USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# Farmed Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease Management and Response Activities 2024 Cooperative Agreements

**Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Funding Opportunity Announcement**

**Funding Opportunity Number:** USDA-APHIS-10025-VSSPRS00-24-0007

**Publication Date:** April 9, 2024

**Application Due Date:** June 10, 2024, at 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time

# Funding Opportunity: Farmed Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease Management and Response Activities 2024

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) is announcing the availability of around $6,050,000 in cooperative agreement funding[1] to control and prevent chronic wasting disease (CWD) in farmed cervids. The amount available will be based on the fiscal year 2024 (FY24) Congressional appropriations language and directions. Proposals may include, but are not limited to, the development and/or implementation of CWD surveillance, testing, management, and response activities. Proposals can include the use of funds for the indemnification and removal of CWD-affected farmed cervid herds and CWD-exposed cervids, as part of an overall CWD management plan and in accordance with 9 CFR Part 55.2. VS intends to achieve a balance of funding between management and research proposals.

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services is announcing two separate funding opportunities for the control and prevention of CWD in wild cervids under the titles "FY24 Wild Cervid CWD Management and Response Activities" and "FY24 Tribal Nations Wild Cervid CWD Opportunities". Applicants can find information for these funding opportunities on ezFedGrants or Grants.gov by searching this title, the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 10.028, or the Funding Opportunity Numbers USDA-APHIS-10028-WSNWRC00-24-0004 and USDA-APHIS-10028-WSNWRC00-24-0005 respectively.

## SYNOPSIS

**Funding Opportunity Title:** FY24 Farmed Cervid CWD Management and Response Activities

**Funding Opportunity Number:** USDA-APHIS-10025-VSSPRS00-24-0007

**Funding Type:** Cooperative Agreement

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance/Assistance Listing Number and Title:** 10.025, Plant and Animal Disease, Pest Control and Animal Care

**Application Due Date:** Proposals must be received through ezFedGrants by June 10, 2024, at 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time. Proposals received after this deadline will not be reviewed or considered for funding. Submissions through Grants.gov will not be accepted.

**Funding Opportunity Description:** In this 2024 announcement, APHIS VS will make around $6,050,000 in cooperative agreement funding available to control and prevent chronic wasting disease (CWD) in farmed cervids through the development and/or implementation of CWD surveillance, testing, management, and response activities. Proposals can include the use of funds for the indemnification and removal of CWD-affected farmed cervid herds and CWD-exposed cervids, as part of an overall CWD management plan and in accordance with 9 CFR Part 55.2. The actual amount of funding available will be based on the FY24 Congressional appropriations language and directions.[1]

**Eligible Applicants:** This competitive opportunity is open to the following entities: State departments of agriculture; State animal health agencies; State departments of wildlife or natural resources; Federally

[1] USDA APHIS VS may increase the funding available through this opportunity by adding unused funds allocated for indemnity payments or other uses within the budget line.

recognized Native American Tribal governments[2] and Native American Tribal organizations or universities[3] representing Federally recognized Native American Tribal governments; and research institutions[4] and universities.[4] State agencies and Tribes, or in the case of Native American Tribal organizations, the Native American Tribal governments they are representing, must have regulatory oversight or direct responsibility for farmed cervids to be eligible.

**Cost Sharing:** Although cost sharing is not required, APHIS VS may take an eligible applicant's ability to contribute non-Federal funds for proposed activities into consideration.

[2] Federally recognized Native American Tribal governments are listed on the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior; Indian Entities Recognized by and Eligible To Receive Services From the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs website.

[3] Universities includes the 1994 Tribal colleges and universities, the 1890 land-grant institutions, land-grant colleges and universities, and other accredited universities.

[4] Research institute is an establishment founded for conducting research that has published peer reviewed articles in the field and that currently employs one or more investigators who will work on the project with relevant experience in applied research on the transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS


**Synopsis** ..... **2**
**A. Program Description** ..... **5**
A.1 Funding Opportunity Description ..... 5
A.2 Funding Priorities ..... 6
A.3 Other Funding Considerations ..... 8
A.4 Alignment with USDA APHIS Goals ..... 8
A.5 Legislative Authority ..... 8
**B. Federal Award Information** ..... **9**
B.1 Cost Guidance ..... 10
**C. Eligibility Information** ..... **11**
C.1 Eligible Applicants ..... 11
C.2 Cost Sharing or Matching ..... 12
C.3 Other Criteria for Eligibility ..... 13
C.4 Administrative Eligibility Criteria ..... 13
**D. Application/Proposal and Submission Information** ..... **14**
D.1 Obtaining an Application/Proposal Package ..... 14
D.2 Content and Form of the Application/Proposal Package ..... 15
D.3 Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM) ..... 16
D.4 Submission Dates and Times ..... 17
D.5 Intergovernmental Review ..... 17
D.6 Funding Restrictions ..... 177
D.7 Other Submission Requirements ..... 18
**E. Application Review Information** ..... **18**
E.1 Evaluation Criteria ..... 18
E.2 Review and Selection Process ..... 21
E.3 Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates ..... 22
**F. Federal Award Administration Information** ..... **22**
F.1 Federal Award Notices ..... 22
F.2 Administrative and National Policy Requirements ..... 222
F.3 Reporting ..... 23
F.4 Project Evaluation ..... 24
**G. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts** ..... **24**
**H. Other Information** ..... **24**
**Appendix 1: Farmed Cervid Funding Opportunity Criteria** ..... **25**
**Appendix 2: Farmed Cervid Proposal Checklist and Tips** ..... **29**
**Appendix 3: Farmed Cervid Proposal Work Plan Template** ..... **32**
**Appendix 4: Farmed Cervid Predictive Genetics Management Proposal Work Plan Template** ..... **45**
**Appendix 5: Farmed Cervid Proposal Financial Plan Template** ..... **59**

# A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Awarding Agency Name:** USDA APHIS VS

**Funding Opportunity Title:** FY24 Farmed Cervid CWD Management and Response Activities

**Announcement Type:** Initial Announcement

**Funding Opportunity Number:** USDA-APHIS-10025-VSSPRS00-24-0007

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance/Assistance Listing Number:** 10.025

**Key Dates**: Proposals must be received through ezFedGrants by June 10, 2024, at 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time. Proposals received after this deadline will not be reviewed or considered for funding. Submissions through Grants.gov will not be accepted.

The performance period will begin on or before September 30, 2024, and should end no later than 12 months after the start date. There is an allowance of a one-time extension request of the performance period up to 12 months to complete the project, assuming there is no increase in funding requested. This request must be submitted in accordance with the Terms and Conditions for APHIS awards in order to be considered.

Applicants can find the funding opportunity information on ezFedGrants or Grants.gov by searching the CFDA number **10.025** or the Funding Opportunity Number **USDA-APHIS-10025-VSSPRS00-24-0007**.

For general information on the farmed CWD Program and previous funding opportunities visit: USDA APHIS | Cervids: Chronic Wasting Disease

## A.1 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

This funding opportunity is provided to control and prevent CWD in farmed cervids through the development and/or implementation of CWD surveillance, testing, management, and response activities. Proposals can include the use of funds for the indemnification and removal of CWD-affected farmed cervid herds and CWD-exposed cervids as part of an overall CWD management plan in accordance with 9 CFR Part 55.2.

APHIS VS anticipates awarding around $6,050,000 in cooperative agreement funding[5] for the following entities: State departments of agriculture; State animal health agencies; State departments of wildlife or natural resources; Federally recognized Native American Tribal governments and Native American Tribal organizations or universities representing Federally recognized Native American Tribal governments; and research institutions and universities.

An eligible applicant may submit multiple proposals for this funding opportunity, requesting up to $250,000 per proposal for activities to control or prevent CWD in farmed cervids.[6] Applicants who wish to submit multiple proposals must submit each proposal as a separate proposal package.

[5] USDA APHIS VS may increase the funding available through this opportunity by adding unused funds allocated for indemnity payments or other uses within the budget line.

[6] An eligible applicant may submit a proposal requesting up to $250,000 for management activities and request additional funds in excess of $250,000 for the indemnification of CWD-affected farmed cervid herds and/or CWD-

**The overall objectives of the funding opportunity are to control, manage, and/or prevent CWD in farmed cervids.** Through this funding opportunity, APHIS VS is soliciting collaborators who will further develop and implement farmed cervid CWD surveillance, testing, management, and response activities. Proposals can include the use of funds for the indemnification and removal of CWD-affected farmed cervid herds and CWD-exposed cervids as part of an overall CWD management plan in accordance with 9 CFR Part 55.2. Funds may also be provided for applied research[7] to further develop and evaluate tools, techniques, and strategies for identifying, preventing, and controlling CWD in farmed cervids.

## A.2 FUNDING PRIORITIES

Eligible applicants are encouraged to develop project proposals that directly support at least one of the five funding priorities described below:

1. **Improve the management of CWD-affected farmed cervid herds.** For the purpose of this priority, management means effectively **controlling** CWD in affected farmed cervid herds or **preventing** the introduction or spread of CWD from affected farmed cervid herds or from CWD endemic free-ranging populations to farmed cervid herds by implementing or improving the implementation of the Federal CWD Herd Certification Program (HCP) as described in the USDA APHIS VS CWD Program Standards. These projects may include the use of funds for the indemnification and removal of CWD-affected farmed cervid herds and CWD-exposed cervids purchased as part of an overall CWD management plan in accordance with 9 CFR Part 55.2 or the use of predictive genetics and antemortem testing with the indemnification/purchase and removal of CWD positive and poor scoring exposed or potentially exposed white-tailed deer (See Appendix 4: Farmed Cervid Predictive Genetics Management Proposal Work Plan Template).

