



CERVIDAE HEALTH RESEARCH INITIATIVE

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Message from the Director

It's a busy time of year; deer farmers are taking care of fawns and managing their health during these first few months of life. During July, we typically see fawns dying from bacterial infections like *Fusobacteria*, *Trueperella*, and *E. coli*. Keeping pens clean and dry will not only provide a better environment for fawns now, but it will keep midge numbers down during September and October when EHDV typically starts to show up. Here at CHeRI, former necropsy intern, Hannah Barber, and graduate student, Alli Cauvin, are both studying fawn health for their MS degrees in order to provide deer farmers with additional information and techniques to increase fawn survival during this critical time. Want to chat more with us about fawn health? We will be at numerous deer farm and outdoor events this fall. Check out our [upcoming events!](#)

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

Dr. Samantha Wisely
Director, CHeRI

2nd Annual CHeRI Science Symposium



Want to learn more about the science of deer farming? In conjunction with the [67th International Wildlife Disease Association Annual Meeting](#) CHeRI will host a [Cervidae Health Science Symposium](#). We have invited the world's experts on EHDV from [USDA Arthropod-Borne Animal Disease Research Unit](#) and [University of Georgia Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study](#) to join UF CHeRI scientists for a half day of talks about the science behind the deer farming industry. Topics include midge control, animal husbandry, veterinary medicine, wildlife disease ecology, and vaccine development. Register [HERE](#) for this event which will take place on August 10th in St. Augustine, Florida.

Introducing the No-See-Um Identification Services Project (NISP)



Entomologists from the UF IFAS Florida Medical Entomology Lab. L to R: Agustin Quaglia, Kristin Sloyer, Richard West, Diana Rojas, Bethany McGregor, Nathan Burkett-Cadena, Carolina Acevedo, Alfred Runkel IV, Dinesh Erram, Erik Blosser, Tanise Stenn

CHeRI is pleased to announce the official launch of the No-see-um Identification Services Project (NISP)! These new assessment services will allow our CHeRI entomologists to collaborate with deer farmers in Florida and provide information on the species of no-see-ums (or biting midges, genus *Culicoides*) that are present on deer farms in Florida in order to gauge local and regional risk of diseases that threaten Florida deer and other large game. There are more than 50 different no-see-um

species in Florida, only a few (3-4 species) of which are important vectors (transmitters) of epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus (EHDV) and bluetongue virus (BTV). By trapping and identifying no-see-ums we can provide information to farmers on the species that are active on participating farms – information that is critical for control.

How the program works:

1. Deer farmers interested in participating in NISP contact our Project Coordinator, Alfred Runkel (runkela@ufl.edu, 778-772-7200 ext. 162), at the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory (UF) in Vero Beach, FL to establish contact and enroll in the program.
2. Supplies for no-see-um trapping and shipping are sent from the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory to enrolled participants (arrives as 2 packages), at no cost to participants.
3. Enrolled participants operate a no-see-um trap at their farm property one night every other week, then ship samples to Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory (every other month), at no cost.
4. NISP provides quarterly reports on the on the no-see-um species that are active at that property as well as information where each species develops and their importance in disease transmission. Reports are totally confidential.

Interested in more information? Check out our website or give our Project Coordinator a call!

Gap Year Intern Spotlight: Sydney Cottingham



The CHeRI Gap Year Internship is a program providing prospective graduate and veterinary students with hands-on experience in research and the deer farming industry. Sydney joined us in May 2018 as our second Gap Year Intern. Her primary responsibilities include coordinating with Florida deer farmers, conducting necropsies, collecting samples for diagnostic testing, and writing necropsy reports. Sydney is gaining valuable experience in diagnostic techniques, report writing, and data management. In the future, Sydney plans to pursue her passion for research and interest in wildlife disease ecology by attending veterinary school.

Sydney graduated from Louisiana State University in May 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Ecology and Management and a concentration in Wildlife Ecology. She completed an undergraduate thesis on the gastrointestinal parasites of wintering Lesser Scaup ducks, and was involved in a number of research projects studying species including White-tailed Deer, American Woodcock, Eastern Wild Turkeys, and feral hogs. She also spent a month in Mozambique on a project studying marine megafauna like Whale Sharks and Giant Mantas. Sydney is interested in infectious disease ecology, particularly the role of parasites and pathogens as drivers of wildlife population dynamics, as well as the role of ecosystem disturbance on disease prevalence. In her free time, Sydney is an avid reader and also enjoys hiking, kayaking, hunting, and birdwatching.

Don't forget about our Deer Hotline!



Do you have a deer that you suspect died of EHDV or having fawn losses? Let us know and we will come to your farm, collect samples and submit them for diagnostic testing. All for free if you are a Florida deer farmer. Animals that you submit to us for necropsy help us understand the major infectious diseases that kill deer in Florida, and to prepare the best vaccine possible for Florida deer farms.

Our services also help deer farmers understand the underlying cause of death in their animals so they can learn from the loss. Call us and we will visit your farm to conduct a necropsy. All results are confidential and Dr. Juan Campos, our Extension Veterinarian, will consult with you about your results.

Upcoming Events – CHeRI will be at these locations in the fall. Come visit us!

- **2nd Annual CHeRI Science Symposium**, August 10th, 2018 in St. Augustine, Florida. Click [HERE](#) for details and to register for the event.
- **Southeast Trophy Deer Association Fall BBQ**, August 18th in Orlando, Florida. CHeRI will have entomologists and veterinarians on hand to answer your questions. Come visit us! Click [HERE](#) for details.
- **UF IFAS Extension Outdoor Expo in Holmes County**, September 7&8th. CHeRI will have a booth and staff on hand to answer your questions about deer farming. Located at 1169 E Hwy 90, Bonifay, Florida. Click [HERE](#) for more information.
- **US Animal Health Association Annual Meeting**, October 18-24 in Kansas City, MI. CHeRI researchers attend this event to learn about upcoming and new regulations affecting deer farmers, new diagnostic tools to combat deer diseases, and to hear about the latest in EHDV research. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the meeting.

Contact Us:

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