



CERVIDAE HEALTH RESEARCH INITIATIVE

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Message from the Director

With the colder weather settling in, EHDV cases finally seem to be slowing down, but EHDV and BTV continue to be the number one cause of death on farms. We are working on several fronts to help farmers increase production. Our team continues to collect information from animals vaccinated with the Medgene EHDV vaccines to monitor their effectiveness and safety. We are designing rapid “dipstick” tests for EHDV that can be used identify positive animals quickly and on-site. We also brought on a new PhD student, Savannah Grace, to help us determine if certain lineages of white-tailed deer are more resistant to EHDV. As EHDV season winds down and hunting season gears up, we look forward to a happy and healthy end of the year.

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

Dr. Samantha Wisely
Director, CHeRI

SeTDA Summer Picnic

We had a blast at the SeTDA Summer Picnic this past August! We hosted the event at the UF Austin Cary Forest Learning Center. CHeRI director Dr Sam Wisely, CHeRI affiliate scientist Dr. Marcelo Wallau, and CHeRI veterinarian Dr. Juan Campos gave presentations on forages for wildlife, fawn health and vaccination, and CHeRI/vaccine updates. Students and CHeRI affiliate scientist Dr. Nathan Burkett-Cadena from the Florida Medical Entomology Lab in Vero Beach were also in attendance, with a microscope and slides of our favorite insect, *Culicoides*.



Some of the CHeRI Team in attendance: Florida Medical Entomology Lab collaborators and CHeRI necropsy and lab staff.



Dr. Campos giving his presentation on fawn health and the importance of vaccination.

UPDATED Ship-in Procedure

We've updated our shipping address and requirements for sample shipment! These changes will aim to make sure your sample stays cold through transportation and viable for lab processing. This will streamline our services and ensure we are able to answer why your deer died. Please download the pdf and keep it for reference when sending CHeRI a sample.

Welcome our new CHeRI PhD student!

I am a current PhD student in the department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. I received my MS in Animal and Range Sciences from Montana State University where I examined the gut microbiome of wild ruminants. My research interests relate to the emergence and pathogenesis of infectious diseases within wildlife species. My initial research will focus on how genetic variation in white-tailed deer may influence susceptibility to epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD). I am looking forward to working alongside the other members of the CHeRI team to provide meaningful research that aims to improve the health of both captive and wild cervids and their environment. In my free time I enjoy kayaking, going to the beach, and exploring with my husband and dogs.



Articles we think you'll enjoy!

Cool Season Forage Articles

CHeRI affiliate scientist Dr. Marcelo Wallau and CHeRI veterinarian Dr. Juan Campos wrote articles about their 2021 recommendations for cool-season forage varieties for Florida wildlife food plots. When warm-season grasses become dormant, many livestock producers choose to plant cool-season crops to supplement forage. Though they can keep foraging up, establishing cool-season pasture species can be costly and the weather unpredictable. To read more about their recommendations, check out the articles [here](#) and [here](#).

2021 Season Summary

This season has been quite busy for us here at CHeRI! We have a lot of data from this year thanks to the cooperation of our deer farmers, new and veteran, and the teamwork between all the principal investigators, scientists, and necropsy interns of CHeRI.

As of November 3rd:

- Total samples: 73
- Florida counties: 17
- Total EHDV positives: 24 (21% of total samples)
 - EHDV-2 had the highest prevalence (66.67%)
 - Untypeable positives (16.67%),
 - EHDV-6 (8.33%)
 - Combination of EHDV-2/6 (8.33%)
 - EHDV-1 was not present in any samples.
- Total BTV positives: 17 (15% of total samples)

BTV was confirmed in all seasons this year but increased during our late summer and fall season. EHDV cases were confirmed starting in July and continued through our fall season.

Florida wasn't the only state to see EHDV/BTV action this year. Several states across the country and countries around the world had confirmed cases.

Some 2021 EHDV/BTV news from across the country:

Minnesota Zoo testing new formulation of Medgene EHD vaccine on reindeer

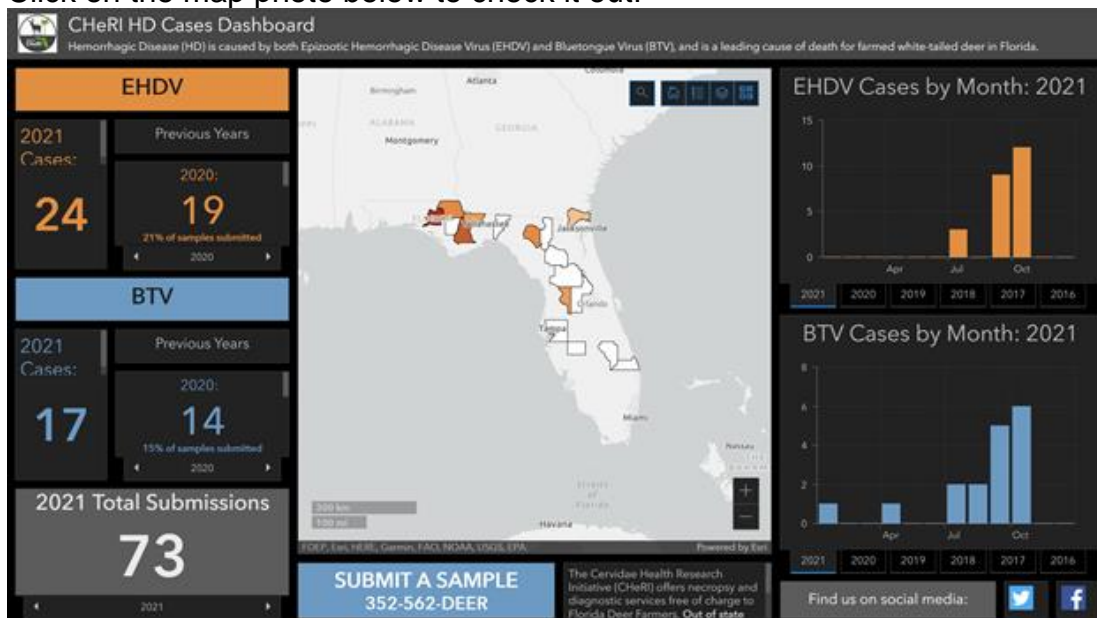
Vermont saw their first confirmed cases of EHDV in state history

New York saw another large outbreak, totaling around 700 animals in 2021

The Northwest saw more WTD infected with either EHDV or BTV than normal

Don't forget you can check out the numbers during our EHDV/BTV season here in Florida with our interactive HD Cases Dashboard Map. You can track these deadly viruses in real time! We like to play around with the cases by month and see how it changes through the years.

Click on the map photo below to check it out!



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