



Dear Pennsylvania Cervid Owner:

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) has received 2023-2024 cooperative agreement grant funding (Grant) from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for farmed cervid chronic wasting disease (CWD) management and response activities. The purpose of the grant is to conduct Genomic Estimated Breeding Value (GEBV) predictions for selective breeding to reduce susceptibility to CWD in Pennsylvania's farmed white-tailed deer.

The GEBV program to be administered by the Department will require testing of each deer by the voluntary participant and establishes other criteria that must be met, such as, submission of herd inventory, testing of all deer in the herd, Official Identification for each deer tested and other recordkeeping requirements. The Grant allows participants that meet the requirements of the GEBV program to receive \$75.00 for each test with the remainder of any testing cost being paid by the participant.

In addition, the PDA has also opened Phase 2 of the CWD Susceptibility Subsidization Program (CWDSSP) for all qualified and participating captive whitetail herd owners. Under the CWDSSP the PDA will be offering a stipend in the amount of \$1,000.00 towards the replacement of adult deer and \$500.00 towards the replacement of fawns 12 months and younger.

All participants must be registered under the Herd Certification or Herd Monitoring Program established by the *General Quarantine Order; Chronic Wasting Disease Program Requirements for Herd Certification Program and Herd Monitoring Program*, 44 Pa.B. 2249, Saturday, April 12, 2014 (CWD General Quarantine Order), be in good standing, all records must be up to date and in accordance with Section 9.k of the CWD General Quarantine Order and the participant must be able to produce all records required under the CWDSSP, be willing to cull all animals with a GEBV test score of -0.056 or greater in the 50k_GEBV testing field and share all testing information for the whitetail deer culled and any replacement stock, including source stock of semen or embryos and whitetails bred or used for breeding through artificial insemination. All animals culled must have an Official Identification compliant with the Official Identification standards established at sections 9.j. and 10j. of the CWD General Quarantine Order) and a test score of -0.056 or greater in the 50k_GEBV testing field in order to receive a stipend for replacement whitetail deer. Stipends paid out may only be applied to purchase replacement whitetail deer, or sperm or embryos that have a verified GEBV test score of less than -0.056 or for artificial insemination of a doe with verified GEBV test score of less than -0.056 by a buck with a verified GEBV test score of less than -0.056 .

As set forth above, all replacement stock shall be whitetail deer and have a verified GEBV test score of less than -0.056 . All parent or source stock of semen or embryos and

all whitetail deer bred or used to breed must have a verified GEBV test score of less than -0.056. In order to verify all replacement stock, parent or source stock of semen or embryos or breeding doe or buck or artificial insemination, a copy of the Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Veterinary Laboratory Systems (PADLS) results or the PADLS accession number must accompany the required CWDSSP form. The PDA requires all records of culled animals submitted to be accurate and kept up to date, failure to do so may result in your herd being removed from the CWDSSP, decertification or delisting and disqualification for any stipends or payments under the CWDSSP.

To receive payment, along with the verification documents and other criteria set forth above and in the CWDSSP standards you will receive, the PDA will require the following information: business name, EIN, and business address. If you are an individual, please provide your name, address, and social security number.



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