



JB Pritzker, Governor • Jerry Costello II, Director

Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare

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Cervid Producers of Illinois,

We are writing to inform you of the 2025 cooperative agreement awarded to the Illinois Department of Agriculture from the USDA APHIS under the Farmed Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management and Response Activities.

The funds award to the Department will support producers in utilizing genomic tools and strategic breeding practices to reduce herd-level susceptibility to CWD. This program builds upon the existing Predictive Genetics initiative by expanding financial support to include tissue collection and selective breeding supplies and activities associated with obtaining genomically estimated breeding value (GEBV) testing through the North American Deer Registry (NADR).

Eligible producers may apply for full reimbursement for approved costs associated with collecting tissue samples (ear punches) for submission to NADR for GEBV testing. Reimbursable expenses may include, but are not limited to:

- Tissue collection supplies
- Sedation or restraints needed to safely perform the collection process
- Handling or veterinary activities necessary to complete the collection process

Producers may also apply for reimbursement for up to 50% of the cost of approved items used to introduce improved genetics into their herds. Eligible expenses include:

- Semen or embryos from white-tailed deer with favorable GEBV results
- Artificial insemination (AI) or embryo transfer supplies
- AI or embryo transfer equipment
- Other breeding-related materials directly supporting genetic improvement

At this time, GEBV testing is validated for white-tailed deer only. Therefore, this funding is available exclusively to white-tailed deer producers in good standing with the CWD program and those who have been accepted to the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Predictive Genetics Program. If you are interested in applying to be part of either program, please email AGR.CWDGrants@illinois.gov

Sincerely,

Illinois Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare