



CERVIDAE HEALTH RESEARCH INITIATIVE

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Message from the Director

Fall is upon us! For deer farmers it's a busy time for working preserves and breeding deer. Unfortunately, it is also the season for epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD). Hurricane Irma seems to have triggered a spike in cases in September. We have heard from many farmers, however, that they were able to use our CHERI necropsy reports to file insurance claims to help offset the financial losses. CHERI is also working hard to help bring a licensed, effective vaccine for EHDV to market. We have plans to field test this vaccine in Florida in 2018. Until we have an effective, licensed vaccine, integrated pest management is the best way to combat EHD on your farms. That is why we are holding a field day in January 2018 on pest management: to help Florida deer farmers produce deer in an economically and environmentally sustainable way. I hope to see you there!

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

Dr. Samantha Wisely
Director, CHERI

Integrated Pest Management Field Day!



Please join us for this half day interactive workshop designed to help deer farmers reduce midge populations on their property and break the cycle of EHDV transmission. UF scientists, veterinarians and extension specialists have prepared activities designed to help deer farmers combat the midges that carry EHDV. We will have workshops on:

- *Managing pests with animal husbandry*
- *Identifying midge habitat on your farm*
- *How to properly apply pesticides*
- *What is EHD?*

This field day will take place on one of the premiere deer farms in Florida, Galaxy Whitetail Solutions.

WHAT: A field day to learn more about deer farm IPM.

WHERE: Galaxy Whitetail Solutions, 12834 County Road 101, Oxford, FL

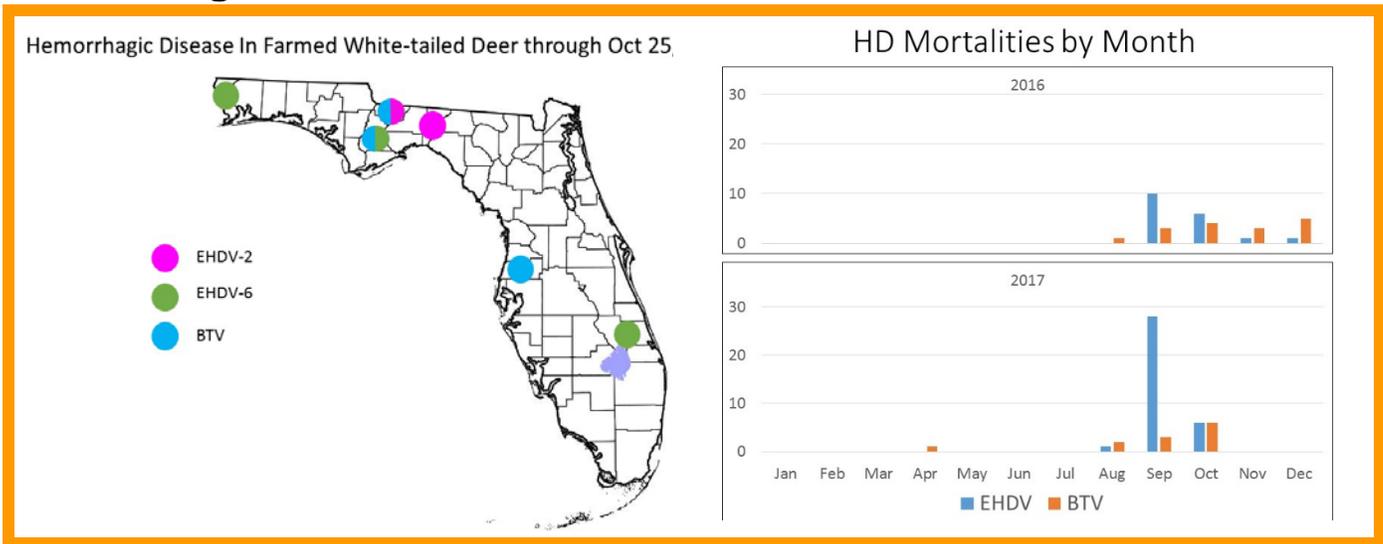
WHEN: January 27th, 2018 from 11AM until 2PM.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Deer farmers, veterinarians, extension specialists

HOW DO I SIGN UP? RSVP via Eventbrite. Click [HERE](#) to sign up. The cost of the class is \$10

Lunch is included!

Hemorrhagic Disease in Florida 2017



Although we are not through EHD season yet, we have begun to see some interesting patterns throughout the state. We have seen many more mortalities due to serotype 6 this year than last year. Because of the low prevalence in previous years, many fawns and adults had not been previously exposed and thus had no antibody protection. We also saw a large spike in mortalities in September this year which occurred about 2 weeks after Hurricane Irma hit. The wet weather undoubtedly created perfect conditions for the midges that carry EHDV and BTV.

On the EHDV research front, CHeRI scientists have been working hard to find out which midge carries EHDV. I am happy to report that they have a strong suspect, *Culicoides venustus*. This larger bodied midge lays its eggs in wet mud surrounding seeps, pond edges and river banks. As we work to confirm their findings, we will develop pest management strategies based on their unique ecology.

Student Spotlight: Gap Year Intern, Hannah Barber



In 2016, CHeRI initiated the Gap Year Internship to provide prospective students the opportunity to explore research and career options that support the deer farm industry. Hannah is our first recruit. She splits her time between the UF College of Veterinary Medicine and the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. Her primary duties include communicating and interacting with deer farmers across the state of Florida, coordinating necropsies, and preparing diagnostic samples. She has gained experience in writing necropsy reports, pathology interpretation, and maintaining databases. In January, Hannah will begin working towards Masters of Science through the College of Veterinary Medicine under the advisement of Dr. Juan Campos. Her career goals are to become a veterinarian specializing in cervid health and research.

Hannah received her Bachelors of Agriculture in Natural Resources Ecology and Management with an option in Wildlife Biology and Pre-Veterinary Sciences from Oklahoma State University in May 2017. During her undergraduate career, Hannah worked on a deer ranch in west-central Texas. Her responsibilities included bottle raising white-tailed deer fawns and working with mature captive white tails and exotics. Hannah's interest in fawn health grew after her time at the deer ranch, and in the future she hopes to continue exploring how diseases affect both farmed and wild white-tailed deer. Hannah enjoys horseback riding, exploring Florida, thrifting, and spending time with her two dwarf hamsters, Poppy and Potato.

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

- **Have a question about deer health?** Don't forget about our "Ask an Expert" page. We have veterinarians, entomologists, wildlife ecologists, virologists and medical geographers eager to answer your questions.
- **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

- **IPM for Deer Farmers Field Day**, January 27th, 2018. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.
- **Food Plots and Forages for Farmed Deer**, April 2018. Stay tuned for dates and details!

Contact Us:

Email: wiselylabuf@gmail.com

EHD Hotline Phone: 352-562-DEER

Website: <http://wec.ufl.edu/cheri/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UFIFAS.CHeRI/>

Twitter: [@UF_IFAS_CHeRI](https://twitter.com/UF_IFAS_CHeRI)