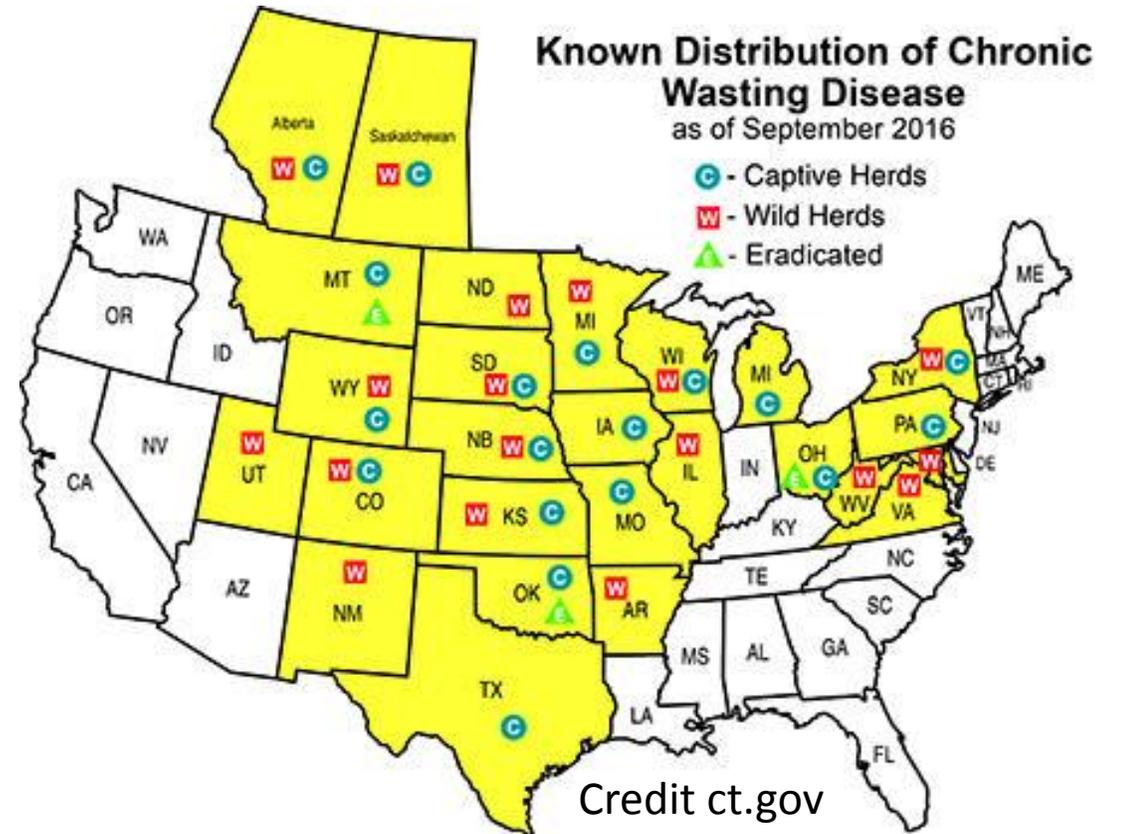
Photo: Akselberg



# CWD

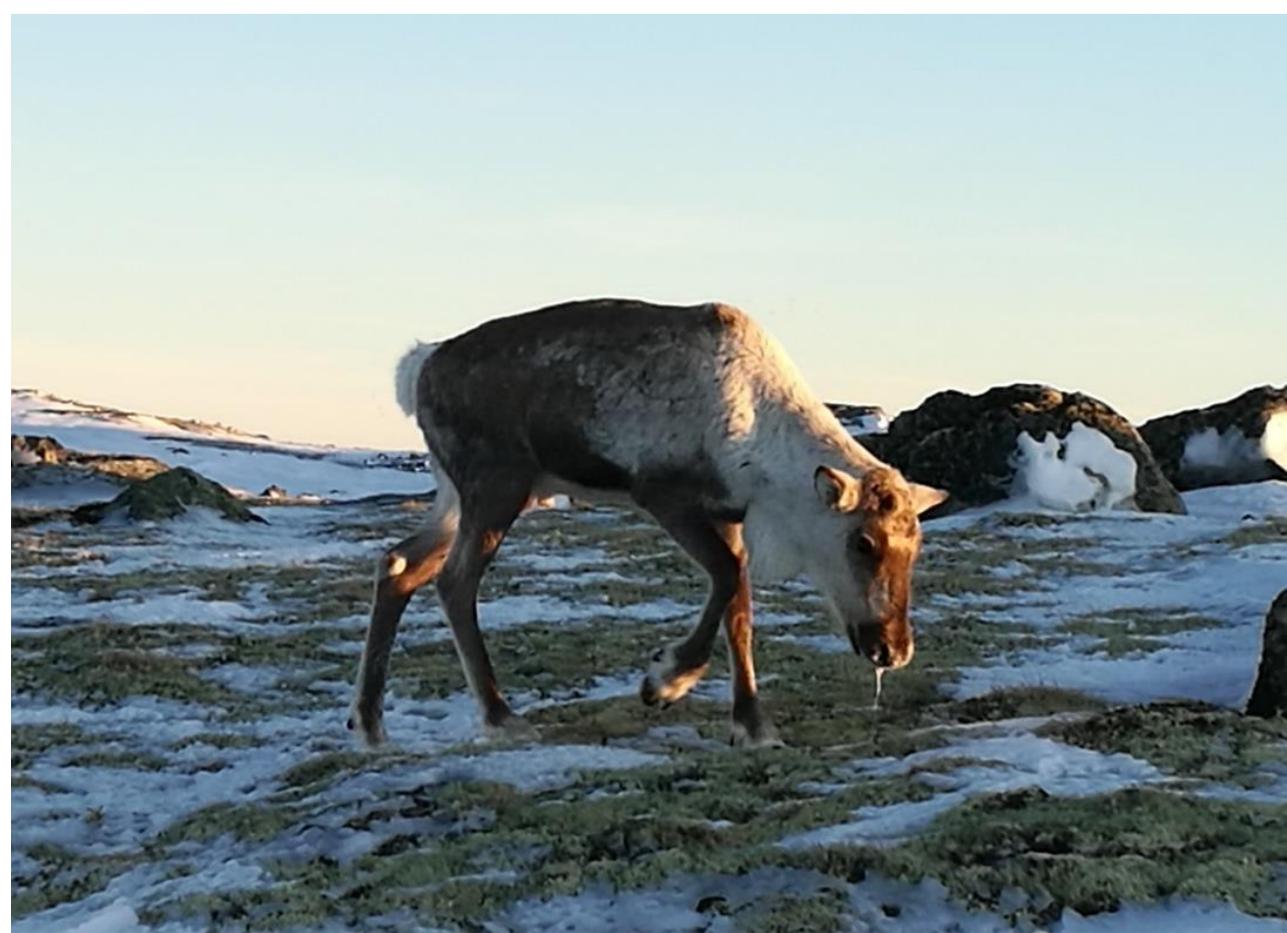
A prion disease in cervids

- BSE, scrapie, CJD...
- Slow development
- Fatal
- No cure
- Shedding in feces, urin, saliva....
- Persistence in environment
  
