



# CERVIDAE HEALTH RESEARCH INITIATIVE

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## Message from the Director

Wow! What a response. We asked deer producers to submit dead deer for diagnostic analysis and they responded. Thank you to everyone who submitted samples! We had 33 farms submit 94 animals for postmortem analysis, and another 168 blood samples from live deer. In return, we provided deer farmers with confidential reports on causes of mortality or EHD antibody status in a timely fashion. This information is crucial to our effort to manage EHD and increase herd production. In the next few newsletters we will provide you with summaries of our findings that can help producers manage their herds for fewer mortalities. First up – fawn mortalities.

Deer Producers, please stay vigilant! We are not out of EHD season yet, and last year we saw a number of winter mortalities from EHD. You may call our hotline to submit samples at any time of year.

Thank you, always, for your support - *Sam*

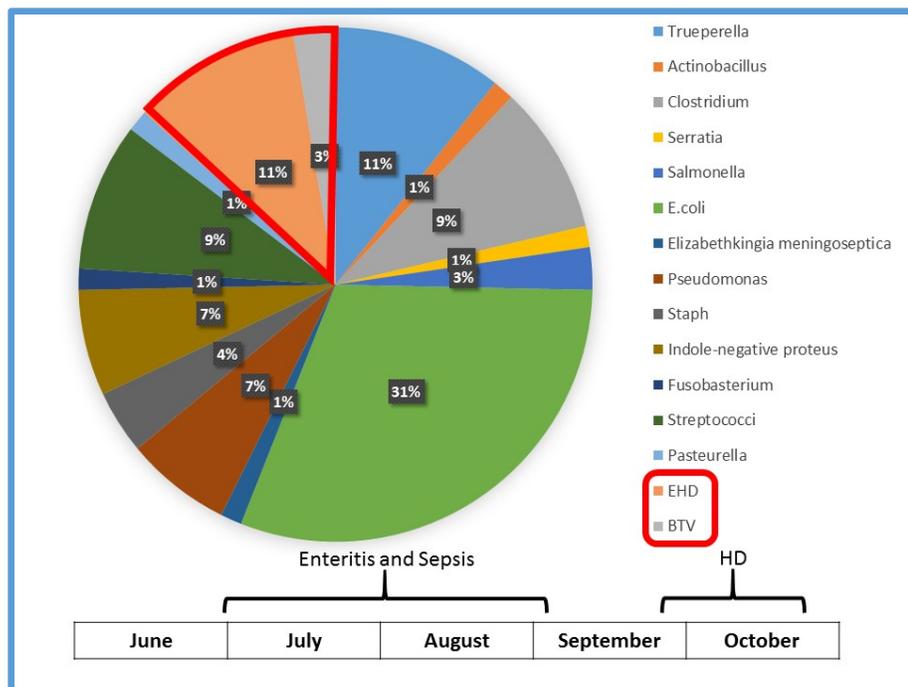
Dr. Samantha Wisely  
Director, CHeRI



## New on the Website! – [www.ufl.edu/cheri](http://www.ufl.edu/cheri)

- **Update on screwworm in the Keys.** This is a devastating disease to white-tailed deer. Deer farmers in South Florida, stay alert! Bucks are particularly susceptible during the rut.
- **Deer Necropsy Video.** Want to submit samples for us yourself? Watch this video to learn exactly how to prepare samples for us.
- **Summary of Fawn Mortalities.** This article summarizes our findings in 2016 and provides best management practices.

## Focus on Fawn Mortalities



Deer farms submitted 75 dead fawns for diagnostic analysis through the Deer Hotline. We saw the cause of death change as the summer progressed. Most animals died of bacterial infections in late June, July and August, and then the main cause of death switched to EHD in mid to late September. Infection with Trueperella played a big role this year and not surprisingly so did E. coli, Clostridium and EHD. We are working to publish an electronic information document (EDIS) on Trueperella and have more information on fawn deaths and best management practices for raising fawns posted on our website

([www.wec.ufl.edu/cheri/publications](http://www.wec.ufl.edu/cheri/publications)).

## Student Spotlight: Kristin Sloyer, aspiring Medical Entomologist!



Kristin Sloyer is currently studying the geographic distribution of Florida no-see-ums (Ceratopogonidae: Culicoides). Kristin travels throughout the state to various deer farms in search of Culicoides species which transmit epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) virus and bluetongue virus (BTV). Her contribution to the CHERI project aims to provide an updated distribution map of the Culicoides species of Florida and to evaluate different trapping methods. In addition to trapping at deer farms, Kristin is designing a collaborative program with interested Florida Mosquito Control Districts in order to improve our coverage of Florida Culicoides species outside of deer farms. Gaining better trapping coverage will allow for a better understanding of Culicoides species distribution and by extension, risk of EHD and BTV among deer populations throughout the state of Florida.

Kristin is a first-year master's student in Entomology at the University of Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory in Vero Beach, FL. Prior to her master's work, she received her bachelor's in Biology from Millersville University in Pennsylvania where she became interested in Medical Entomology, completing internships and undergraduate research in mosquito and black fly ecology. After completing her bachelor's program, Kristin entered the Peace Corps where she traveled to Mozambique and worked as a Biology teacher for two years. Upon her return, she worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in insect identification before moving to Florida.

## Contact Us:

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