



UF|IFAS
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

CERVIDAE HEALTH RESEARCH INITIATIVE

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Message from the Director

We are approaching the critical time of year when EHDV and BTV threaten production of deer herds. There are new tools out there for combatting hemorrhagic disease viruses. At the upcoming SETDA BBQ, Ashley Petersen will be discussing a new BTV vaccine that will be available, and Vilma Montenegro will be discussing the efficacy of our most used pesticides. We look forward to seeing you all on August 3rd.

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

Dr. Samantha Wisely
Director, CHeRI

SeTDA Summer BBQ and Schedule

CHeRI will once again be at the SeTDA Summer BBQ! The 2024 SeTDA Summer BBQ will take place on August 3rd at the [UF Austin Cary Learning Center](#). Below is the schedule for the upcoming BBQ.

Registration and Breakfast SETDA and CHeRI team
9:00 - 9:50 AM

- 9:50 AM Introduction by Bill and Sam
- 10:00 AM Dr. Juan Campos Krauer- Deer Immobilization Drugs
- 10:15 AM Dr. Diwakar Vyas- Optimizing Deer Nutrition: Strategies to Prevent Acidosis and Enhance Health
- 10:30 AM Vilma Montenegro- Are permethrin applications killing biting midges in Florida deer farms?
- 10:45 AM Ashley Petersen- Medgene updates
- 11:00 AM SETDA team- Fawn care
- 11:45 PM Lunch (4 Rivers); SETDA announcements and raffle draw
- 1:00 - 2:00 PM Questions Round table and Dart competition
- 2:00 - 2:30 PM Final discussion



Fawn season: Helpful guidelines and suggestions from Dr. Juan Campos Krauer

The fawning season is a critical period that significantly impacts your herd's health, growth, and overall success. Your handling of this period can greatly influence your economic outcomes and the sustainability of your operations.

Items to consider:

Health and Nutrition of Does:

Provide proper nutrition, vaccinations, and parasite control to ensure optimal health in pregnant does. Remember not to vaccinate or deworm too early or too late during the pregnancy. Offer a balanced diet rich in essential nutrients to support fetal development, colostrum, milk, and the health of the does.

Facility Readiness:

Remember to prepare clean, safe birthing areas that are free from potential hazards. Fill low areas that hold water or areas surrounding water troughs with limestone. Keep the grass short but leave some patches long for fawns to hide. Check the fence and gates to ensure fawns can't escape and predators can't get in.

Training and Protocols:

Train farm staff on how to care for fawns, including recognizing signs of distress, proper feeding techniques, and hygiene practices.

Record Keeping:

Maintain detailed records of breeding, births, health checks, and treatments. This data is crucial for making informed management decisions and tracking the genetic progress of your herd.

Fawn Care Timeline:

Birth and Day 1:

Allow bonding and nursing between the fawn and the doe. If issues arise (such as cold, multiple births, or an unclaimed fawn), ensure the fawn receives colostrum using tubing, a bottle, or by grafting to another doe. Colostrum is well absorbed only during the first 18 hours of life, so act quickly if there is a problem. Don't forget that colostrum is extremely important for the health of a fawn as it contains essential antibodies and nutrients. If a fawn doesn't receive colostrum, it's more likely to suffer from diseases and may have a higher risk of mortality. You can obtain colostrum from does that have lost their fawns or from other animals such as cows, goats, or sheep. Currently, there are no commercially available deer colostrum substitutes. If using colostrum from different species, ensure it is free of diseases.



Day 1 (8 - 18 Hours):

Remember the following instructions:

- Tag the fawn for identification. Make sure to disinfect the area before and after tagging, microchipping, or tattooing.
 - Disinfect the navel with 7% iodine tincture as it provides both disinfection and drying of the cord.
 - Always consult your vet before administering colostrum substitutes, protections against E. coli, Clostridium C&D antitoxin, or vitamin supplements and probiotics. The use of any of these products will vary from farm to farm.

Day 2 – 3:

- Time to pull fawns that you decide to bottle rear (after they feed on plenty of colostrum).
- Double-check the navel and disinfect again if needed.

