



CERVIDAE HEALTH RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Volume 4, Issue 3, October 2019

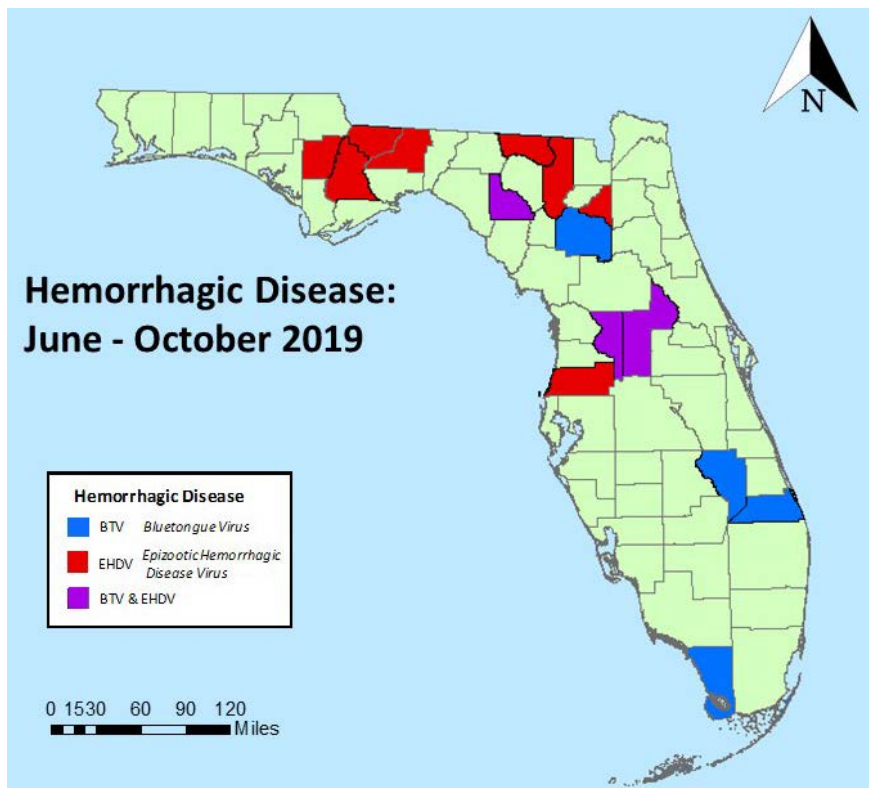
Message from the Director

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (EHDV) has hit the US hard this year. From Tennessee to Washington State, Oklahoma to Wisconsin, large die-offs due to EHDV have been reported. In Florida, we have seen EHDV Serotype 1 for the first time since 2015 and many farmers have had significant losses. There is hope for reducing losses, however. CHeRI is assisting in two independent vaccine field trials in Florida, and initial results suggest that both vaccines look promising.

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

Dr. Samantha Wisely
Director, CHeRI

Current map of EHDV and BTV



EHDV season started early this year with our first confirmed case on June 4th. We have confirmed 32 cases of EHDV and 8 cases of BTV so far. We have all three 50% of our EHDV cases have been serotype 1, the rest of the cases were equally split between EHDV-2 and EHDV-6. We had not seen EHDV-1 since 2015. Additionally, we have found a case of CHeRI orbivirus 3, and one case of Bovine Viral Diarrhea virus (BVDV).

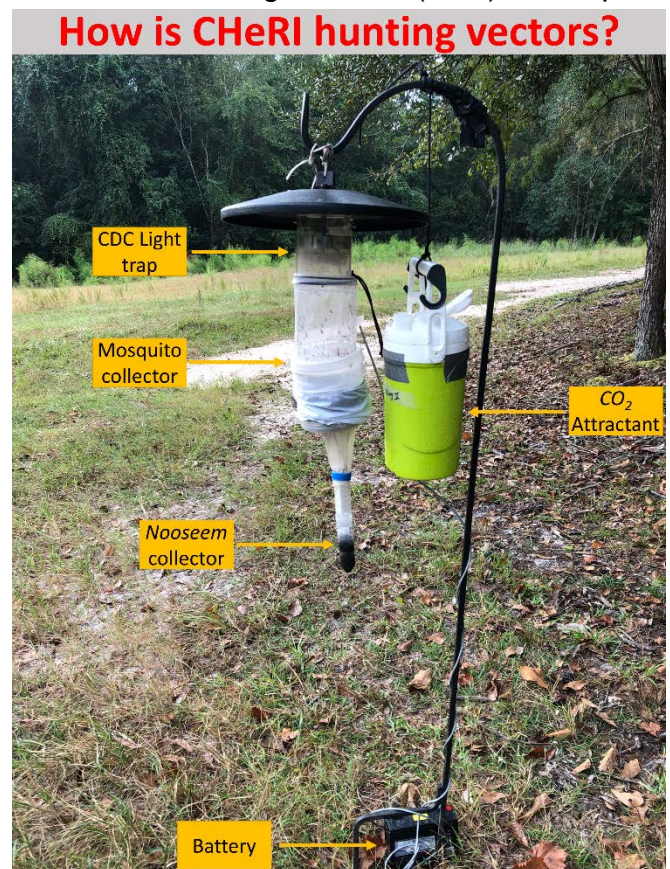
Update on EHDV vaccine field trial from MedGene

