



CERVIDAE HEALTH RESEARCH INITIATIVE

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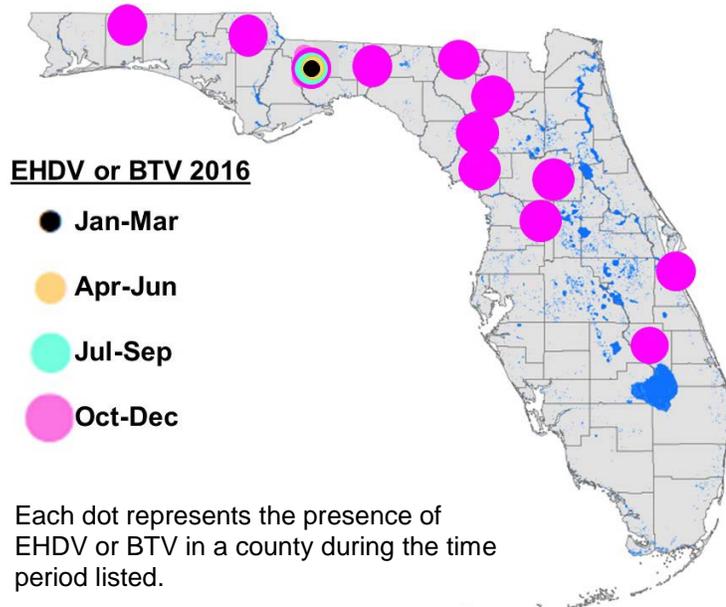
Message from the Director

It's been an action-packed spring for the CHeRI group. We visited with many of our Florida deer farmers in Dallas at the National Deer Farmer Association meeting. We hosted a Cervidae Health Science Symposium in Gainesville that was well attended by deer farmers, extension agents and state veterinarians as well as scientists from UF and University of Georgia. We have been working on several new tests to add to our diagnostic capabilities so that deer farmers can more quickly learn the cause of death or illness in their deer. Coming up, we will be sending a survey to deer farmers who participated in our diagnostic services, so that we can gauge our customer service and hear from farmers what works and what doesn't. Coming up in April, we will have a booth at the Southeast Trophy Deer Association Spring Fling. Swing by our booth and chat with entomologists who trap midges, meet our new Extension Veterinarian, Dr. Juan Campos, and learn about our new diagnostic testing services. We look forward to seeing you!

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

Dr. Samantha Wisely
Director, CHeRI

Valuable Information Comes from Necropsy Submissions



Thanks to Florida deer farmers, we have a much better picture of how epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus and bluetongue virus spread through Florida throughout the year. In 2016, 24 farms submitted 475 samples for us to test. From those samples we were able to show when and where these two viruses occurred. We saw a handful of cases in the panhandle early in the year. By the fall, we saw hemorrhagic disease (HD) viruses—both EHDV and bluetongue, throughout the state. Not only do these samples tell us about where HD is located, but we also have determined the genetic variability of the samples. This information is vital to creating vaccines that protect Florida farmed deer.

Cervidae Health Farmed Deer Working Group

CHeRI scientific research is geared towards solving problems for deer farmers. As we start to get answers to our scientific questions, we need help in translating that science into action. That's where our Farmed Deer Working Group comes in. We asked 6 people who were UF IFAS Extension agents, veterinarians, or deer farmers to provide their input and expertise in solving deer farmers' most pressing problems. They will help us liaison and train UF IFAS Extension Agents throughout Florida to

be a “go-to” resource on best management practices and integrated pest management for deer farmers. Read about who our Working Group members are on the [CHeRI website](#).

Student Spotlight: Alli Cauvin



Alli Cauvin is a first year master’s student working with the CHeRI project in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation under the advisement of Dr. Katherine Saylor. Her project seeks to understand the clinical pathology of farmed white-tailed deer. She analyzes blood films and serum biochemistry to assess the health of the animal and identify some of these parameters as predictors of survival in fawns. Beyond that, she is working to understand the role the bacterial community of the nasal passages plays in the health of deer. She is hoping to collate all of these data to identify risk factors for EHDV. In addition to her master’s project, Alli also advises undergraduate research on *Theileria* prevalence and phylogeny in farmed and wild white-tailed deer of Florida.

Alli earned her bachelor’s degree at the University of Florida in animal science with a specialization in animal biology. During her undergraduate years, Alli worked as a laboratory technician at UF’s Veterinary Clinical Pathology Lab, where she learned about domestic and exotic animal hematology, serum biochemistry, and urinalysis. Alli has been involved in research for several years, volunteering as a research assistant in UF’s Wildlife and Aquatic Animal Veterinary Disease Lab to screen Hawaiian whales and dolphins for herpes and adenovirus, as well as working with Drs. Nicole Stacy and Laura Black to test a new anticoagulant for alligator blood. She is currently collaborating on characterizing filariids in anhinga and sea lions and will soon assist in developing a molecular assay to test for trematodes in sea turtles. Her interests are infectious disease ecology, epidemiology, and clinical pathology of wildlife. Outside of her studies, Alli enjoys scuba diving all over Florida and is in training to become a part of the UF marine mammal stranding response network.

New on the Website! – www.wec.ufl.edu/cheri

- ***Proceedings of the 1st Annual CHeRI Science Symposium available.*** Missed the symposium? The proceedings contains abstracts of all the talks at the symposium.
- ***Meet the Florida Farmed Deer Working Group.*** Learn who is helping us craft our extension programming.
- ***Useful links.*** Great resources are available on wildlife forage and food plots, diseases of farmed deer, and managing natural resources on preserves. We have listed these sites with active links on our webpage.

Upcoming Events

- ***April 22 - Southeast Trophy Deer Association Spring Fling.*** CHeRI will have a booth at this annual convention and auction for deer farmers. We will have CHeRI scientists, veterinarians and students on hand to answer questions. Meet our new Wildlife Extension Veterinarian. Register for the convention [here](#). Come visit us!

Contact Us:

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