- 1967 North America



# Symptoms

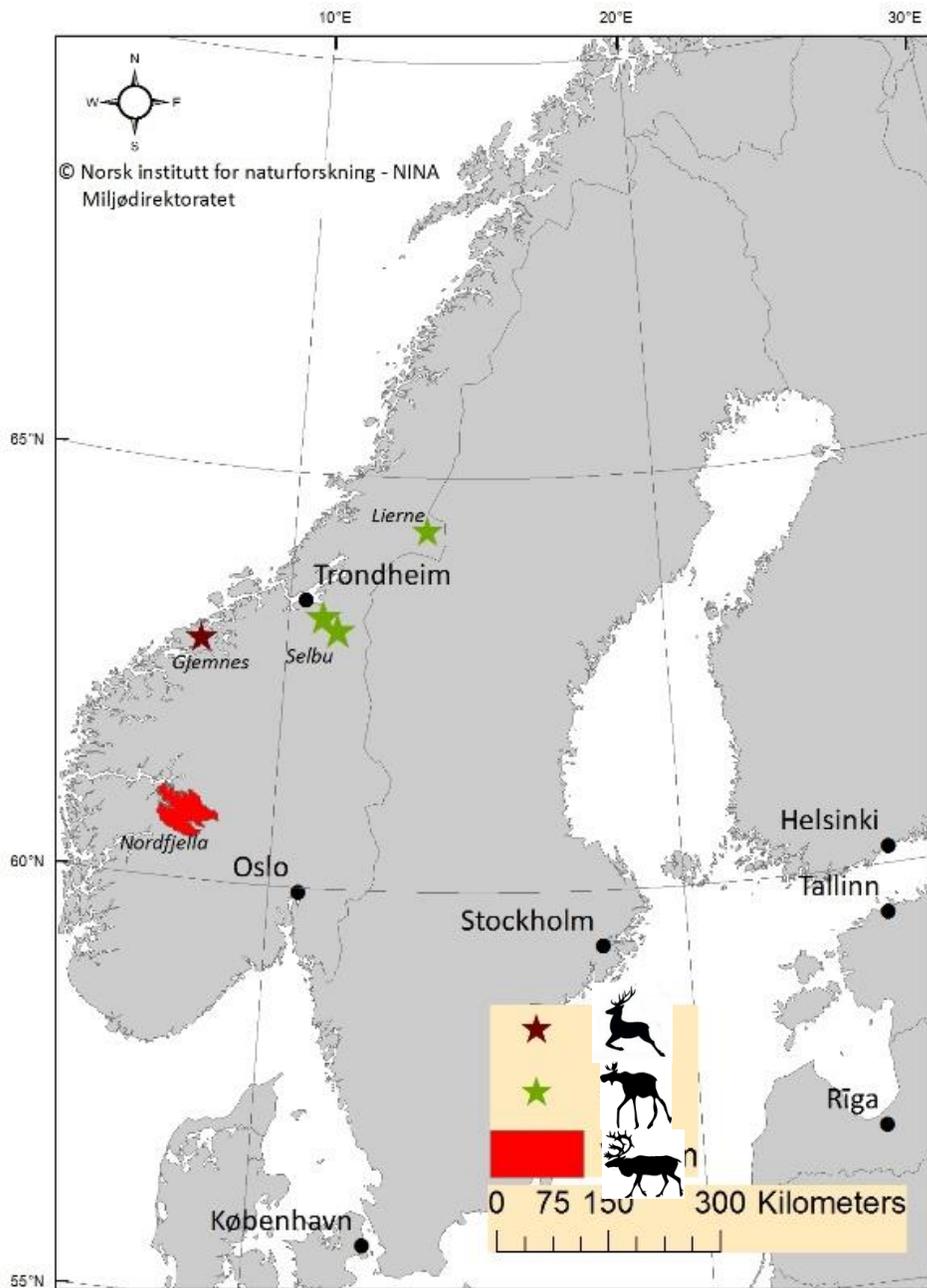
- Long incubation time
- Shorter period with clinical signs
- Weight loss, excessive salivation and urination, abnormal behaviour....
- Suffer → die



