



State of Wisconsin
Governor Tony Evers

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Secretary Randy Romanski

2026 CWD USDA Grant General GEBV Project

Background:

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has received a USDA grant to improve the management of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Wisconsin farm-raised deer herds, including advancement of genetics-based herd practices.

The 2026 grant allows for captive farm-raised deer herds in Wisconsin to apply for compensated genomic testing in white-tailed deer*. The genetic tests will be conducted by the North American Deer Registry (NADR). With this genetic breeding information, herd owners can make educated decisions about their breeding herds.

Eligibility

- ☐ Eligible deer must be white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)*.
- ☐ Herds must be currently registered as a farm-raised deer keeper with DATCP and in good standing.
- ☐ Herds that receive funding are expected to utilize results in a breeding herd.
- ☐ Each deer tested using funds from this program must have official ID in place regardless of age. For herds in the CWD Status Program, the ID must match what is reported in the census
- ☐ CWD samples should be collected for all animals that were tested as part of this project, as able, and in compliance with your current testing requirements.

Application

All captive farm-raised deer herds with white-tailed deer may apply. Include the number of samples requested for GEBV testing your herd. Applications will be assessed based on eligibility, alignment with grant objectives, number of samples requested, and available funding. **All support is dependent on available funding and will be offered as first-come, first-served.**

*Testing is currently available for white-tailed deer. If testing becomes available for elk, producers will be notified and provided additional information for application.

Sampling and testing instructions

See page 3 for further instructions and important dates. *Samples sent to NADR prior to approval from DATCP will not be funded.*

Please contact DATCP with any questions or further information regarding your application.

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GENERAL GEBV PROJECT APPLICATION 2026

DUE BY JULY 1, 2027

Please fill out the following application and sign. Completed applications may be sent to DATCPCWDGrants@wisconsin.gov, faxed at 608-224-4871, or mailed to DATCP-DAH, Attn: FRD Genomic Project, 2811 Agriculture Dr., Madison WI 53718

Owner Name _____

Legal entity/herd name _____

Registration number _____

Phone number _____

Email _____

**Requested number of
tests**

Please briefly describe a genetics-based management plan for your herd (additional pages may be attached):

Please acknowledge all of the terms below by initialing each and signing below.

_____ My herd meets the eligibility requirements described on page one.

_____ I authorize NADR to share aggregated GEBV data with DATCP for the purpose of monitoring CWD susceptibility and for ensuring financial accountability in the use of grant funds.

_____ I authorize DATCP to share the results of CWD testing and official animal ID with Dr. Chris Seabury.

_____ I understand DATCP will provide payment directly to NADR for the genomic testing costs for an approved number of tests, as funds are available. Any additional testing conducted will be at my own expense.

_____ I understand sample collection equipment, tagging, tranquilization, shipping costs, etc. are my responsibility.

Print name _____ **Date** _____

Signature _____



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Testing Information

- The cost of GEBV testing at NADR is currently \$76 per white-tailed deer (and \$110 per elk). NADR will bill DATCP directly for approved herds and approved animals if all requirements of the project are met. Contact NADR directly for information on sampling or to learn more about these tests.
- Membership to NADR is not required to participate, but NADR members may request to have parentage testing run at the same time at their own expense.
- The samples must be collected using the All Flex tissue tubes, which may be ordered with or without a tagging applicator. The tissue collecting device shall be paid for by the producer [Tissue Sampling Unit - Allflex Livestock Intelligence North America](#). A Distributor list can be found here: [Online Distributors - Allflex Livestock Intelligence North America](#)
- Only freshly collected ear tissue samples may be submitted for this program.
- NADR estimates testing will be completed 3-4 weeks after the samples are received.
- Animals funded by DATCP may only be tested once. If an animal id list has duplicate id information (including from previous grants), testing will not be paid for an animal(s) with duplicate identification.
- If a tested deer dies while still in your possession, it must be tested for CWD according to your current testing requirements and the results may be shared with Dr. Seabury to further his research into CWD resistance. If a deer is sold, please make an attempt to capture the testing results.
- In order to have testing paid through the project, the approved application, animal ID list and sample vials will be sent to NADR. A copy of the final animal ID list must be forwarded to DATCP (for the purpose of auditing CWD test results upon animal deaths).

Instructions

1. Submit a completed application (page 2). DATCP will provide notification if approved.
2. If approved, collect samples from the desired animals. The number of allowable samples will be documented on your approved application. Fill out the **Animal ID List**. You may choose to fill out the front page of the **Animal ID List** and record required animal information on a separate spreadsheet.
Samples sent to NADR prior to receiving approval by DATCP or in excess of the approved amount are at the cost of the producer.
3. Send the **samples**, a copy of the **approved application** and **Animal ID List** to NADR. It is recommended to send the samples by priority mail.
North American Deer Registry
1601 Medical Center Drive, Suite 1
Edmond, OK 73034
Phone 405-513-7238
Fax 405-513-7238
Email NADR@deerregistry.com
4. Send a copy of the **Animal ID List** to DATCP (this must be received in order for DATCP to pay for the testing.) Email, fax or US mail is acceptable, same methods as listed above.

Important Dates

By August 30th, 2027: Samples must be received at NADR.

By August 30th, 2027: Animal ID lists must be received at DATCP, to ensure payment can be made.