

Cervid Health Operational Plan

Fiscal Year 2018

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services Veterinary Services

Veterinary Services (VS), Surveillance, Preparedness, and Response Services (SPRS) protects and improves the health, quality, and marketability of our Nation's cervids by preventing, controlling, and/or eliminating cervid diseases; conducting surveillance and monitoring; and promoting cervid health. The SPRS Cervid Health Program also works in partnership with VS' National Import Export Services (NIES) and Science, Technology, and Analysis Services (STAS) to provide comprehensive cervid health services to the sector.

Objective 1: Provide a consistent national approach to control chronic wasting disease (CWD) in farmed cervids and prevent the spread of disease.

Activity 1.1: Publish and implement revised CWD Program Standards.

Activity 1.2: Evaluate the use of rectal biopsies in elk as ante-mortem tests for CWD.

Activity 1.3: Maintain and add to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) archive of tissue, blood, and feces samples that are well-characterized with regard to CWD-infection status. Evaluate sample requests from researchers and provide sample materials, as appropriate.

Activity 1.4: Collect and review FY 2018 annual reports from Approved States in the CWD Herd Certification Program (HCP).

Activity 1.5: Develop exhibition guidelines for reindeer.

Activity 1.6: Continue to encourage research through collaboration with science professionals and State partners to identify new methods for ante-mortem CWD testing, characterize the role of genotype in CWD infection and disease progression, and develop tools to prevent disease transmission.

Activity 1.7: Establish a procedure and conduct a pilot project for consistent State reviews of Approved States in the CWD HCP (as resources allow).

Objective 2: Eradicate *Mycobacterium bovis* in farmed cervids and maintain the national cervid tuberculosis (TB) accreditation program.

Activity 2.1: Continue to provide technical support for the interpretation of TB test results and the designation of final disposition for animals with non-negative test results. Summarize national cervid TB testing annually.

Activity 2.2: Monitor National Veterinary Services Laboratories inventory and

manufacturer's availability of Dual Path Platform (DPP) test kits and provide regular inventory updates to stakeholders.

Activity 2.3: Present at the SPRS District 5 TB training in Manhattan, Kansas, on March 20-22, 2018.

Activity 2.4: Revise VS Guidance 6701.2, "Primary and Secondary Serological Test for Diagnosing Bovine TB in Farmed and Captive Cervids."

Activity 2.5: Analyze bovine TB test data performed in farmed cervids from FY 2011-2017 and estimate the prevalence of bovine TB in farmed cervids to inform the appropriate testing interval for TB accredited and monitored farmed cervid herds.

Activity 2.6: Develop a plan to evaluate the Cervid Dual Path Platform (DPP) VetTB Assay® serological test for potential use and an official test in the bovine TB program for farmed and captive sika and mule deer. Determine resources needed to implement the plan.

Activity 2.7: Develop a plan to evaluate DPP testing data on fallow deer to support raising the DPP VetTB Assay optical density (OD) cut-off value for fallow deer from 200 to 500. Determine resources needed to implement the plan.

Objective 3: Conduct comprehensive and integrated disease surveillance.

Activity 3.1: Improve reporting of CWD detections and epidemiological investigations in farmed cervids.

Activity 3.2: Investigate options and possible goals for comprehensive and integrated disease surveillance in cervids.

Objective 4: Prepare for and respond to foreign, emerging, and zoonotic diseases that threaten the herd, industry, or public health.

Activity 4.1: Contribute to VS' implementation of the Emerging Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan and the U.S. National List of Reportable animal Diseases (NLRAD) Framework.

Activity 4.2: Provide stakeholder education and outreach on biosecurity implementation through the APHIS website, contributions to industry publications, and presentations at industry meetings, such as the North American Deer Farmer's Association annual meeting.

Activity 4.3: Review existing Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan documents and tools to identify needs for the farmed cervid industry. Prioritize development of new documents to supplement existing materials with a focus on farmed cervids (as resources allow).

Objective 5: Conduct education and outreach to provide cervid health and disease information to decision makers and stakeholders.

Activity 5.1: Continue to host a monthly cervid health call for Federal and State animal health officials. Host calls with farmed cervid industry representatives as requested.

Activity 5.2: Include information about CWD detections and epidemiological investigations in farmed cervid herds on the APHIS Cervid Health webpage. Regularly update other information on the webpage.

Activity 5.3: Encourage stakeholders to provide feedback on the Cervid Health Program through interactive meetings, such as the annual APHIS Administrator's Cervid Sector Meeting and the monthly cervid health call.

Activity 5.4: Provide stakeholder education and outreach on the implementation of the revised CWD Program Standards after they are published.

Activity 5.5: Participate in select stakeholder meetings to share information about the Cervid Health Program, including the following meetings:

- Reindeer Owners and Breeders Association; Easton, Pennsylvania; March 8-10, 2018.
- North American Deer Farmer's Association; French Lick, Indiana; March 21-24, 2018.
- Cervid Sector Meeting; Washington D.C.; April 3, 2018.
- North American Elk Breeders Association; Fargo, North Dakota; August 2-4, 2018.
- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; Tampa, Florida; September 9-12, 2018.
- U.S. Animal Health Association; Kansas City, Missouri; October 18-24, 2018.