# Transmission routes

- Direct
- Indirect environmental
- Movements of animals and products etc





# April 2016: CWD IN NORWAY

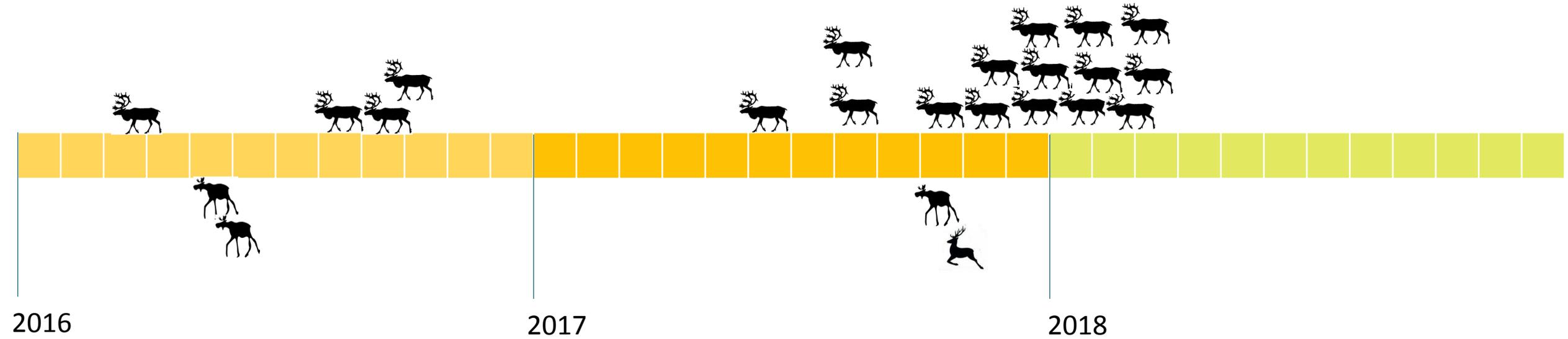


- Per oct 2018:
- 23 positive cases
- 19 wild reindeer
  - 3 moose
  - 1 red deer

Finland: 1 moose

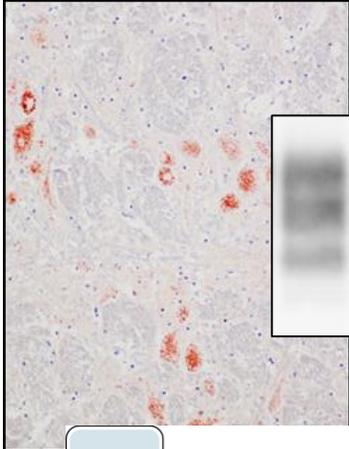
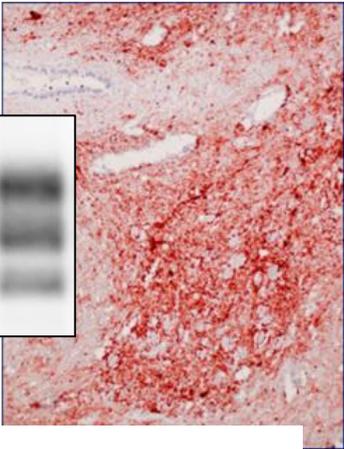


# Timeline positive cases



# More than one type of CWD



Moose (Red deer)	Reindeer
13-16 years	Young/adult
	

 **Veterinærinstituttet**  
Norwegian Veterinary Institute

We manage the two types differently



# Actions – tool box

- «Freeze the situation»
- Limit and confine
- Investigate (testing/surveillance)
- Treatment, vaccination
- Eradication
  
- Legislation
  
- Communication



## Our goal

Confine - and if possible eradicate  
To keep a healthy cervid population in Eurasia