   *Examples of activities that may be included under this priority are: disease detection, investigation, and response activities; the development and use of novel CWD tests in animals; epidemiology and risk analysis; farmed cervid movement monitoring and control (traceability); Federal HCP implementation or improvement, including enhanced compliance, monitoring, and enforcement activities; identification and investigation of treatment options for CWD; sample collection training programs for HCP sample collectors and regulatory personnel; surveillance in herds not subject to mandatory sample submission; or, test result reporting to APHIS.*

2. **Improve the management of CWD-affected farmed cervid premises.** For the purpose of this priority, management means effectively controlling or preventing the spread of CWD from a CWD-affected farmed cervid premises and/or surrounding area by implementing or improving upon current guidance and methods, such as the USDA APHIS VS CWD Program Standards, and may include cleaning and disinfection strategies, scavenger management, biosecurity measures, or applied research to address these areas.

   *Examples of activities that may be included under this priority are development and use of novel CWD tests for environmental testing, environmental decontamination, environmental testing,*

exposed animals as part of an overall management plan (including the implementation of proposals based on genetic prediction and live animal testing), provided the application includes documentation supporting the appraisal of the farmed cervids in accordance with 9 CFR Part 55.3 and the owner has agreed to accept either the amount allowed by APHIS VS or a lower amount proposed by the owner or the state.

[7] Applied CWD research attempts to find practical solutions to a specific problem(s) such as the ability to detect, prevent, or manage CWD.

*farmed cervid carcass and waste management, identification, and investigation of premises treatment options for CWD, or investigating the role of scavengers or predators in CWD transmission to or within farmed cervid herds or managing these risks.*

3. **Conduct novel research on amplification assays and other new test methods in farmed cervids.** Amplification assays are test methods that identify CWD by amplifying small amounts of prion protein to levels that are detectable [e.g., Protein Misfolding Cyclic Amplification (PMCA), real-time quaking induced conversion (RT-QuIC)]. Specifically, this funding opportunity is interested in proposals that will develop new test methods or further the use of amplification assays as diagnostic or environmental tests, and/or efforts to make these tests commercially available for use.

   *Examples of activities that may be included under this priority are development of new assays, new amplification assays, or the expanded use of amplification assays for novel sample types and applications.*

4. **Conduct additional research on, or implement, whole genome predictive genetics in farmed cervids.** Current and ongoing research supports the use of whole genome predictive genetics to determine the susceptibility of farmed cervids to CWD, remove deer that are highly susceptible to CWD, and breed away from highly susceptible deer which provides the foundation for a genomics based CWD eradication program in the future.

   *Examples of activities that may be included under this priority are encouraging farmed white-tailed deer owners to obtain predictive genetic scores for their deer, remove deer that are highly susceptible to CWD, and encourage the breeding of less susceptible deer; conducting field trials to evaluate the use of a whole genome predictive genetics strategy in farmed white-tailed deer herds to prevent or control CWD; or, validating a whole genome predictive genetics strategy in mule deer.*

5. **Develop and/or deliver educational outreach materials or programs to farmed cervid stakeholders.** For purposes of this priority, educational outreach means the methods, processes, or actions that provide education and facilitate learning of critical knowledge necessary to control and/or prevent CWD and its spread in farmed cervids, including the study of human dimensions on CWD prevention and control, and educational opportunities for accredited veterinarians and state staff. Behavioral messaging research may also be included as part of an outreach program.

**NOTE:** Any other proposed projects or activities that would further develop and implement farmed cervid CWD control, prevention, surveillance, testing, management, and response fall within the scope of activities for this funding opportunity. While proposals within this scope that do not fall under the funding priorities above would receive a lower review score than proposals of equal quality that do, they will be reviewed and may score sufficiently for funding.

## A.3 OTHER FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

Each proposal should describe how the project will leverage existing resources through partnerships with local, State, and/or Federal government agencies[8], industry organizations, professional associations, producer groups, and/or non-profit organizations with direct and significant interest in the control or prevention of CWD in farmed cervids. Successful projects will meet the evaluation criteria described in Section E.1.

While all proposals that meet the administrative eligibility criteria listed in Section C.4 will be considered for funding, APHIS VS may give priority to management proposals submitted by an eligible applicant: (1) in a state that has either experienced recent incidents of CWD in farmed cervids or that has farmed cervid herds bordering a CWD endemic area; and, (2) either has a CWD Federal HCP or a State CWD control program that includes, but is not limited to, monitoring and surveillance, or proposes to create a Federal or State CWD control program. **Eligible applicants not meeting these criteria are encouraged to apply and their proposals will be considered for funding.**

Applicants should describe the anticipated involvement by APHIS personnel needed to complete the proposed activities in the Work Plan and Financial Plan (excluding personnel to administer or oversee the cooperative agreement). APHIS intends to collaborate with recipients to successfully complete activities funded via this opportunity; however, due to the limited availability of personnel, APHIS encourages proposals that are not contingent on APHIS participation where possible, unless that participation was agreed upon during the development of the proposal.

## A.4 ALIGNMENT WITH USDA APHIS GOALS

The mission of APHIS is to protect the health and value of American agriculture and natural resources. APHIS works in a variety of ways to protect and improve the health and quality of our nation's animals by taking steps to prevent, control, and eliminate those diseases and conditions facing animals today.

This funding opportunity supports the overall mission of USDA, "To serve all Americans by providing effective, innovative, science-based public policy leadership in agriculture, food and nutrition, natural resource protection and management, rural development, and related issues with a commitment to deliverable equitable and climate-smart opportunities that inspire and help America thrive.". Specifically, this funding opportunity supports the following USDA APHIS Strategic Goal:

**USDA APHIS Strategic Goal 1:** Protect agriculture from plant and animal diseases and pests.

**Objective 2:** Manage plant and animal diseases and pests established in the country.

**Objective 6:** Ensure timely and accurate diagnostic and other laboratory support and services.

## A.5 LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Under the Animal Health Protection Act (AHPA), as amended, (7 USC § 8301 et seq.), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to issue regulations and orders and to carry out operations and measures to

[8] Due to strict requirements around the distribution of funds to Federal agencies across fiscal years, sub-awarding this funding (any payment) to Federal agencies may not be included in the APHIS share of the Financial Plan. Recipients may use funds from other sources to pay for services from Federal agencies; if applicable, such expenses should be listed in the recipient share in the Financial Plan.

prevent, detect, control, and eradicate diseases and pests of livestock and to cooperate with other Federal agencies, States or political subdivisions of States, national governments of foreign countries, local governments of foreign countries, domestic or international organizations, domestic or international associations, Indian Tribes, and other persons to carry out the purposes of the AHPA.

Pursuant to 7 USC § 2279 (g) and, notwithstanding Chapter 63 of Title 31, APHIS is authorized to use cooperative agreements to reflect a relationship with a state or other recipient to carry out programs to protect the nation's animal and plant resources or to carry out educational programs or special studies to improve the safety of the nation's food supply.

## B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

**Total Amount to be Awarded**: APHIS VS anticipates awarding around $6,050,000 in cooperative agreement funding[9] to support projects that address the funding priorities described in Section A.2.; the actual amount of funding will be based on the FY24 Congressional appropriations language and directions.

**Type of Assistance Instrument:** Awards will be funded via cooperative agreements. Cooperative agreements include substantial involvement by APHIS VS to assist in the completion of the goals and objectives of the work. Grants are used when a recipient will be performing all of the work without the substantial involvement of APHIS VS.

**Anticipated Awards:** APHIS VS anticipates awarding approximately twenty cooperative agreements; these agreements typically range from $50,000 to $250,000 each. The average farmed cervid award in 2023 was $180,070 across seventeen proposals, excluding the three proposals that included indemnity costs or were awarded non-competitively.[10] Based on reviewer recommendations, APHIS VS may adjust the amount of funds awarded to a project. In these cases, applicants may accept or decline the offered award. If accepted, applicants must submit a revised proposal package that aligns with the amount awarded and addresses reviewer concerns, as applicable. APHIS VS will provide additional guidance to applicants in this situation. There is no commitment by USDA to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards.

**Anticipated Award Start Date:** The performance period will begin on or before September 30, 2024.

**Period of Performance:** Projects must be completed no later than 12 months after the start date. Funding will not be allowed, nor activities approved to occur, outside of the period of performance. There is an allowance of a one-time extension request of the performance period up to 12 months to complete the project, assuming there is no increase in funding requested. This request must be submitted in accordance with the Terms and Conditions for APHIS awards in order to be considered.

[9] USDA APHIS VS may also increase the funding available through this opportunity by adding unused funds allocated for indemnity payments or other uses within the budget line.

[10] Recipients wishing to continue work or build on projects funded in prior years that are either complete or will be complete by the proposed period of performance may submit proposals to this opportunity. Recipients wishing to continue work on projects funded in prior years which are not complete, and have not been extended previously, should submit a no-cost extension per the Terms and Conditions for APHIS awards or by contacting the APHIS VS Program Manager rather than submitting a proposal to this opportunity.

**Competitive Process:** This is a competitive funding opportunity. A team of reviewers will evaluate proposals and recommend proposals for funding based on the merits of the proposal as outlined in Section E.2. Recipients are not pre-determined. Final funding decisions are at the discretion of APHIS VS.

**Cost Sharing**: Although cost sharing is not required, APHIS VS may take into consideration an eligible applicant's ability to contribute non-Federal funds to carry out a cooperative agreement. Additional information on cost sharing is outlined in Section C.2.

**Collaboration with Federal Agencies:** Due to strict requirements around the distribution of funds to Federal agencies across fiscal years, sub-awarding this funding (any payment) to Federal agencies may not be included in the APHIS share of the Financial Plan. Recipients may use funds from other sources to pay for services from Federal agencies; if applicable, such expenses should be listed in the recipient share in the Financial Plan.

## B.1 COST GUIDANCE

Each applicant must submit a detailed Financial Plan that provides sufficient information to determine the costs for each of the proposed activities and objectives.

Allowable costs must be reasonable, allocable, and necessary to the project. Office of Management and Budget cost principles (2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E) must be used to determine whether a cost can be charged to the project and, if so, the extent to which it can be charged. Funds are intended to complement and build upon activities associated with other APHIS cooperative programs or grants geared toward controlling or preventing CWD in farmed cervids.