Bottle Feeding Tips:

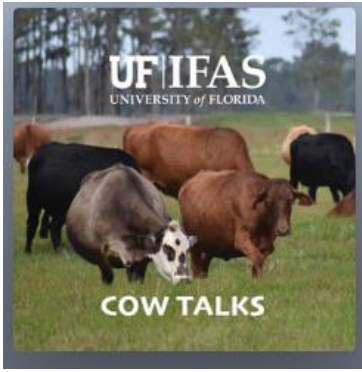
- Feed fawns 2-4 ounces five times daily, adjusting frequency as they grow.
- Use species-specific milk replacer to prevent scours.
- Ensure cleanliness and proper formula mixing, and temperature to avoid disease.
- Feed your fawn 2 to 4 ounces of milk five times a day during the first week. Aim to provide 10% to 20% of the fawn's body weight in milk per day. Use a formula designed for fawns or goat milk replacer to prevent digestive issues.
- Offer fresh water, small amounts of "creep" feed, and hand-picked greens.
- Keep fawns in separate pens initially to prevent disease spread and encourage bonding with humans.
- Wean fawns based on feed consumption and body condition, typically around 60 days.

It is crucial to remember that fawns need to be vaccinated against the Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease Virus. For the vaccine to be effective, fawns should receive two doses, with a minimum of three weeks between doses. It is recommended to complete the vaccination protocol before weaning.

Fawns are very vulnerable, so it's important to detect any sick animals early for successful treatment. Establishing a relationship with a veterinarian who understands regional disease risks and knows your farm is important for providing fast treatment options.

Good luck,
Juan

CHeRI Director on the Cow Talks podcast



CHeRI Director, Dr. Samantha Wisely, was recently interviewed on the Cow Talks podcast. The podcast, hosted by Dr. Marcelo Wallau, a UF/IFAS Forage Extension Specialist, and Chris Prevatt, Beef Cattle and Forage Commodity Director for the Alabama Farmers Federation, is geared towards Florida producers and extension agents. Dr. Wisely and Dr. Wallau discuss how deer production is an important livestock industry in Florida and how CHeRI supports deer producers with a science-based approach to promote deer health and successful herd production.

Give a listen to the Cow Talks podcast episode on Spotify [here!](#)

CHeRI Spotlight



Braxton Sizemore

Major interests: As an undergrad I studied ecology and evolutionary biology, as well as classical languages and history. I was lucky to work in a variety of research settings, ranging from biomedical and molecular labs to community ecology and animal welfare. My current interests lie mostly at the intersection of evolutionary biology and disease ecology, and long-term I hope to study diseases of vertebrate communities at agroecological interfaces. I'm originally from Thomasville, Georgia and in my free time help my parents run a small sheep farm. I'm also passionate about LGBTQIA+ empowerment and advocacy efforts in rural communities and have volunteered with queer community organizations for several years.

My role in CHeRI: As a necropsy technician, I travel to farms across the state and respond to calls from farmers. We collect information about deaths, perform necropsies, and collect samples for further analysis in conjunction with UF VetMed and UF WEC. I applied to

the position because of the unique opportunity it represents to engage with and help the growing community of deer farmers in Florida, putting the important research we do into practice.

CHeRI Resources

With fawn season upon us and HD season around the corner, brush up on some of our many educational resources on the CHeRI website. We've published and gathered educational materials on a range of topics- from deer health and nutrition, to Florida regulations and pest control.

Check out our resources [here!](#)

Ship us your specimens!

While we provide free necropsies to Florida deer farmers, we know sometimes it is quicker for a farmer to sample or necropsy their own animal. Time is of the essence for disease testing. We accept biological samples from live and dead animals, but it's critically important that the samples are collected, stored, and shipped correctly. Improperly prepared samples yield poor or no results. Call us prior to collecting specimens to determine which sample(s) to collect and how to store it. We will work with your veterinarian or your farm manager to ensure that the right sample is collected. Proper shipping and notification will ensure your sample stays viable for testing and that no cost is incurred by the shipper.

Call **352-562-3337** if you have any questions about requirements when sending CHeRI a specimen.

Contact Us:

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

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