A field trial is ongoing in Florida to test the ability of Medgene Lab's experimental EHDV2 vaccine to protect against infection. The study involves 14 deer farms, testing the vaccine in about 700 deer in the state of Florida. Close collaboration with UF IFAS Cervidae Health Research Initiative (CHeRI) is instrumental in the success of this study and allows for comparison of disease outbreak in vaccinated versus unvaccinated farmed white-tailed deer in Florida. Deer farmers from other states in the US are participating in a study to evaluate the safety of the EHDV2 vaccine. As of October 23, 2019, about 4,400 doses have been distributed to states outside of Florida. A limited supply of vaccine remains for deer farmers that may be interested in participating in the study. Please contact Ashley Swanhorst of Medgene if interested. These two field studies will provide critical data for obtaining a conditional license for the EHDV2 vaccine. Medgene Labs would like to thank all deer producers enrolled in these studies. Without the support and trust from the deer industry, the vaccine would still be years away from being licensed. We are thrilled to provide a solution to one of the most devastating diseases plaguing the industry and look forward to seeing this vaccine make a real difference.

Ashley Swanhorst
Clinical R&D Lead Scientist
Medgene Labs
605-692-1268
ashley@medgenelabs.com

Hunting the vectors of NEW CHeRI Orbiviruses

Hemorrhagic disease in white tailed deer remains a significant threat to commercial deer farming in North America. This disease is caused by two Orbiviruses, bluetongue virus (BTV) and epizootic hemorrhagic disease viruses (EHDV), which are transmitted through the bite of no-see-ums (Culicoides species). Interestingly, recent findings of our CHeRI team indicate that Florida deer are exposed to not only BTV/EHDV, but also to new viruses closely related to BTV/EHDV. It is suspected that mosquitoes play a role in the transmission of these new Orbiviruses. The entomology group led by Dr. Nathan Burkett-Cadena and his lab members at UF Florida Medical Entomology Lab are currently working with deer farms in the panhandle and central Florida regions to identify the potential mosquito and/or no-see-um species involved in the transmission of these new viruses. To do this, they are trapping mosquitoes and no-see-ums on farms where hemorrhagic disease cases have been recently reported. The traps that have been used are modified to separate no-see-ums from mosquitoes based on the difference in size (no-see-ums being much smaller than mosquitoes). Once we find out the results of deer necropsies, CHeRI will test our mosquitoes and no-see-ums for the new CHeRI Orbiviruses. In the future we will develop recommendations for controlling the species that transmit these new viruses.



Cool season forages for deer: What works best in Florida?

Dr. Marcelo Wallau, UF/IFAS CHeRI forage specialist has started a statewide effort involving several county agents and state specialist to demonstrate alternatives forages for deer and livestock during the winter. The goal is to demonstrate which are the best cultivars and blends of oat, rye, triticale, ryegrass, clovers, brassicas and more. They also have trials to evaluate establishment techniques

where producers can see the differences between prepared ground and sod overseeding, broadcast and drilling, and fertilization levels. There are over 20 sites across Central and North Florida and the Florida's Panhandle and many opportunities for workshops and field days throughout the upcoming winter and spring. Cultivar selection is extremely important for the success of a pasture, because not all varieties are created equal. The University of Florida forage breeding team has extensively worked on small grains, ryegrasses and clovers to develop materials that are adequate for your situation, for your environmental conditions. While off-the-counter wildlife seed mixes are available in most hunting stores, they normally contain species and varieties that are not adapted to our region, so you are not getting "the most out of your buck" (or, should I say, the most "for" your buck!). See what our recommendations for cool-season forages are ([click here](#)). Keep an eye on the winter CHeRI newsletter and learn about all the forage field days coming up!



The importance of cultivar selection: all the indicated strips are oat cultivars, planted on the same date and fertilized equally. Legend 567 was developed by UF for Florida dairies, and produces more and earlier than other cultivars like Ram and Cosaque.

Upcoming Events

- **29 October 2019**, Providence, RI – Dr. Wisely will present results of two vaccine trials to the US Animal Health Association, Farmed Cervid Working Group
- **25-28 March 2020**, French Lick, IN – CHeRI will be present at National Deer Farmer's Association NADeFA 2020 Conference
- **3-4 April 2020**, Orlando, FL – CHeRI will be present at the Southeast Trophy Deer Association Spring Fling
- **Stay tuned** for winter/spring field days and see our forage plots!

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)