Allowable uses of cooperative agreement funds include, but are not limited to, activities, equipment, supplies, and services needed to complete approved program activities that support the funding priorities and considerations described in Section A.2. This may include:

- *Equipment.* The Federal definition of equipment is tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than 1 year and a per unit value of $5,000 or more unless the applicant's definition of equipment is more restrictive.
- *Information technology systems.* The term "information technology," defined in 2 CFR Part 200.1 includes, but is not limited to, computers, network, and ancillary equipment, software, firmware, and similar procedures, services (including support services), and related resources. This also includes any equipment, interconnected system(s), or subsystem(s) of equipment that is used in the automatic acquisition, storage, manipulation, movement, control, display, switching, interchange, transmission, or reception of data or information.
- *Outreach materials.* Whenever possible, existing publications or audiovisuals, referred to as outreach materials, should be used. A draft of any publications or audiovisuals produced with cooperative agreement funds for public use must be reviewed and approved by APHIS VS, the Office of the Deputy Administrator, and the Office of Legislative and Public Affairs. A determination will be made if the USDA logo may be used and if APHIS' participation in the project may be acknowledged. Please allow a minimum of 4 weeks for review and approval of materials (brochures, pamphlets, flyers, posters, etc.). **NOTE:** Approval must be obtained prior to printing.
- *Personnel.* APHIS VS will allow costs for salaries and wages provided the total compensation to individual employees is reasonable for the work performed, conforms to the established policy of the organization, and is consistently applied to Government and nongovernment activities.

- *Travel.* Funds may be requested for field work, trainings, attendance at meetings and conferences, and other travel costs associated with the proposed work. Recipients should follow their State's written travel policies when calculating travel costs. If there is no travel policy, Federal per diem rates should be used in the calculation of travel costs.

Project funds must be obligated by the recipient during the performance period identified in the Award Face Sheet. Reimbursement of costs outside of the performance period identified in the Award Face Sheet will not be reimbursed.

Funds **may NOT be used** for the following:

- Land acquisition
- Compensation for Federal Employees
- Travel of Federal Employees
- Federal subawards (any payment to Federal entities) unless paid from the recipient share
- Construction and/or major rehabilitation of buildings
- Bonuses or commissions
- Fundraising
- Meeting, conference, symposia, or workshop honoraria, which is payment to individuals or guests other than for documented professional services
- Vehicle purchases or leases
- Positions funded by other Federal cooperative agreements or grants
- International travel
- Projects or activities associated with APHIS-State-Industry cooperative program activities already funded via USDA APHIS annual cooperative agreements
- Promotional, outreach, or giveaway items such as calendars, rulers, pens, pencils, squishy balls, cups, refreshments, etc.

Nothing in this section prevents an eligible applicant from using funds received to enter into sub-agreements with another eligible applicant, university, or nonprofit entity or to reimburse a State or local agency for services rendered, such as animal depopulation or testing.

# C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

## C.1 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The following entities are eligible for funding through this opportunity:

1. State departments of agriculture
2. State animal health agencies
3. State departments of wildlife or natural resources

4. Federally recognized Native American Tribal governments[11] and Native American Tribal organizations or universities representing Federally recognized Native American Tribal governments.
5. Research institutes[12] and universities[13]

**NOTES:**

State agencies and Tribes or in the case of Native American Tribal organizations or universities the Native American Tribal governments they are representing, must have regulatory oversight or direct responsibility for **farmed cervids to be eligible.** Native American Tribal organizations or universities representing Federally recognized Native American Tribal Governments must attach letter(s) indicating intent to participate from the represented Federally recognized Native American Tribal government(s) to be considered for funding.

Research institutes or universities submitting a study that includes field work with regulated cervids **must** submit a letter indicating support, cooperation, or no objection from the appropriate cervid regulatory authorities for the state(s) involved to be considered for funding.

This list does not preclude award recipients from collaborating with other entities who may have direct and significant interest in the control or prevention of CWD in farmed cervids, State or national livestock, wildlife, sportsmen, or conservation organizations, or a Federal Agency[14]. **Any application with a proposed sub-award over $10,000 should complete an additional Financial Plan for the sub-awarded portion as a part of the proposal package.**

## C.2 COST SHARING OR MATCHING

Cost sharing and matching is defined in 2 CFR Part 200.1 as a "portion of the project costs not paid by Federal funds or contributions (unless otherwise authorized by Federal statute)." For additional information on cost share please reference 2 CFR Part 200.306.

Although cost sharing is not required, APHIS VS may take an eligible applicant's ability to contribute non-Federal funds to carry out such a cooperative agreement into consideration but shall not require an eligible applicant to make a contribution as a condition to enter into a cooperative agreement.

If applicable, applicants should describe cost-share or in-kind funding for the project. Once the cooperative agreement is accepted and finalized, the cost share becomes legally binding, and the recipient will be required to meet the cost share ratio.

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[11] Federally recognized Native American Tribal governments are listed on the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior; Indian Entities Recognized by and Eligible To Receive Services From the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs website.

[12] Research institute is an establishment founded for conducting research that has published peer reviewed articles in the field and that currently employs one or more investigators who will work on the project with relevant experience in applied research on the transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.

[13] Universities includes the 1994 Tribal colleges and universities, the 1890 land-grant institutions, land-grant colleges and universities, and other accredited universities.

[14] Due to strict requirements around the distribution of funds to Federal agencies across fiscal years, sub-awarding this funding (any payment) to Federal agencies may not be included in the APHIS share of the Financial Plan. Recipients may use funds from other sources to pay for services from Federal agencies; if applicable, such expenses should be listed in the recipient share in the Financial Plan.

## C.3 OTHER CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY

All applicant organizations must have at least two users registered in ezFedGrants, a Grants Administrative Officer and a Signatory Official, to successfully submit a proposal package. We recommend identifying these individuals and confirming they have access prior to submitting a proposal to ensure an efficient application process. This system will be used for all stages of the funding opportunity process, including submitting the proposal package, signing the cooperative agreement, and submitting reports.

Applicants will be checked against the System for Award Management (SAM) to ensure they have not been disbarred or suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency. See Section D.3.

An eligible applicant may submit multiple proposals for this funding opportunity, requesting up to $250,000 per proposal for activities to control or prevent CWD in farmed cervids.[15] Applicants who wish to submit multiple proposals must submit each proposal as a separate proposal package.

## C.4 ADMINISTRATIVE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Proposal packages must meet these initial screening criteria to be considered for further review. Proposals that do not meet these criteria may not be considered. Applicants should refer to Appendix 1: Farmed Cervid Funding Opportunity Criteria for a full list of both the Administrative Eligibility Criteria and the Evaluation Criteria for this opportunity.

1. Proposals must be received by the deadline. Proposals received after the established deadline will not be reviewed or considered.
2. Proposals must be submitted by an eligible applicant.
3. Proposals should address at least one of the funding priorities or fall under the scope of activities described in Section A.2.
4. All required documents and forms listed in Section D.2 must be included in the proposal package and comply with the submission instructions described in Section D. Any proposal package with missing or significantly incomplete documents or forms will not be considered for review, resulting in a rejected proposal.
5. Proposals must be consistent with allowed use of funds guidance. Proposals that do not align with the cost guidance described in Section B.1 of this announcement will not be considered for review, resulting in a rejected proposal.
6. Timeline must be reasonable to complete objectives within 12 months. If the proposal is designed to run more than 12 months, it will be rejected.
7. In addition, research proposals must also follow the below criteria:

[15] An eligible applicant may submit a proposal requesting up to $250,000 for management activities and request additional funds in excess of $250,000 for the indemnification of CWD-affected farmed cervid herds and/or CWD-exposed animals as part of an overall management plan (including the implementation of proposals based on genetic prediction and live animal testing), provided the application includes documentation supporting the appraisal of the farmed cervids in accordance with 9 CFR Part 55.3 and the owner has agreed to accept either the amount allowed by APHIS VS or a lower amount proposed by the owner or the state.

a. Project must focus on applied[16] research. Proposals without a clearly defined application will be rejected.

b. Timeline must be reasonable to complete objectives within 12 months. If the proposal is designed to run more than 12 months, it will be rejected.

c. The principal investigator must clearly demonstrate evidence of necessary technical background and facilities to conduct the proposed project. Demonstrated evidence of technical background may include relevant peer reviewed publications and/or technical reports.

d. If the project involves working with the CWD agent (e.g., infectious CWD prions) and/or known positive tissues or other biological samples from known CWD positive animals, the investigator must submit a copy of their current CWD Controlled Materials, Organisms, and Vectors permit issued by APHIS VS to work with CWD in their facility with the proposal package.

e. If the work involves live animals, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval of the project must be included in the proposal package.

# D. APPLICATION/PROPOSAL AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

An eligible applicant may submit multiple proposals for this funding opportunity, requesting up to $250,000 per proposal for activities to control or prevent CWD in farmed cervids.[17] Applicants who wish to submit multiple proposals must submit each proposal as a separate proposal package.

Multiple proposals from a single eligible applicant may be selected for funding with the applicant receiving a total award greater than $250,000, provided the additional awarded proposal(s) is significantly superior in reviewer scoring when ranked against other proposal packages.

Applicants should refer to Appendix 2: Farmed Cervid Proposal Checklist and Tips for initial steps to take when developing a proposal.

## D.1 OBTAINING AN APPLICATION/PROPOSAL PACKAGE

All application materials are available through this announcement and through ezFedGrants.

If assistance is needed with locating application materials, please reach out to VS.FiOps.ASC.Agreements@usda.gov at least 72 hours prior to the application deadline.

[16] Applied CWD research attempts to find practical solutions to a specific problem(s) such as the ability to detect, prevent, or manage CWD.

[17] An eligible applicant may submit a proposal requesting up to $250,000 for management activities and request additional funds in excess of $250,000 for the indemnification of CWD-affected farmed cervid herds and/or CWD-exposed animals as part of an overall management plan (including the implementation of proposals based on genetic prediction and live animal testing), provided the application includes documentation supporting the appraisal of the farmed cervids in accordance with 9 CFR Part 55.3 and the owner has agreed to accept either the amount allowed by APHIS VS or a lower amount proposed by the owner or the state.

