

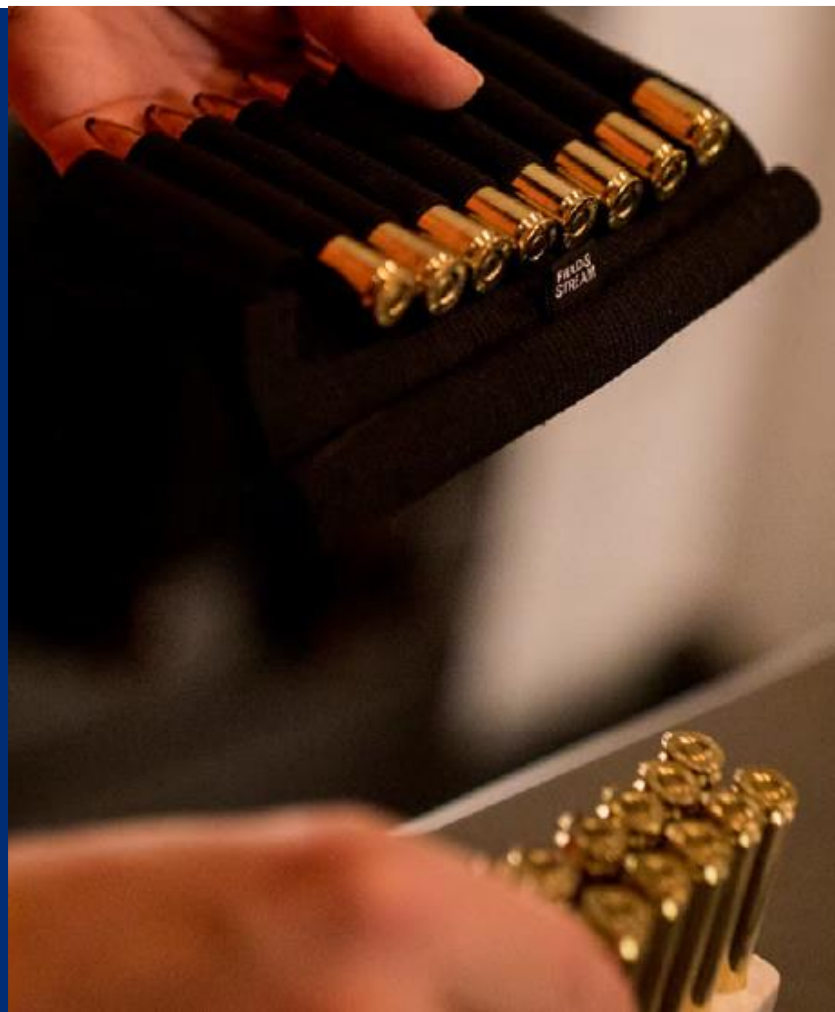
Minimizing Risks to Wildlife and People from Lead Hunting Ammunition