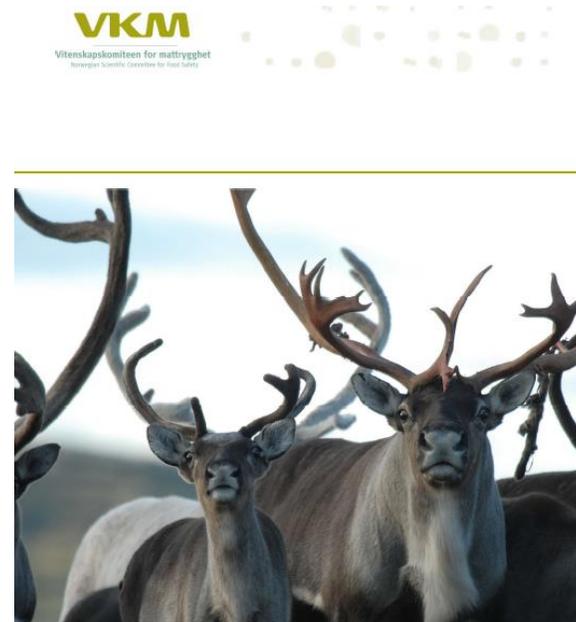
# Scientific opinions

## The Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment

- First report June 2016
- Second report March 2017
- Update statement September 2017
- Statement February 2018
  
- Updated report expected Dec 2018
- concerning risk factors Nordfjella

## EFSA

- Dec 2016
- Dec 2017



VKM Report 2017: 26

CWD – update statement

Opinion of the Panel on Biological Hazards of the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety

# Surveillance

Aim: Prevalence in zones around positive cases, but also geographical distribution

## Numbers

- 2016: 10 152
- 2017: 25 659
- 2018 per 1 Oct: 14 844

Totally 50 665

Tissue: brain and retropharyngeal lymph node

## EU

Mandatory testing in 6 EU Member States.

