



CERVIDAE HEALTH RESEARCH INITIATIVE

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Message from the Director

We face uncertain times, but I find comfort in the community that Florida deer farmers have built and in their ability to support one another. CHeRI is here to support this community as well, and work to keep this industry productive and sustainable. In this newsletter we provide you with resources to protect yourself and your clients from COVID-19, and update you on the services we are able to provide. Stay safe and keep in touch with us on social media; we could use the company in these times of social distancing!

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

Dr. Samantha Wisely
Director, CHeRI

CHeRI Necropsy Intern Spotlight

Part of our mission at CHeRI is to introduce our next generation of scientists, veterinarians, and wildlife biologists to deer farming and cervid health. To date we have trained 9 necropsy interns. These interns work one-on-one with our Wildlife Extension Veterinarian, Dr. Juan Campos and interact with clients, conduct field necropsies, learn basic veterinary anatomy and pathology, and perform molecular diagnostics. Our interns have gone on to veterinary school, graduate school and the biotech industry. Meet our 10th intern, Mr. Austin Fajfer.



Austin Fajfer

UF | IFAS Research
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



vol. 10

MAJOR INTERESTS:

Much of interest in research has been sparked by my longtime passion for hunting big game in the state of Colorado. As is the case in many states, several diseases are known to wreak havoc on free-range populations of animals which in turn causes issues for the economy and hunters. I have found great interest in these diseases and the roles that they play on all levels of the spectrum and would like to do my part in making a difference for the future generations to come.

I do not have any previous research work with CHeRI but am excited about the opportunity to work with this community and be a part of the ongoing research.

March/2020

Trustworthy online resources for information on COVID19



The virus appears to remain viable on hard surfaces. To learn how to clean hard surfaces effectively, click [here](#).



Hand sanitizer is in short supply, learn how to make your own [here](#).



Getting mixed messages about how to handle groceries? Click [here](#) for trustworthy info from UF IFAS and the CDC.



Safari Club International is maintaining a website specifically on how COVID-19 policies are affecting hunters, check out the website, [here](#).



If you want to keep up to date on where positive cases are located in Florida, FDOH has an interactive map of positive case [here](#).

CHeRI services during the COVID-19 pandemic

UF regards our diagnostic work on deer deaths as essential services. We are therefore able to collect samples on your farm and process those samples in our laboratories. Our ship-in services are also still available. When we visit your farm, we will ensure your safety via social distancing and CDC approved disinfecting procedures. Our Wildlife Extension Veterinarian, Dr. Juan Campos, is also available for over-the-phone consultations. Call the deer hotline at 352-562-DEER to get in touch with us about your diagnostic needs and cervid health questions.

Best Management Practices for Vaccination

CHeRI is convening the best thinkers in the industry to provide guidelines for new EHDV vaccines that are coming to market this year. The working group has surveyed farmers who tested the vaccine in 2019 and will use their responses along with the best available science to craft the best management practices for vaccine administration. The resulting guidelines will be available to all state and national cervid farm organizations.

Contact Us:

Email: wiselylabuf@gmail.com

EHD Hotline Phone: 352-562-DEER

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

Facebook:

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

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

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CERVIDAE HEALTH RESEARCH INITIATIVE

We offer free diagnostic assays to determine which diseases are killing deer in Florida. To submit samples for analysis, call:

352-562-DEER

www.wec.ifas.ufl.edu/cheri

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