Jeremy Hurst
Game Management Section Head



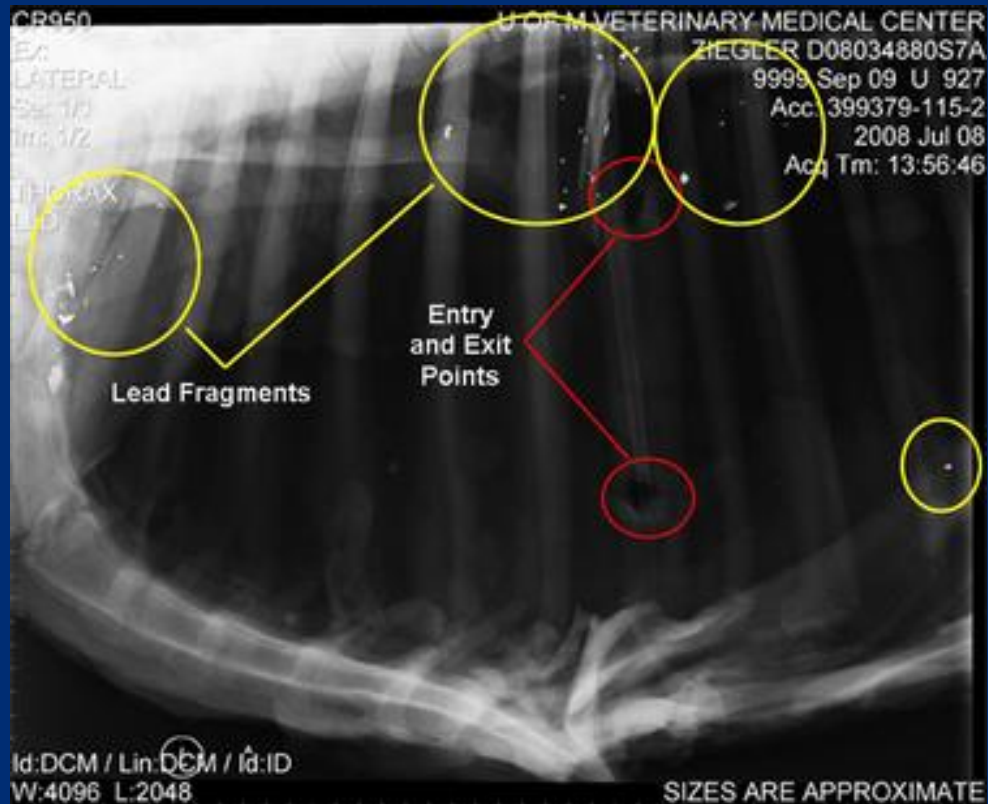
Your Ammo Your Choice



The problem

Lead is a neurotoxin

Lead ammunition exposes non-target animals and people to lead



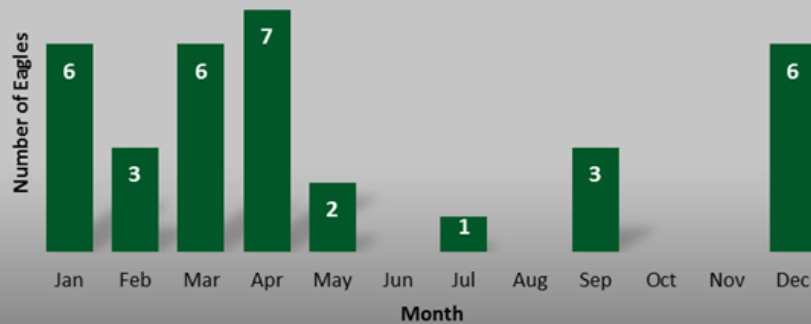
(image: Minnesota DNR)

Scavenging wildlife

Eagles & other birds



The Monthly Distribution of Bald Eagles with Lead Poisoning 2000-2015



Scavenging wildlife

Mammals

8 (15%) out of 53 bobcats and 36 (44%) out of 81 fisher had lead in their liver



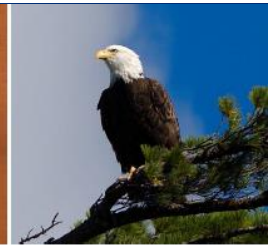
Recommended Actions

Outreach - encourage voluntary transition to non-lead ammo

Minimize Exposure - BMPs for hunters, processors, food pantries

Supply - programs to increase availability of non-lead ammo

Research – understand impacts



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MINIMIZING RISKS TO WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE FROM LEAD HUNTING AMMUNITION

A Report of the New York State
Lead Ammunition Working Group

April 2022

www.dec.ny.gov



Cornell University
College of Veterinary Medicine
Animal Health Diagnostic Center



“Your Choice of Ammunition”



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1:01 / 6:44



CHOOSE NON-LEAD AMMUNITION

CHOOSE PERFORMANCE: Non-lead ammunition expands rapidly and retains weight for a quick, humane kill.

CHOOSE HIGH-QUALITY MEAT: By using non-lead ammunition, you're ensuring healthier food for you and your family.

CHOOSE YOUR CONSERVATION LEGACY: Eagles and other scavengers ingest lead when feeding on carcasses and gut piles, causing some to become sick or die.

Choose non-lead to protect wildlife, your family, and hunters' conservation legacy.



Lead bullets fragment; non-lead bullets don't.



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www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/48420.html



Health Advice for Harvesting, Preparing, and Eating Wild Game



Department
of Health

At a Glance:

- To prevent exposure to lead in meat, avoid using lead shot and bullets.





**HUNTERS FOR
EAGLE CONSERVATION
NEW YORK**

**Offering rebates of
up to \$60 toward
the purchase of
non-lead ammunition**



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Hunting and Trapping Newsletter

Request for Game Camera Photos to Identify Wildlife Scavengers of Deer in New York

Lead is a poison that is harmful to wildlife and people. When lead-based ammunition is used to hunt white-tailed deer, lead fragments can remain in the meat, carcass, and gut piles, which can expose people and wildlife scavengers to lead.

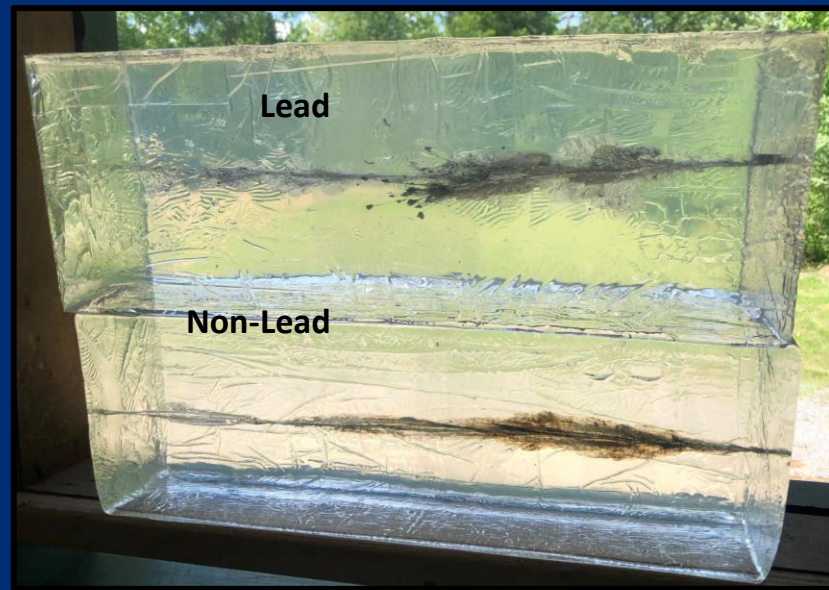
The New York Lead Ammunition Working Group was formed to help minimize risks from lead hunting ammunition for wildlife and people. This group is made up of the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Department of Health, Cornell University's Wildlife Health Lab, the Venison Donation Coalition, the New York State Conservation Council, and Audubon New York. One of the group's recommendations is to identify wildlife species that scavenge on deer remains (carcass, gut piles, other) that need to be prioritized for lead testing in New York.



Non-lead Ammo

Non-lead ammunition performs as well or better than lead ammunition

- Copper retains almost all the original weight and doesn't fragment leading to:
 - smaller wound cavity,
 - more kinetic energy
 - greater penetration,
 - greater impact,
 - quick and ethical kill.





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