## D.2 CONTENT AND FORM OF THE APPLICATION/PROPOSAL PACKAGE

The proposal package must include the following:

- ☐ SF-424, "Application for Federal Assistance" – Completed when applying to the funding opportunity in ezFedGrants
- ☐ SF-424A, "Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs" that matches the submitted Financial Plan – Completed when applying to the funding opportunity in ezFedGrants
- ☐ Certification Regarding Lobbying (for Federal Assistance greater than $100,000)
- ☐ SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities" (for Federal Assistance greater than $100,000 when there are activities to disclose)
- ☐ Waiver or approval response letter from the State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) if the applicant is in a state that is required to comply with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs (See Section D.5 for additional information)
- ☐ Copy of the current, signed Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, if indirect costs are claimed.
- ☐ Farmed Cervid Proposal Work Plan (See Appendix 3: Farmed Cervid Proposal Work Plan Template or Appendix 4: Farmed Cervid Predictive Genetics Management Proposal Work Plan Template)
- ☐ Farmed Cervid Proposal Financial Plan (See Appendix 5: Farmed Cervid Proposal Financial Plan Template)
- ☐ For research proposals working with the CWD agent (e.g., infectious CWD prions) and/or known positive tissues or other biological samples from known CWD positive animals, copy of a current APHIS VS Controlled Materials, Organisms, and Vectors permit for the possession and handling of known CWD positive samples or tissues from known CWD positive animals.
- ☐ For research proposals involving interactions with live animals, documentation of IACUC approval
- ☐ Research institutes or universities submitting a study that includes field work with regulated cervids **must** submit a letter indicating support, cooperation, or no objection from the appropriate cervid regulatory authorities for the state(s) involved to be considered for funding.
- ☐ Native American Tribal organizations or universities representing Federally recognized Native American Tribal Governments must attach letter(s) indicating intent to participate from the represented Federally recognized Native American Tribal government(s)
- ☐ Letters of collaboration from additional contributors listed in the Work Plan

***Please note, ezFedGrants attachments are limited to PDF files only (no digital signature or fillable PDFs) and the total size of all attachments cannot exceed 20mb.***

Applicants should refer to Appendix 2: Farmed Cervid Proposal Checklist and Tips when preparing a proposal package for submission. Any proposal package with missing or significantly incomplete documents or forms will not be considered for review, resulting in a rejected proposal.

Letters of support are not required but may be included in the proposal package. Applicants should not request letters of support from APHIS employees; however, informal discussions are encouraged.

### Project Proposal Work Plan

Applicants must submit a Work Plan and include all of the information outlined in the Farmed Cervid Proposal Work Plan Template available in Appendix 3: Farmed Cervid Proposal Work Plan Template or Farmed Cervid Predictive Genetics Management Proposal Work Plan Template available in Appendix 4:

Farmed Cervid Predictive Genetics Management Proposal Work Plan Template. Applicants are encouraged to use one of these Work Plan Templates. Work Plans using this template may not exceed twenty pages in 12-point font. Work Plans that do not use the template may not exceed ten pages in 12-point font. If a work plan exceeds the page limit the extra pages may not be evaluated. The use of diagrams, visuals, and reference sheets, as well as any letters of collaboration from contributors, will not count toward these limitations.

Work Plans should address at least one of the funding priorities or fall under the scope of activities described in Section A.2, with individual objectives directed toward farmed cervid management or research. Applicants are encouraged to submit separate proposals for each funding priority provided the objectives or activities are not dependent on all proposals being selected for funding. Submitting separate projects in a single proposal may result in an activity that would have scored high enough to be funded individually not scoring well due to another activity in the proposal scoring poorly or being unacceptable. If multiple funding priorities are addressed within a single Work Plan, applicants should specify which funding priority is addressed for each objective.

### Project Proposal Financial Plan

Applicants must submit a Financial Plan that clearly identifies the costs associated with the proposed activities for each objective listed in the Work Plan and include all of the information outlined in the Farmed Cervid Proposal Financial Plan Template available in Appendix 5: Farmed Cervid Proposal Financial Plan Template. Applicants are encouraged to use the Farmed Cervid Proposal Financial Plan Template. The Financial Plan must match the required SF-424A submitted through ezFedGrants, and provide additional details as necessary. When preparing a Financial Plan, applicants must comply with the cost guidance and funding restrictions described in Section B.1.

## D.3 UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER (UEI) AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT (SAM)

All applicants are required to register in SAM prior to submitting a proposal for this funding opportunity, provide a valid unique entity identifier (UEI) in the application, and maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during the application process and award period of performance (2 CFR Part 200.206).[18] To register, go to the SAM website. During the SAM registration process, it is mandatory to complete the Financial Assistance Certification Report to receive federal financial assistance. Please allow a minimum of 5 days to complete the SAM registration. Registration is free. Frequently Asked Questions, user guides, demonstration videos, etc. can be found at the SAM website, under the "SAM.gov | Help" tab.

Your organization will need a UEI which is a 12-character alphanumeric ID assigned to an entity by SAM.

During the application package review process, APHIS VS will conduct a risk assessment. All applicants will be verified in SAM to ensure they have not been disbarred or suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency. APHIS VS may not make a federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable UEI and SAM requirements.

[18] Unless the applicant is an individual or Federal awarding agency that is excepted from those requirements under 2 CFR 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal awarding agency under 2 CFR 25.110(d).

If an applicant has not fully complied with these requirements by the time APHIS VS is ready to make a Federal award, APHIS VS may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

When the anticipated total Federal share exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold, APHIS VS is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM before issuing the award. An applicant, if desired, may review and comment on any information about their organization that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM. APHIS VS will consider any comments provided by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the risk assessment.

## D.4 SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES

All proposals must be completed and received electronically through ezFedGrants no later than Jume 10, 2024**, 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time**. The electronic date and time stamp from ezFedGrants will be used to determine whether proposals were received before the deadline. Proposals received after this deadline will **not** be reviewed or considered for funding. Submissions through Grants.gov will **not** be accepted.

We understand unanticipated issues can arise; therefore, we urge applicants to submit their application package early to allow time to address any complications. If you are experiencing technical difficulties, please reach out to VS.FiOps.ASC.Agreements@usda.gov at least 72 hours prior to the deadline for assistance. Any proposal package with missing or significantly incomplete documents or forms will not be considered for review, resulting in a rejected proposal.

Applicants should refer to Appendix 2: Farmed Cervid Proposal Checklist and Tips to ensure that all documents are included prior to submission of the proposal package.

## D.5 INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

The Intergovernmental Review Process (CFDA 10.025) is subject to Executive Order 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.”

Names and addresses of States’ Single Point of Contact (SPOC) are listed on the APHIS website. Please reach out to your State’s SPOC for additional information on your specific State requirements.

For those applicants that have this process in their State, submit your application to the SPOC simultaneously to submitting to APHIS VS. If possible, please upload a waiver or approval response letter from the SPOC with your proposal package in ezFedGrants to fulfill this requirement. Awards will not be finalized until a copy of the SPOC waiver or approval letter is provided for applicable states. Failure to meet this requirement will result in a rejection of your application.

## D.6 FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

Project funds are only available during the period of performance and must be obligated by the recipient within 12 months from the date the funds are made available by APHIS VS (the beginning date

of the period of performance on the Award Face Sheet) unless otherwise stated in the Award Face Sheet. Any expenses prior to the beginning date or after the end date of the period of performance will not be reimbursed. Construction is not authorized.

Applicants must submit a copy of their fully executed current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, negotiated with their recognized Federal Agency, when indirect costs are assessed in the budget. Indirect costs for any sub-award must be disclosed.

Higher education institutions and non-profit organizations' assessment of indirect costs is limited to not more than ten percent of total direct costs or the application of their approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, whichever is less.

Due to strict requirements around the distribution of funds to Federal agencies across fiscal years, sub-awarding this funding (any payment) to Federal agencies may not be included in the APHIS share of the Financial Plan. Recipients may use funds from other sources to pay for services from Federal agencies; if applicable, such expenses should be listed in the recipient share in the Financial Plan.

Please refer to the cost guidance in Section B.1 for additional information on funding restrictions and limitations.

### D.7 OTHER SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Only electronic submissions of proposals through ezFedGrants will be accepted. The ezFedGrants system requires registration, during the registration process you will select a password that will be required to log in to the system. Hard copy proposals and submissions through Grants.gov will not be accepted. APHIS VS complies with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Applicants experiencing technical difficulties should reach out to VS.FiOps.ASC.Agreements@usda.gov at least 72 hours prior to the application deadline of June 10, 2024, 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time for assistance. Proposals received after the deadline will not be reviewed or considered.

## E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

### E.1 EVALUATION CRITERIA

APHIS VS will use the following criteria to evaluate proposals during the review process. Applicants should consider these criteria when preparing the proposal package. Applicants should refer to Appendix 1: Farmed Cervid Funding Opportunity Criteria for a full list of both the Administrative Eligibility Criteria and the Evaluation Criteria for this opportunity. **NOTE:** Proposed activities must align with current Federal, State, and Tribal regulations.

#### Evaluation Criteria

1. **Requirements in the announcement.** These criteria assess the extent to which the applicant and proposal meet the minimum eligibility requirements. Submissions that do not meet these criteria cannot be considered for funding.

    a. **Applicant criteria for States or Tribal Nations.** State agencies and Tribes, or in the case of Native American Tribal organizations the Native American Tribal governments they are

representing, must have regulatory oversight or direct responsibility for farmed cervids to be eligible. APHIS VS may give priority to applications for management agreements from States or Tribes that have experienced recent incidents of CWD or border a CWD endemic area based on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) CWD Distribution Map, have a CWD Federal herd certification program (or a State or Tribal CWD control program) or propose to create a Federal, State, or Tribal CWD control program.

b. **Regulations.** The submitted proposal must be compliant with current Federal and State regulations.

