

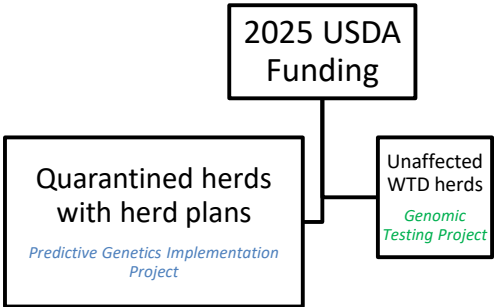


2025 Genetics Farmed Cervid Grant

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

The purpose of this project is to support Wisconsin herd owners who are using genetic tools as part of their herd management. Predictive genetic testing is an emerging tool to make educated breeding and culling decisions based on genetic susceptibility to CWD. The genetic tests will be conducted by the North American Deer Registry (NADR). In unaffected herds (not under quarantine), this can be used to potentially reduce risk of infection. In affected herds (under quarantine), this funding can provide financial support for a variety of herd management tools, including genetic testing.

Funded Projects:
To advance genetic testing and antemortem testing in herd management practices, the 2025 USDA grant prioritizes CWD-quarantined herds. Most funds are prioritized for these herds under the “Predictive Genetics Implementation” Project. A smaller set of funds is set aside for GEBV testing in unaffected herds under the “Genomic Testing” Project.



Predictive Genetics Implementation Project

Quarantined herds with herd plans
With a goal to encourage genetics-based herd decisions, the 2025 grant offers a new way to support Wisconsin WTD breeding herds. Funds are available for quarantined breeding herds to apply for herd management assistance. Assistance may include GEBV testing, supply reimbursement, antemortem rectal biopsy testing, selective indemnity, and more. This assistance is intended to support quarantined breeding herds that are using genetics-based herd decisions to improve their breeding and culling decisions. Herds that are eligible for this funding need to have a detailed herd plan in place that outlines this plan. All WTD breeding herds in Wisconsin that are currently under a CWD-positive or exposed quarantine may apply based on criteria below under Eligibility.

Genomic Testing Project

Unaffected WTD herds
The 2025 grant also allows for unaffected farm raised herds in Wisconsin to apply for reimbursed GEBV testing for white-tail deer. With this information, herd owners can make educated decisions about their breeding herds. Apply based on the criteria detailed below under Eligibility.

Commented [CM1]: In some places they said "positive breeding herd", but in others they also allow for exposed and trace. I will clarify with Ita if I can get a hold of her

Commented [CM2]: This is the \$53,250 under objective 6



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Eligibility

Predictive Genetics Implementation Project

- Eligible deer must be white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus). Hybrids and other species are not eligible at this time.
- The herd must be under a current CWD-positive or -exposed quarantine.
- The herd must develop a genetics-based herd plan that is approved and signed by the producer, DATCP, and the USDA. This herd plan may have additional requirements and costs that are the responsibility of the owner.
- Herds must be registered and in good standing with DATCP.
- Each deer tested using funds from this program must have official ID in place regardless of age. For CWD enrolled herds, the ID must match what is reported in the census.
- If a quarantined herd is ineligible for the predictive genetics implementation assistance, they may still qualify for the general genomic testing project.

Commented [HDARD3]: Elk and mule deer eligible if they are working with Seabury? (Just going on your 9/22 email)

Genomic Testing Project

- Eligible deer for must be white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus). Hybrids and other species are not eligible at this time.
- Herds that receive funding should be utilizing genetic results to make breeding and management decisions in their breeding herd. These funds are not designated for deer that are not bred.
- Herds must be registered and in good standing with DATCP.
- All herds may apply; preference will be given to herds enrolled in the WI CWD Status Program.

Commented [HDARD4]: Elk and mule deer eligible if they are working with Seabury? (Just going on your 9/22 email)

Testing

- The cost of testing is \$75 for each animal, which will be billed directly to DATCP for approved herds and approved animals if all requirements of the project are met. Contact NADR directly for information.
- No membership to NADR is required, but NADR members may request to have parentage testing run at the same time.
- 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 can only be tested once. If an animal id list has duplicate id information testing will not be paid for an animal(s) with duplicate identification.
- If the deer dies while still in your possession, it must be tested for CWD according to your current testing requirements and the results must 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 from the receiving herd, as this information will assist Dr. Seabury in his work to strengthen the GEBV susceptibility tool.

Commented [CM5]: Still \$75?



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Agreements

- Assistance is contingent upon the availability of funds and approval of samples by DATCP prior to submission to NADR. If access to funding changes, DATCP is not responsible for samples that have not yet been billed. If samples are collected and submitted prior to receiving approval from DATCP, they will not be funded. If additional testing is desired, there may be charges for which the participating herd owner will be responsible.
- 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 must be forwarded to DATCP (for the purpose of auditing CWD test results upon animal deaths).
- The herd participant must consent to allow NADR to share aggregated, anonymized data with DATCP. This data will be limited to GEBV scores for Wisconsin deer, but will not be associated with individual deer, farm, or location.

Commented [CM6]: Relates to question about requiring CWD tests for Seabury

Commented [HDARD7]: This aggregated data we were going to collect year by year and compare to see if genetics in WI herds were actually improving GEBV scores. I thought this would be a nice demonstration of WI herd owners trying to fight CWD with one of the few tools available. Good PR.

Process to participate:

1. For all projects, send completed CWD Genomic Subsidization **Program Application** for approval to DATCP by one of the following means:
 - a) DATCPCWDGrants@wisconsin.gov
 - b) Standard mail: DATCP-DAH
Attn: FRD Genomic Project
2811 Agriculture Dr
Madison WI 53718
 - c) Fax: 608-224-4871
2. If you believe your quarantined herd is eligible for predictive genetics implementation assistance, please also reach out to the CWD Program Manager directly at claire.mathias@wisconsin.gov, in addition to your completed program application.
3. Upon approval of the application, 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.
4. 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

Commented [HDARD8]: Would it be helpful to have an email address here?

Commented [HDARD9R8]: And maybe on the application too? I realize you have your contact below, but may be easier to also have it when it's mentioned to contact you.



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5. 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 deadlines:

- **November 15th, 2025:** Applications are due.
 - Applications will be evaluated based on available funds first, then by greatest potential for reducing the spread of CWD.
 - Herds that enrolled in the WI CWD Status Program will be evaluated first.
- **August 30th, 2026:** Samples must be received at NADR.
 - *Samples sent to NADR prior to receiving approval by DATCP will not be funded.*
- **August 30th, 2026:** Animal ID lists must be received at DATCP, to ensure payment can be made to NADR on owners behalf when testing is complete by NADR.

For questions regarding applications, sample submissions, and records, please contact Karen Torvell. If you have any questions regarding the project or genetics-based herd management, please contact Dr. Mathias.

Sincerely,

Claire Mathias, DVM
CWD Program Manager
Division of Animal Health
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
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608-219-5761

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Program Assistant Supervisor
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Commented [CM10]: Estimated if we get this out by beginning of oct

Commented [HDARD11]: Do you anticipate that funding for testing will be used up? The deadline for application being in the fall may prohibit folks from knowing how many fawns they intend to test in the spring. OR if funds are left, would you open up the application period again?