



CERVIDAE HEALTH RESEARCH INITIATIVE

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Message from the Director

Fawning season is here! We are ready to work with deer farmers through fawning season and into fall which, unfortunately, is EHDV season. CHeRI has partnered with two vaccine research groups to help bring vaccines for EHDV to market. Our article below outlines how deer farmers can participate with one of these groups. Want to learn more about CHeRI research activities? Come to our 3rd Annual Cervidae Health Science Symposium at the [UF IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center](#).

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

Dr. Samantha Wisely
Director, CHeRI

Participate in EHDV vaccine research

Medgene Labs, a vaccine manufacturer, is seeking Florida farms to participate in a vaccine trial for Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (EHDV) 2. UF IFAS CHeRI has reviewed the data on this vaccine and finds that the results are promising and that the vaccine appears safe. While University of Florida is not associated with the manufacturing or dissemination of this vaccine, we are assisting Medgene in recruiting farmers and evaluating the outcome of the study.

How the study will work:

- 1) Deer farmers contact Medgene **now** to request enrollment in the study. The study will provide vaccines against EHDV-2 for adult deer.
- 2) Medgene will send deer farmers the vaccine and vaccination instructions. Farmers will be responsible for vaccinating their own animals.
- 3) CHeRI will follow up with phone calls to check on enrolled animals.
- 4) Farmers will call CHeRI the same day that an animal dies on their farm.
- 5) Any animal on an enrolled farm that dies will be necropsied by CHeRI within 24 hours of death.

This vaccine is only for EHDV-2. Animals will not be protected from EHDV -1 or -6, but the vast majority of EHDV deaths in Florida are from EHDV-2. The vaccine is delivered in two doses, 21 days apart. Ideally, the vaccine is administered intramuscularly in the neck, but can be darted into the rump area. Your participation in this study will speed up the licensing of this vaccine and the development of vaccines for EHDV 1 and 6.

What you should do now:

Contact Ashley Swanhorst at Medgene (1-605-692-1268) or ashley@medgenelabs.com to sign up for the study. Approximately 4 weeks after you sign up with Medgene, you can expect to receive the vaccine.

CHeRI to host 3rd Annual Cervidae Health Science Symposium with SETDA Fall BBQ



When: August 16 & 17, 2019

What:

- *The Research* - Learn about new pathogens affecting deer in Florida and vaccines that being developed to protect deer, find out what those pesky no-see-ums are feeding on, discover what the best forages are your deer!
- *The Recreation* – Stay in beautiful Ruskin, Florida on the harbor of Tampa Bay. CHeRI will host a reception for Florida Deer Farmers. Stay tuned for special hotel rates.
- *The Camaraderie* – The SETDA Fall BBQ is a great way to meet new deer farmers and connect with old friends.

Where: The events will be held at the [UF IFAS Gulf Coast Research Center](#) in Wimauma, Florida. Hotel accommodations will be in Ruskin, Florida.



Don't forget Free Diagnostic Testing!

Call our Hotline: 352-562-DEER

If you own a deer farm in Florida, we would like to test sick or dead animals that you suspect have Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease or Bluetongue. We will provide necropsy results for free and those results will be completely confidential. If you have a dead or sick animal, there are several ways you can get us samples:

- 1) We can send someone out to collect tissues.
- 2) If you work with a veterinarian, we can negotiate a reimbursement rate for providing us with the needed tissues.
- 3) If you would like to collect tissues yourself, check out this [instructional video!](#)

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)