2. **Addresses priorities**

   a. **Funding priorities.** The proposal directly addresses at least one of the five funding priorities. The activities, outcomes, or deliverables should directly address a concern identified in at least one of the five funding priorities. "Scope" refers to activities that further develop/implement CWD control, prevention, surveillance, testing, management, and/or response.

   b. **Research project type.** Research projects must be applied in nature and attempt to find practical solutions to solve a specific problem(s) such as the ability to detect, prevent, or manage CWD.

   c. **Critical need.** The proposal should address a critical need or known gap related to CWD control and prevention and demonstrate how the need or problem aligns with the priority area being addressed. The expected outcomes/deliverables should, if successful, address or resolve the identified need/gap.

   d. **Redundancy.** Research proposals should avoid redundancy with similar work already conducted. The proposed activities should complement existing or ongoing activities without being duplicative to work already completed. For management or education proposals, effective strategies that have been successfully implemented by other entities are not considered redundant when being repeated in or expanded to new areas and should be scored as "Expansive."

3. **Feasibility of success**

   a. **Outcomes and deliverables**. The proposal should include enough detail for the reviewer to understand what outcomes/deliverables will be produced for each objective.

   b. **Methods or activities.** The proposal should provide sufficient detail so the reviewer can understand what methods or activities will be performed to generate the stated outcomes and deliverables for each objective. The proposal should include a plan of action that is logical, well organized, and complete.

   c. **Technical and scientific soundness.** The proposed methods or activities should be technically/scientifically sound and likely to successfully produce the stated outcomes and deliverables for each objective. These activities or methods should be supported by current scientific knowledge and, in the case of management proposals, relevant experience. The proposal should include reasonable quantitative and qualitative criteria to evaluate project success.

4. **Performance parameters**

    a. **Performance period.** The proposed objectives must be accomplished in a 1 year performance period. The performance period must begin on or before September 30, 2024, and should end no later than 12 months after the start date. The project schedule should include a reasonable amount of time to complete all proposed objectives within this performance period.

    b. **Potential problems.** The proposal should describe factors that may negatively impact the project and provide solutions to reduce risk as well as any potential problems that may negatively impact the successful accomplishment of the proposed objectives. This would include any situations that may delay project outcomes/deliverables, such as competing time commitments of collaborators or stakeholders who are critical to project completion. The proposal should also describe possible solutions to reduce or eliminate these risks.

5. **Resources**

    a. **Partnerships.** The proposal should describe partnerships and collaborations needed to complete the proposed objectives and produce the expected outcomes/deliverables. This may include but is not limited to land grant or other universities; State or national livestock, wildlife, sportsmen, or conservation organizations with direct and significant interest in the control of CWD; or a federal agency. A letter of collaboration from each contributor must be included in the proposal.

    b. **Qualifications/skills.** The Project Manager or Principal Investigator should have the qualifications and skills to successfully produce the outcomes/deliverables. This criterion considers the extent to which the key persons who will carry out the methods or activities have the qualifications, skills, abilities, and experience to successfully achieve the objectives, conduct the proposed methods or activities, and produce successful outcomes/deliverables.

    c. **Infrastructure.** The Project Manager or Principal Investigator should have the infrastructure to successfully conduct the proposed methods or activities. The proposal should include information to support that key persons who will carry out the project have the infrastructure (e.g., personnel, facilities, equipment) to achieve the proposed objectives by conducting the proposed activities and producing the outcomes/deliverables. This may include articles, reports, and/or testimonies from interested parties other than the applicant and any relevant experience supporting the proposed activities.

6. **Impact and value of outcomes**

    a. **Impact**. If successful, the outcomes/deliverables should positively impact CWD control or prevention. The expected outcomes and deliverables should support the overarching goal of the funding opportunity, which is to control or prevent CWD. If successful, the project should produce outcomes/deliverables that are high in value and positively impact the funding priority area.

    b. **Use to others**. The outcomes/deliverables could be used by other States, groups, and stakeholders, either by replicating the proposed activities in other areas (e.g., in other States/regions or to new audiences) or by using the information to support policies and decisions. Proposals should indicate how the applicant will share the project

outcomes/deliverables so other entities can make use of them.

c. **Data sharing.** Proposals should indicate how the applicant will share the project outcomes/deliverables (e.g., peer reviewed publication, video) with other States, groups, or stakeholders.

7. **Cost effectiveness**

a. **Justification.** The proposal should provide specific and detailed justification to fully understand how each budget item supports the proposed activities (Necessary Costs). The proposal should include a budget that is logical, well organized, and complete. All costs should be explained in enough detail for the reviewer to understand how each budget item is necessary to complete the proposed activities.

b. **Reasonable cost.** The proposed costs should be reasonable to complete the proposed objectives. For this opportunity, a cost is reasonable if it does not exceed costs that would be incurred under normal circumstances. Costs included in the proposal should be generally recognized as ordinary to complete the proposed activities.

c. **Cost saving measures.** The proposal may include cost-saving measures to complete the proposed objectives. APHIS VS may take an applicant's ability to contribute non-Federal funds into consideration (cost-sharing). The proposal may also include cost-saving measures using existing resources or partnerships (in-kind contributions). For example, an applicant may include the practical use of existing personnel, vehicles, computers, venues, supplies, and other items to complete proposed activities. Cost share will be evaluated in this criterion and will make up less than five percent of the total score.

## E.2 REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

APHIS VS has final authority in determining which projects are funded for this initiative. A project may be selected for partial funding of specific objectives or activities within a proposed Work Plan, based on reviewer recommendations.

If multiple applications requesting funding for the indemnification of CWD-affected cervids as part of an overall CWD management plan are received, APHIS VS may recommend providing funds at a decreased level to increase the impact of awards across a larger number of proposals. APHIS VS may adjust an indemnity amount if a need is identified after proposal submission; likewise, an award may be amended to adjust an indemnity amount.

Proposals that meet the eligibility criteria in Section C.1 will be subject to an administrative review by an APHIS VS Grants Specialist for compliance with the requirements in Section C.4. Proposals meeting the administrative requirements will be evaluated by reviewers based on the merit of the proposal. APHIS VS is responsible for reviewing proposals against the evaluation criteria found in Section E.1. The review panel will consist of internal and external subject-matter experts from various departments and agencies, and from academia as appropriate. High quality proposals are those that strongly support the funding priorities and address the needs, considerations, and evaluation criteria described in this funding opportunity.

Reviewers will have no association with projects they are reviewing to avoid potential conflicts of interest. In the event of a real or perceived conflict of interest, a reviewer shall recuse themselves as appropriate.

A risk assessment will be conducted as part of the selection and review process. See Section D.3 for additional information on the components of this risk assessment.

### E.3 ANTICIPATED ANNOUNCEMENT AND FEDERAL AWARD DATES

There is a single application deadline followed by the simultaneous review of all applications. APHIS VS will review proposals within 60 days of the application deadline and applicants will be notified by email of award status.

## F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

APHIS VS will administer awarded cooperative agreements, collaborate with project recipients to provide advice, receive and review project documents, offer comments and suggestions, track project performance, and communicate as necessary to ensure progress in accomplishing the project, identifying obstacles, and resolving concerns.

Recipients will track performance and expenditures, provide progress reports and project deliverables in accordance with the project Work Plan, and communicate with APHIS VS staff to assess and evaluate progress.

**NOTE:** Recipients may be asked to provide a brief presentation outlining their work and anticipated outcomes with farmed cervid stakeholders during an APHIS Cervid Stakeholder meeting.

### F.1 FEDERAL AWARD NOTICES

Applicants selected for funding will receive a notification stating that their application has been selected for award. This notification is not an authorization to begin performance on the project or to expend the funds. Either the APHIS VS Grants Specialist or the APHIS VS Program Manager may informally contact the applicant with application/Federal award status details.

Applicants selected for funding will receive an Award Face Sheet which will be routed to the applicant's Signatory Official(s) via ezFedGrants. The Award Face Sheet will provide pertinent instructions and information including but not limited to the information described in 2 CFR Part 200.211 and reference to the Terms and Conditions for APHIS awards. The Signatory Official must provide an E-Signature in ezFedGrants for the Award Face Sheet unless an alternate Federal award signature process is provided to the applicant by APHIS VS. This Award Face Sheet fully signed by the applicant's Signatory Official and the APHIS Authorized Departmental Officer, which can be obtained electronically in ezFedGrants, is the only document that authorizes the project to begin.

### F.2 ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Successful applicants must comply with the requirements contained in the "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards," 2 CFR Part 200; "Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension," 2 CFR Part 417; "Requirements for Drug-Free

Workplace," 2 CFR Part 421; "New Restrictions on Lobbying," 2 CFR Part 418; and, Office of Management and Budget regulations governing "Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public," 5 CFR Part 1320.

In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's guidance located at 2 CFR Part 200, all applicable Federal laws, and relevant Executive guidance, APHIS VS will review and consider applications for funding pursuant to this notice of funding opportunity in accordance with the Guidance for Grants and Agreements in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (2 CFR), as updated in the Federal Register's 85 FR 49506 on August 13, 2020. Particularly on: selecting recipients most likely to be successful in delivering results based on the program objectives through an objective process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR Part 200.205); prohibiting the purchase of certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment in alignment with section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (Pub. L. No. 115—232) (2 CFR Part 200.216); promoting the freedom of speech and religious liberty in alignment with Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty (Executive Order 13798) and Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability at Colleges and Universities (Executive Order 13864) (2 CFR Parts 200.300, 200.303, 200.339, and 200.341); providing a preference, to the extent permitted by law, to maximize use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States (2 CFR Part 200.322); and, terminating agreements in whole or in part to the greatest extent authorized by law, if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR part 200.340).

Successful applicants must also comply with the general Terms and Conditions for APHIS awards, approved project Work Plan, approved project Financial Plan, and applicable authorization used to issue the Award Face Sheet.

