



CERVIDAE HEALTH RESEARCH INITIATIVE

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Message from the Director

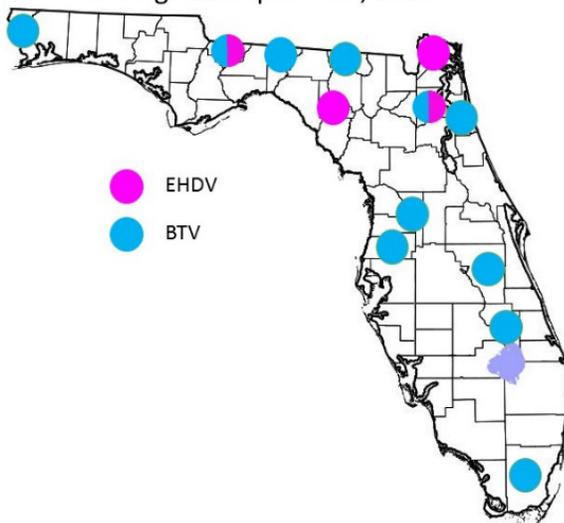
EHD season is upon us except it looks like it is bluetongue virus that is really hammering deer farmers so far this year. We have confirmed 20 cases of BTV in every corner of the state with new cases coming in daily. Many deer farmers have applied for financial assistance from USDA through the [Livestock Indemnity Program](#). These farmers have used our CHERI necropsy reports to provide evidence of loss due to disease caused by weather events. Please take advantage of our necropsy service to identify animals that have died from EHDV and BTV. Perhaps our reports can, in a small way, help to compensate you for your losses.

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

Dr. Samantha Wisely
Director, CHERI

Update on HD activity this year

Hemorrhagic Disease In Farmed White-tailed Deer
through 21 September, 2018



As you can see from the map, it has been an early and active season for bluetongue virus. This virus is closely related to epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus (EHDV) and is also transmitted by *Culicoides* midges or no-see-ums. While we are thrilled that an EHDV vaccine is on the horizon, this season reminds us that we have other impactful disease outbreaks in farmed deer.

The good news is that the new vaccine techniques being used on EHDV will very likely work on BTV. As with the new EHDV vaccine, we need samples from your deer that have died from EHDV or BTV to ensure that the vaccines being made will be effective here in Florida. Our necropsy service helps you understand why your deer died and provides us with information to make better vaccines for Florida deer farmers.

Don't forget the No-See-Um Identification Services Project (NISP)

This mail in service allows you to learn what midges are on your farm, what animals the midges are feeding on, and if they are vectors for EHDV or BTV. So far we have had **23 deer farms** across the state sign up for the services. On our website we have instructions and a video on how to set up the midge trap that we will send you. If you would like to identify the midges on your farm, contact Al Runkel at runkela@ufl.edu, or call or text the CHERI entomology team at 772-778-7200. Click [here](#) for more information.

Gap Year Intern Spotlight: Marni Gutman



Marni is completing a 5 month internship with CHeRI as a necropsy technician who is responsible for coordinating with deer farmers around North Florida and the Panhandle. When a farm loses a deer, Marni schedules a visit to their farm to perform a necropsy. During the necropsy she takes samples from each major organ that will be used for diagnostic testing of common diseases of deer in Florida. This testing provides the farmer with some insight as to why their deer died. After this internship is complete, Marni plans on attending veterinary school next fall. She wants to become a mixed-practice veterinarian working with both small animals and wildlife and to continue researching infectious diseases that affect both wildlife and humans.

Marni graduated from Michigan State University in May 2018. She received a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife with a concentration in pre-veterinary medicine. During her undergraduate studies she worked for the Avian Disease Ecology

Laboratory where she assisted a PhD candidate with her research studying Avian Influenza. Along with her research, she was responsible for the husbandry of the Blue-winged Teal ducks, the necropsies, and counting the white blood cells of over 150 birds. When she is not working or in school Marni enjoys most outdoor activities including hiking, canoeing, fishing, and horseback riding. She is also very enthusiastic about cooking, exercising, and reading.

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

- ***The Wildlife Society Annual Meeting***, October 7-11 in Cleveland, OH. CHeRI researchers will present on upcoming genetic technologies for wildlife management and learn about new research on white-tailed deer.
- ***US Animal Health Association Annual Meeting***, October 18-24 in Kansas City, MO. CHeRI researchers will be attending the meeting of the Captive Cervid Working Group 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.
- ***American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Meeting***, October 28-31 in New Orleans. Did you know that viruses closely related to EHDV and BTM are deadly to humans? Or that deer can get malaria? CHeRI researchers will be on hand at this meeting to learn how research they are conducting on midges and white-tailed deer may help human medicine.

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