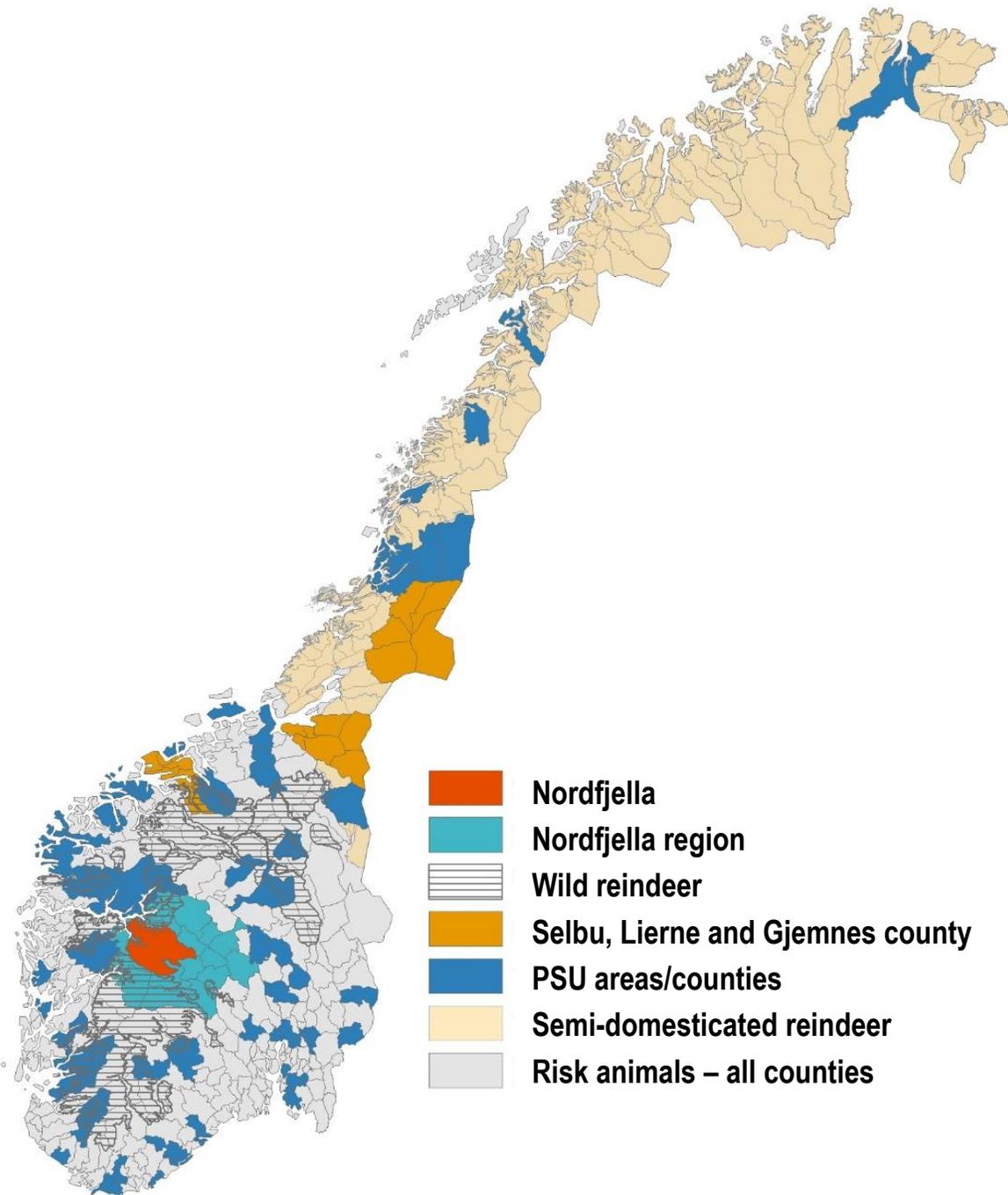
6000 tests per MS during 2018-2020



**Veterinærinstituttet**  
*Norwegian Veterinary Institute*



# Surveillance programme 2018



Category	Number
Wild reindeer, Nordfjella	1500
Wild reindeer outside Nordfjella	3000
Moose, red deer around Nordfjella	1200
Moose, red deer outside Nordfjella area	6300
Semi-domesticated reindeer	11.000
Farmed red deer	1000
Cutting plants, moose and red deer	1000
Risk animals all species; Animals dead outside hunting season and fallen stock	5000
<b>Sum</b>	<b>30.000</b>