## F.3 REPORTING

The recipient's Project Coordinator will provide performance reports on program activities outlined in the application and properly certified Federal Financial Reports, SF-425s, to the APHIS VS Program Manager through ezFedGrants as specified in the Award Face Sheet and in accordance with the general Terms and Conditions for APHIS awards. The reports will be used by APHIS VS to verify compliance with provisions of the Award Fact Sheet. The final report must include a summary (less than 500 words) of the outcomes and any lessons learned. APHIS may publish the summary on the APHIS webpage. Submission of photos or videos, where appropriate, is encouraged for use in our outreach and educational efforts. The recipient will be asked to provide a summary and other information that is likely to be of interest at the annual CWD Cooperative Agreement Stakeholder meeting.

Any requests for an extension of time to submit reports must be made in writing to the APHIS VS Program Manager. Extensions of time to submit reports will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are subject to the discretion of the APHIS VS Program Manager. If allowed, approval will be provided by the APHIS VS Program Manager in writing.

If the Federal share of the award exceeds $500,000 during the period of performance, please be aware of the post award reporting requirements reflected in 2 CFR Part 200 Appendix XII.

### F.4 PROJECT EVALUATION

The recipient's performance will be evaluated, through the review of performance and financial reports, based on the following criteria to determine if the recipient met the project standards and if the proposed results and benefits were achieved:

1. Adherence to project schedule;
2. Adherence to project budget;
3. Delivery of results that meet the cooperative agreement performance standards and achieve the stated outcomes; and,
4. Periodic discussion of project progress with the APHIS VS Program Manager.

## G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS

For administrative questions pertaining to this funding opportunity, required documents, or the ezFedGrants application process, please contact VS.FiOps.ASC.Agreements@usda.gov, Stephanie Kozar, (970) 494-7374.

For programmatic questions regarding the CWD program, please contact the following APHIS VS Program staff:

Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC)
APHIS VS Cervid Health Team: VS.SP.Cervid.Health@usda.gov, Tracy Nichols, (970) 494-7380

## H. OTHER INFORMATION

USDA is not obligated to make any award as a result of this announcement nor to make any changes to future announcements. Only the APHIS Authorized Departmental Officer can bind the government to an expenditure of funds and this obligation of funds shall only occur in writing by authorized officials and under the approved USDA APHIS cooperative agreement format.

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services is announcing two separate funding opportunities for the control and prevention of CWD in wild cervids under the titles "FY24 Wild Cervid CWD Management and Response Activities" and "FY24 Tribal Nations Wild Cervid CWD Opportunities". Applicants can find information for these funding opportunities on ezFedGrants or Grants.gov by searching this title, the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 10.028, or the Funding Opportunity Numbers USDA-APHIS-10028-WSNWRC00-24-0004 and USDA-APHIS-10028-WSNWRC00-24-0005respectively.

For general information on the CWD Program and previous funding opportunities visit: USDA APHIS | Cervids: Chronic Wasting Disease

# APPENDIX 1: FARMED CERVID FUNDING OPPORTUNITY CRITERIA

## Farmed Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease Management and Research Activities 2024 Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

### Administrative Eligibility Criteria

Proposal packages must meet these initial screening criteria to be considered for further review. Proposals that do not meet these criteria may not be considered.

1. Proposals must be received by the deadline. Proposals received after the established deadline will not be reviewed or considered.
2. Proposals must be submitted by an eligible applicant.
3. Proposals should address at least one of the funding priorities or fall under the scope of activities described in Section A.2.
4. All required documents and forms listed in Section D.2 must be included in the proposal package and comply with the submission instructions described in Section D. Any proposal package with missing or significantly incomplete documents or forms will not be considered for review, resulting in a rejected proposal.
5. Proposals must be consistent with allowed use of funds guidance. Proposals that do not align with the cost guidance described in Section B.1 of this announcement will not be considered for review, resulting in a rejected proposal.
6. Timeline must be reasonable to complete objectives within 12 months. If the proposal is designed to run more than 12 months, it will be rejected.
7. Research proposals only:
    a. Project must focus on applied[19] research. Proposals without a clearly defined application will be rejected.
    b. Timeline must be reasonable to complete objectives within 12 months. If the proposal is designed to run more than 12 months, it will be rejected.
    c. The principal investigator must clearly demonstrate evidence of necessary technical background and facilities to conduct the proposed project. Demonstrated evidence of technical background may include relevant peer reviewed publications and/or technical reports.
    d. If the project involves working with the CWD agent (e.g., infectious CWD prions) and/or known positive tissues or other biological samples from known CWD positive animals, the investigator must submit a copy of their current CWD Controlled Materials, Organisms, and Vectors permit issued by APHIS VS to work with CWD in their facility with the proposal package.

[19] Applied CWD research attempts to find practical solutions to a specific problem(s) such as the ability to detect, prevent, or manage CWD.

e. If the work involves live animals, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval of the project must be included in the proposal package.

### Evaluation Criteria

APHIS VS will use the following criteria to evaluate proposals during the review process. Applicants should consider these criteria when preparing the proposal package. NOTE: Proposed activities must align with current Federal, State, and Tribal regulations.

1. **Requirements in the announcement.** These criteria assess the extent to which the applicant and proposal meet the minimum eligibility requirements. Submissions that do not meet these criteria cannot be considered for funding.

    a. **Applicant criteria for States or Tribal Nations.** State agencies and Tribes, or in the case of Native American Tribal organizations the Native American Tribal governments they are representing, must have regulatory oversight or direct responsibility for farmed cervids to be eligible. APHIS VS may give priority to applications for management agreements from States or Tribes that have experienced recent incidents of CWD or border a CWD endemic area based on the USGS CWD Distribution Map, have a CWD Federal herd certification program (or a State or Tribal CWD control program) or propose to create a Federal, State, or Tribal CWD control program.

    b. **Regulations.** The submitted proposal must be compliant with current Federal and State regulations.

2. **Addresses priorities**

    a. **Funding priorities.** The proposal directly addresses at least one of the five funding priorities. The activities, outcomes, or deliverables should directly address a concern identified in at least one of the five funding priorities. “Scope” refers to activities that further develop/implement CWD control, prevention, surveillance, testing, management, and/or response.

    b. **Research project type.** Research projects must be applied in nature and attempt to find practical solutions to solve a specific problem(s) such as the ability to detect, prevent, or manage CWD.

    c. **Critical need.** The proposal should address a critical need or known gap related to CWD control and prevention and demonstrate how the need or problem aligns with the priority area being addressed. The expected outcomes/deliverables should, if successful, address or resolve the identified need/gap.

    d. **Redundancy.** Research proposals should avoid redundancy with similar work already conducted. The proposed activities should complement existing or ongoing activities without being duplicative to work already completed. For management or education proposals, effective strategies that have been successfully implemented by other entities are not considered redundant when being repeated in or expanded to new areas and should be scored as “Expansive.”

3. **Feasibility of success**

a. **Outcomes and deliverables**. The proposal should include enough detail for the reviewer to understand what outcomes/deliverables will be produced for each objective.

b. **Methods or activities.** The proposal should provide sufficient detail so the reviewer can understand what methods or activities will be performed to generate the stated outcomes and deliverables for each objective. The proposal should include a plan of action that is logical, well organized, and complete.

c. **Technical and scientific soundness.** The proposed methods or activities should be technically/scientifically sound and likely to successfully produce the stated outcomes and deliverables for each objective. These activities or methods should be supported by current scientific knowledge and, in the case of management proposals, relevant experience. The proposal should include reasonable quantitative and qualitative criteria to evaluate project success.

4. **Performance parameters**

a. **Performance period.** The proposed objectives must be accomplished in a 1 year performance period. The performance period must begin on or before September 30, 2024, and should end no later than 12 months after the start date. The project schedule should include a reasonable amount of time to complete all proposed objectives within this performance period.

b. **Potential problems.** The proposal should describe factors that may negatively impact the project and provide solutions to reduce risk as well as any potential problems that may negatively impact the successful accomplishment of the proposed objectives. This would include any situations that may delay project outcomes/deliverables, such as competing time commitments of collaborators or stakeholders who are critical to project completion. The proposal should also describe possible solutions to reduce or eliminate these risks.

5. **Resources**

a. **Partnerships.** The proposal should describe partnerships and collaborations needed to complete the proposed objectives and produce the expected outcomes/deliverables. This may include but is not limited to land grant or other universities; State or national livestock, wildlife, sportsmen, or conservation organizations with direct and significant interest in the control of CWD; or a federal agency. A letter of collaboration from each contributor must be included in the proposal.

b. **Qualifications/skills.** The Project Manager or Principal Investigator should have the qualifications and skills to successfully produce the outcomes/deliverables. This criterion considers the extent to which the key persons who will carry out the methods or activities have the qualifications, skills, abilities, and experience to successfully achieve the objectives, conduct the proposed methods or activities, and produce successful outcomes/deliverables.

c. **Infrastructure.** The Project Manager or Principal Investigator should have the infrastructure to successfully conduct the proposed methods or activities. The proposal should include information to support that key persons who will carry out the project have the infrastructure (e.g., personnel, facilities, equipment) to achieve the proposed objectives by

conducting the proposed activities and producing the outcomes/deliverables. This may include articles, reports, and/or testimonies from interested parties other than the applicant and any relevant experience supporting the proposed activities.

6. **Impact and value of outcomes**

   a. **Impact**. If successful, the outcomes/deliverables should positively impact CWD control or prevention. The expected outcomes and deliverables should support the overarching goal of the funding opportunity, which is to control or prevent CWD. If successful, the project should produce outcomes/deliverables that are high in value and positively impact the funding priority area.

   b. **Use to others**. The outcomes/deliverables could be used by other States, groups, and stakeholders, either by replicating the proposed activities in other areas (e.g., in other States/regions or to new audiences) or by using the information to support policies and decisions. Proposals should indicate how the applicant will share the project outcomes/deliverables so other entities can make use of them.

   c. **Data sharing.** Proposals should indicate how the applicant will share the project outcomes/deliverables (e.g., peer reviewed publication, video) with other States, groups, or stakeholders.

7. **Cost effectiveness**

   a. **Justification.** The proposal should provide specific and detailed justification to fully understand how each budget item supports the proposed activities (Necessary Costs). The proposal should include a budget that is logical, well organized, and complete. All costs should be explained in enough detail for the reviewer to understand how each budget item is necessary to complete the proposed activities.

   b. **Reasonable cost.** The proposed costs should be reasonable to complete the proposed objectives. For this opportunity, a cost is reasonable if it does not exceed costs that would be incurred under normal circumstances. Costs included in the proposal should be generally recognized as ordinary to complete the proposed activities.

   c. **Cost saving measures.** The proposal may include cost-saving measures to complete the proposed objectives. APHIS VS may take an applicant's ability to contribute non-Federal funds into consideration (cost-sharing). The proposal may also include cost-saving measures using existing resources or partnerships (in-kind contributions). For example, an applicant may include the practical use of existing personnel, vehicles, computers, venues, supplies, and other items to complete proposed activities. Cost share will be evaluated in this criterion and will make up less than five percent of the total score.

# APPENDIX 2: FARMED CERVID PROPOSAL CHECKLIST AND TIPS

## Farmed Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease Management and Research Activities 2024 Proposal Checklist and Tips

### Proposal Checklist

The proposal package must include the following:

- ☐ SF-424, "Application for Federal Assistance" – Completed when applying to the funding opportunity in ezFedGrants
- ☐ SF-424A, "Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs" that matches the submitted Financial Plan – Completed when applying to the funding opportunity in ezFedGrants
- ☐ Certification Regarding Lobbying (for Federal Assistance greater than $100,000)
- ☐ SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities" (for Federal Assistance greater than $100,000 when there are activities to disclose)
- ☐ Waiver or approval response letter from the State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) if the applicant is in a state that is required to comply with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs (See Section D.5 for additional information)
- ☐ Copy of the current, signed Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, if indirect costs are claimed
- ☐ Farmed Cervid Proposal Work Plan (See Appendix 3: Farmed Cervid Proposal Work Plan Template or Appendix 4: Farmed Cervid Predictive Genetics Management Proposal Work Plan Template)
- ☐ Farmed Cervid Proposal Financial Plan (See Appendix 5: Farmed Cervid Proposal Financial Plan Template)
- ☐ For research proposals working with the CWD agent (e.g., infectious CWD prions) and/or known positive tissues or other biological samples from known CWD positive animals, copy of a current APHIS VS Controlled Materials, Organisms, and Vectors permit for the possession and handling of known CWD positive samples or tissues from known CWD positive animals
- ☐ For research proposals involving interactions with live animals, documentation of IACUC approval
- ☐ Research institutes or universities submitting a study that includes field work with regulated cervids **must** submit a letter indicating support, cooperation, or no objection from the appropriate cervid regulatory authorities for the state(s) involved to be considered for funding
- ☐ Native American Tribal organizations or universities representing Federally recognized Native American Tribal Governments must attach letter(s) indicating intent to participate from the represented Federally recognized Native American Tribal government(s)
- ☐ Letters of collaboration from additional contributors listed in the Work Plan

***Please note, ezFedGrants attachments are limited to PDF files only (no digital signature or fillable PDFs) and the total size of all attachments cannot exceed 20mb.***

### Tips for Applicants

- **DO** submit proposals early – **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE DAY OF THE PROPOSAL DEADLINE.**
- **DO** remember that the reviewer's job is to ensure Government funds are well spent, with those proposals selected for funding providing the highest likelihood of tangible end products

that will control or prevent or directly lead to the control or prevention of CWD in farmed cervids.

- **DO** take some time to think out your proposal. A proposal that is well written and easy to follow will be well received by the review panel.
- **DO** clearly and concisely define the need or problem that this proposal is addressing. Be **SMART: S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**ealistic, and **T**ime bound. **DO NOT** include why it is important to control CWD in farmed cervids or general information on CWD.
- **DO** align your proposal with the priorities in the current year's opportunity announcement.
- **DO** provide sufficient detail for a reviewer to be convinced that you have thought out the process well, and understand the resources needed to complete the proposed objectives and activities.
- **DO** be sure to include all APHIS resources your proposal will need to successfully complete the work.
- **DO** ask questions. We want to help you submit the best proposal possible.

## New Applicant Information

The applicant will be required to complete the application process by following the instructions below.

### Register in SAM and Obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) Number

SAM Website

- Applicants must register and complete the Financial Assistance Certification Report in SAM.
- A UEI number will automatically be assigned when a new entity is registered in SAM. If your organization is already registered in SAM, you have already been automatically assigned a UEI number and no additional actions are needed.

### Apply for an eAuthentication Account

eAuthentication Website

- Applicants will be required to have a USDA Level 2 eAuthentication account to register for ezFedGrants. USDA eAuthentication is the system used by USDA agencies to enable customers to obtain accounts that will allow them to access USDA Web applications and services via the Internet. Please note that USDA will only accept eAuthentication accounts from individuals (not organizations) and you will need to verify your identity when creating an account.
- An individual may apply for a USDA eAuthentication account by visiting the Create an Account page. For help with eAuthentication accounts or passwords, please visit the eAuthentication help desk online portal at https://www.eauth.usda.gov/eauth/b/usda/helpdesk/requesthelp.

### Getting Started in ezFedGrants

ezFedGrants Website

- Applicants will be required to establish an account in ezFedGrants which requires a USDA level 2 eAuthentication account (see section above for more information on this).
- ezFedGrants requires each applicant to have a minimum of at least one Grants Administrative Officer and one Signatory Official to successfully submit an application/proposal package. We recommend identifying these individuals and confirming they have access prior to submitting a proposal to ensure an efficient application process.

- To complete an application for a proposal selected for funding, the applicant must access the "Search Opportunities" screen and search for the correct Opportunity Number.
- For help with ezFedGrants, applicants may contact the ezFedGrants help desk at ezFedGrants@cfo.usda.gov.

# APPENDIX 3: FARMED CERVID PROPOSAL WORK PLAN TEMPLATE

Farmed Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease Management and Research Activities 2024
Proposal Work Plan Template

**Instructions**

The information requested in this template is required in all proposal Work Plans.

Applicants may submit more than one project proposal. Applicants who submit more than one proposal must submit each proposal as a separate proposal package that includes a separate Work Plan.

A proposal Work Plan must address at least one of the funding priorities described in the Farmed Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease Management and Response Activities 2024 Funding Opportunity. A description of the evaluation criteria that will be used to assess your proposal is described in Section E.1.

Applicants are encouraged to use this template. Please provide detailed information about the proposed project in the topic areas below. Write in narrative format where indicated and paste or type the appropriate information into each box. Expand boxes or add rows as needed. For those boxes where a word limit has been set, applicants can verify the number of words by selecting the box and referencing the word count in the lower left corner.

Work Plans using this template may not exceed twenty pages in 12-point font. The use of diagrams, visuals, and reference sheets, as well as any letters of collaboration from contributors will not count toward the twenty-page limitation. If a work plan exceeds the page limit the extra pages may not be considered.

Work Plans not using this template may not exceed ten pages in 12-point font. The use of diagrams, visuals, and reference sheets, as well as any letters of collaboration from contributors will not count toward the ten-page limitation. If a work plan exceeds the page limit the extra pages may not be considered.

***Please note, ezFedGrants attachments are limited to PDF files only (no digital signature or fillable PDFs) and the total size of all attachments cannot exceed 20mb.***

**Template**

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

**Project Title**

| |
|---|
| |

**Name of Organization Submitting the Proposal**

**Type of Applicant**

*Select the type of applicant from the list below:*

- ☐ State department of agriculture
- ☐ State animal health agency
- ☐ State department of wildlife or natural resources
- ☐ Federally recognized Native American Tribal governments and Native American Tribal organizations or Universities representing Federally recognized Native American Tribal governments*
- ☐ Research Institute**
- ☐ University**

NOTES:

**For Federally recognized Native American Tribal governments or Native American Tribal organizations representing Federally recognized Native American Tribal Governments,* ***list the name(s) of the Indian Tribal entities as they appear on the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior****; Indian Tribal Entities Recognized by and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs website. Native American Tribal organizations or Universities representing Federally recognized Native American Tribal Governments must attach letter(s) indicating intent to participate from the represented Federally recognized Native American Tribal government(s).*

***Research institutes or universities submitting a study that includes field work with regulated cervids* ***must*** *submit a letter indicating support, cooperation, or no objection from the farm cervid regulatory authority for the state(s) involved to be considered for funding.*

**Regulatory Compliance Statement**

*Select one statement from the following:*

- ☐ The activities described in this proposed Work Plan are compliant with current Federal and State regulations where the activities will occur.
- ☐ The activities described in this proposed Work Plan are not compliant with current Federal and State regulations where the activities will occur, but a waiver from the regulatory authorities is included in the proposal's supporting documentation.
- ☐ The activities described in this proposed Work Plan are not compliant with current Federal and State regulations where the activities will occur.

**Funding Priority Area**

*Select the one 2024 funding priority that your proposal most strongly supports:*

- ☐ Improve the management of CWD-affected farmed cervid herds;

- ☐ Improve the management of CWD-affected farmed cervid premises;
- ☐ Conduct additional research on amplification assays and other new test methods in farmed cervids;
- ☐ Conduct additional research on, or implement, whole genome predictive genetics in farmed cervids (if proposing to depopulate highly susceptible exposed White Tailed Deer, please use the predictive genetics work plan template instead of this template);
- ☐ Develop and/or deliver educational outreach materials or programs to farmed cervid stakeholders;
- ☐ Another farmed cervid management priority or area included in the scope of activities described in the Funding Opportunity Announcement; or,
- ☐ Another farmed cervid research priority or area included in the scope of activities described in the Funding Opportunity Announcement.