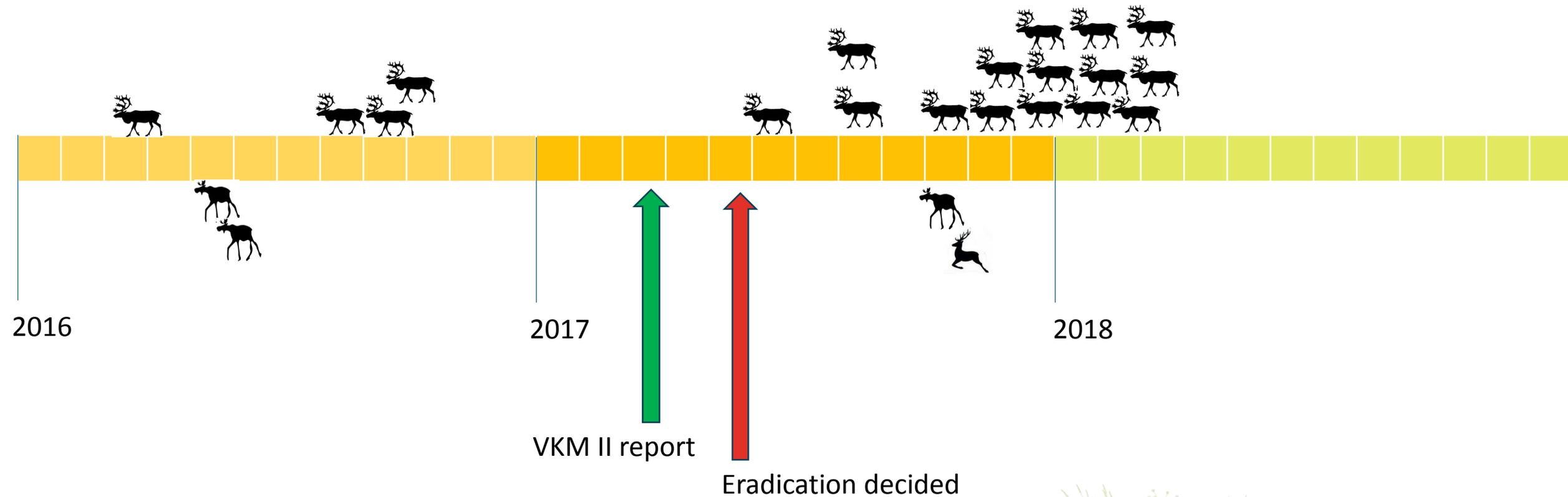


# Management strategies

Surveillance do not eradicate



# Timeline positive cases and some actions



15.6.2017



## PLAN FOR THE ERADICATION OF THE WILD REINDEER POPULATION IN NORDFJELLA ZONE 1

Chronic wasting disease has been found among wild reindeer in the Nordfjella wild reindeer area, and it has been decided to eradicate the wild reindeer in order to prevent the spread of infection to other wild reindeer areas and other cervids.

# Nordfjella zone 1: Culling Fallow period Reestablishment

15.10.2017



## RE-ESTABLISHMENT PLAN FOR THE WILD REINDEER POPULATION IN NORDFJELLA ZONE 1

The wild reindeer population of Nordfjella zone 1 shall be re-established after the eradication of the entire population due to chronic wasting disease.

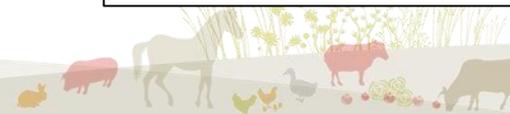




Foto: Sondre Dalaker / NTB scanpix



# Depopulation of Nordfjella zone 1 is finished

19 positive out of ~2000 animals -> early phase

50.000 negative tests ->  
no indication that classical CWD is outside Nordfjella



# CWD Regulations in Norway

## **Nationwide:**

Restrict movement of live cervids within Norway

Prohibit

- movement of live cervids from Norway
- feeding of wild cervids
- salt licks for live cervids
- urine lures

## **Additional for Nordfjella:**

Restrictions on salt licks and feeding to all animals

Before taking out of the zone:

- testing of cervids
- cleaning boots/equipment

Prohibit movement out of the zone

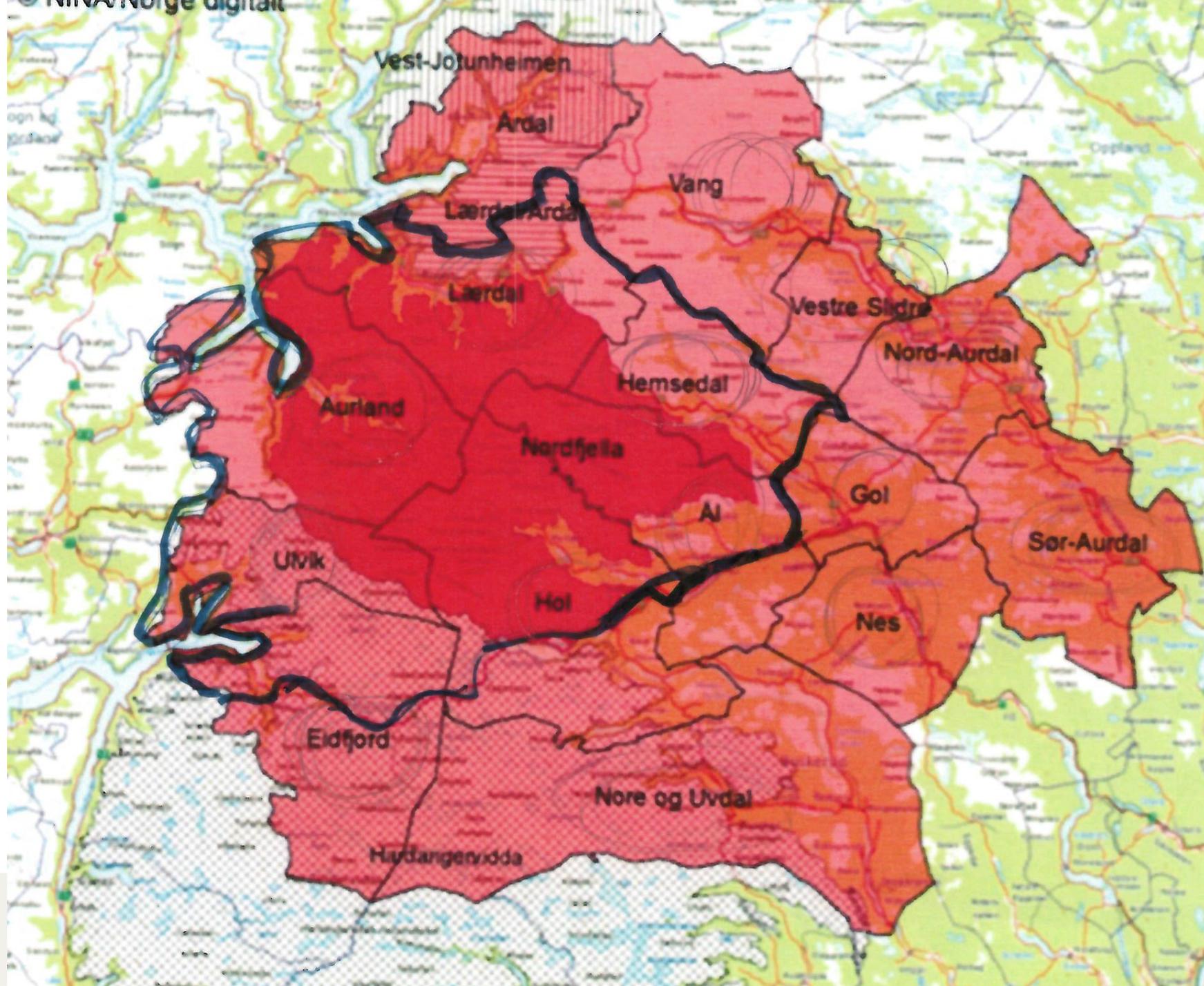
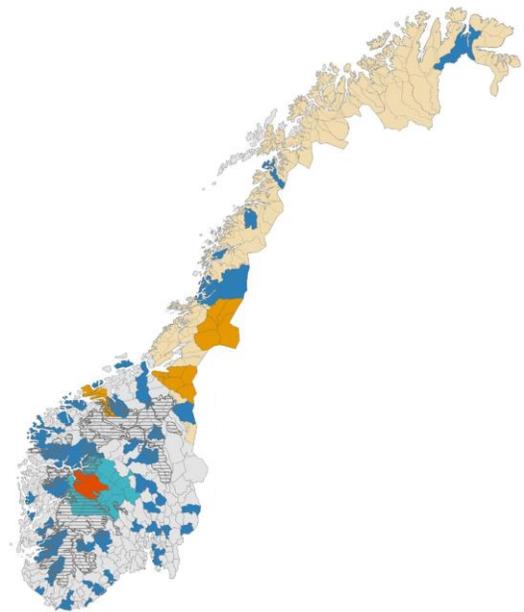
- feed to cervids
- offal from cervids



Photo: NINA



Photo: NFSA



# Other measures

- **Keeping reindeer out of Nordfjella Zone 1**
  - Intensified herding of semi domesticated reindeer flocks in the area
  - Fencing
- **GPS collaring**
- **Reduce numbers of red deer and moose in the area around Nordfjella**
- **Free declaration of Nordfjella zone 2**



# Food safety

## The Norwegian Food Safety Authority considers meat from cervids safe to eat

This is based on

- Current international knowledge
- VKM report: «considers the zoonotic risk of CWD to be very low»

Precautionary measure:

Animals tested positive are excluded from the food chain



Proposal from EU Commission:

- they want further precautionary action:  
cervid meat from Norway, Finland and part of Sweden must test negativ for CWD



# Costs

Not possible to give an accurate number

Estimate for 2016+2017+2018:

10 million Euro

plus labour by the authorities and others



Photo: NFA



Thank you for your attention