**Total Amount of Funding Requested**

*Each proposal should not exceed $250,000 in requested funds. Applicants may submit more than one project proposal, submitting each as a separate proposal package.*

$_____

**Indemnity Funding Requested**

*An eligible applicant may submit a proposal requesting up to $250,000 for management activities and request additional funds in excess of $250,000 for the indemnification of CWD-affected farmed cervid herds and/or CWD-exposed animals as part of an overall management plan.*

$_____

**Period of Performance**

*Enter proposed project start and end dates (not to exceed 12 months).*

| Proposed Project Start Date | Proposed Project End Date |
|---|---|
| | |

**Submitting Organization's Principal Investigator/Program Manager**

*Primary point of contact for administration of the cooperative agreement.*

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name** | |
| **Title** | |
| **Phone** | |
| **Email** | |

**Submitting Organization's Financial Point of Contact**

*Primary point of contact for financial administration of the cooperative agreement.*

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name** | |
| **Title** | |
| **Phone** | |
| **Email** | |

**Contributors**

*Name, title, organization, phone number, and email of co-investigators or other lead technical experts. Add rows as needed.*

| Name | Title | Organization | Phone | Email |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

**Other Proposals Submitted to These Opportunities**

*If submitting multiple proposals to either the VS 2024 Farmed Cervid CWD Funding Opportunity, the WS 2024 Wild Cervid CWD Funding Opportunity, or the WS 2024 Tribal Nations Wild Cervid CWD Funding Opportunity, list all other submissions in the table below.*

| Funding Opportunity | Application Number | Project Title |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

**Submissions to Other Opportunities**

*If this proposal has been submitted to Federal funding opportunities other than those listed above, describe those opportunities below (e.g., funding opportunity title, amount requested).*

| |
|---|
| |

## II. PROJECT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND NEED FOR ASSISTANCE

**Objectives**

*List each specific objective the proposed project will accomplish, the funding priority addressed, and the expected results or benefits to be derived from this work and effort. The objectives described in this section are intermediate steps taken to achieve the overall purpose of the project. Objectives should be measurable and lead to specific outcomes/deliverables. No more than 3-5 objectives are recommended per proposal.*

| Objectives | Description |
|---|---|
| Objective 1 | |
| Objective 2 | |
| Objective 3 | |
| Objective 4 | |
| Objective 5 | |

| | |
|---|---|
| | |

**Critical Relevant Need or Problem Requiring Solution**

*Describe in 100 words or less the critical need that this project will address or what problem the project will solve. Include how the need or problem aligns with the priority area(s) described in the Funding Opportunity Announcement.*

| |
|---|
| |

**Background and Significance**

*Provide supporting information for justifying why the proposed work needs to be done. Describe and reference any documents (e.g., articles, reports, testimonies, preliminary data from other ongoing or planned studies, letters of collaboration) from concerned interests other than the applicant that support the need for the project. If attachments are needed, list them, and upload them separately from the Work Plan. Please do not include any general information about CWD or why the control of CWD is important.*

| |
|---|
| |

**Alignment to Farmed Cervid CWD Surveillance, Testing, Management, and Response Activities, including the further development and evaluation of techniques and strategies to prevent or control CWD**

*Describe in 100 words or less how the identified need or problem aligns with the elements of farmed cervid CWD control, prevention, management, and response activities described in the Funding Opportunity Announcement.*

| |
|---|
| |

**Geographic Location**

*List the state(s) or region(s) of the country where the proposed activities will take place.*

| State or Region | Proposed Activities |
|---|---|
| | |

**Target Audience**

*Describe in 100 words or less the specific audience or population that will directly benefit from and/or use the project outcome(s) or deliverable(s).*

| |
|---|
| |

**Expected Impact and Value**

*Describe in 100 words or less the anticipated impact and value that this project will provide in the selected priority area(s) from the Funding Opportunity Announcement.*

| |
|---|
| |

**Relationship to Other Projects**

*Describe in 100 words or less the relationship between this proposed project and other work planned, anticipated, or currently underway, including how the proposed activities will complement and build upon existing activities conducted by other entities.*

| |
|---|
| |

## III. APPROACH

**Outcomes/Deliverables**

*For each objective listed in Section II, describe the individual outcomes/deliverables that will demonstrate successful completion of the objective. Identify in which quarter of the project each part of the objective is expected to begin and end. Add rows as needed.*

| Objectives | Outcomes/Deliverables | Start | End |
|---|---|---|---|
| Objective 1 | | | |
| 1.1 | | | |
| 1.2 | | | |
| Objective 2 | | | |
| 2.1 | | | |
| 2.2 | | | |
| Objective 3 | | | |
| 3.1 | | | |
| 3.2 | | | |
| Objective 4 | | | |
| 4.1 | | | |
| 4.2 | | | |
| Objective 5 | | | |
| 5.1 | | | |
| 5.2 | | | |

**Activities or Methods**

*For each outcome/deliverable listed above, provide a detailed description of the proposed activities or methods that will be used to achieve the outcome/deliverable for each objective. Include any applicable protocols, standards that will be met, or other supporting information.*

| Activities or Methods for Each Outcome/Deliverable | |
|---|---|
| Objective 1 | |
| 1.1 | |
| 1.2 | |
| Objective 2 | |
| 2.1 | |
| 2.2 | |

| Objective 3 | |
|---|---|
| 3.1 | |
| 3.2 | |
| Objective 4 | |
| 4.1 | |
| 4.2 | |
| Objective 5 | |
| 5.1 | |
| 5.2 | |

**Additional Contributors**

*List organizations, cooperators, consultants, or other key individuals, in addition to those listed in Section I, who will contribute to the project. This may include, but is not limited to, land grant or other universities; State or national livestock, wildlife, sportsmen, or conservation organizations with direct and significant interest in the control of CWD; or a federal agency. A letter of collaboration from each contributor must be uploaded separately from the Work Plan as attachments.*

| Name, Title, Organization | Role or Contribution |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |

**Need for APHIS Assistance**

*Describe any support needed from APHIS to accomplish the project objectives, such as help from APHIS VS subject matter experts. Include a description of the quantity or duration of the need for assistance. Add rows as needed.*

| Type of Assistance Requested | Describe the Need for APHIS Assistance |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |

**Qualifications and Relevant Experience of the Principal Investigator/Program Manager and Lead Technical Experts**

*Present the qualifications of the lead technical experts and other key personnel indicating their qualifications, skills, abilities, and experience to successfully achieve the objectives, conduct the proposed methods or activities, and produce successful outcomes/deliverables. Applicants may attach this information in separate documents instead of listing it here. Add additional rows as needed.*

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name and Title** | |
| **Organization** | |
| **Role in this project** | |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Qualifications and Relevant Experience** | |

**Potential Problems and Anticipated Solutions**

*Describe any factors that may negatively impact the project (potential problems) and how these factors might be mitigated to reduce risks (anticipated solutions). Be sure to address any situations that may cause a delay in the project schedule, resulting in objectives not being completed in the proposed period of performance.*

| Potential Problems | Anticipated Solutions |
|---|---|
| | |

**Best Practices, Innovations, or Unusual Features**

*In 100 words or less, describe any of these that may apply: (1) How the proposed approach aligns with best practices, standards, or guidelines that will assure high quality results; (2) How the proposed approach is novel or innovative; and/or, (3) Any unusual features of the project, such as design or technological innovations, reductions in cost or time, or extraordinary social and community involvements.*

| |
|---|
| |

## IV. PERFORMANCE METHODS AND CRITERIA

**Quantitative and Qualitative Project Evaluation Methods and Criteria for Success**

*Describe the methods and the criteria that the recipient will use to evaluate the project's results, outcomes/deliverables, including how the recipient will determine the success for each objective and for the overall project.*

| Objectives | Quantitative (Measurable) and Qualitative Evaluation Methods and the Criteria Used to Measure Success |
|---|---|
| Objective 1 | |
| | |
| Objective 2 | |
| | |
| Objective 3 | |
| | |
| Objective 4 | |
| | |
| Objective 5 | |
| | |

| |
|---|
| Overall Project |
| |

**Information Management**

*Discuss the management of information or data that is developed and/or collected during the project, including a description of how this information or data will be shared and maintained.*

| |
|---|
| |

**Knowledge Transfer**

*Describe how the knowledge gained and/or results achieved through the completion of the project will be shared with others to control or prevent CWD in farmed cervids. Recipient will be asked to provide a summary and other information that is likely to be of interest at the annual CWD Cooperative Agreement Stakeholder meeting.*

| |
|---|
| |

## V. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A concise executive summary of no more than 500 words is required for all projects.[20] **If the executive summary exceeds 500 words, only the first 500 words will be used.**

**Executive Summary**

*Provide a brief overview of the project, including the specific problem that the project solves, what will be delivered and/or accomplished, and the target audience that will directly benefit from the project's outcomes. Please do not include any general information about CWD or why the control of CWD is important.*

| |
|---|
| |

[20] If the project is funded, recipients can expect that this executive summary will be used in its entirety or in part for media purposes including press releases or program reports, and to provide upper echelons of government with a snapshot of the project.

## VI. BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

All costs must be reasonable and necessary to complete the project objectives and budget requests should reflect a good use of existing resources. Information provided in this section must align with the cost guidance outlined in Section B.1 and support the information provided in the project's Financial Plan. **Specific and detailed justification for each budget category is required.**

**Funding Requested**

*For each of the objectives listed in Section II, provide the total amount of funding requested.*

| Objectives | Amount of Funding Requested |
|---|---|
| Objective 1 | |
| Objective 2 | |
| Objective 3 | |
| Objective 4 | |
| Objective 5 | |
| **Total** | |

**Personnel Funded by the Project**

*Describe all personnel who will be paid by the project for each objective, including the number of people and the number of hours for each position. Include a short description of the title or type of personnel needed and what they will do (purpose or role). If the personnel name is not yet known, list as Technician 1, Trainer 2, or similar. Add rows as needed.*

| Personnel | Role and Justification for Each Position/Person |
|---|---|
| Objective 1 | |
| | |
| | |
| Objective 2 | |
| | |
| | |
| Objective 3 | |
| | |
| | |
| Objective 4 | |
| | |
| | |
| Objective 5 | |
| | |
| | |

**Fringe Benefits**

*Provide the fringe benefit rate and a description of what the rate includes for each of the personnel listed in the table above. Fringe benefits may include health/life insurance, leave, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, retirement, social security, pensions, etc.*

| Personnel | Rate | Fringe Benefit Description |
|---|---|---|
| Objective 1 | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Objective 2 | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Objective 3 | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Objective 4 | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Objective 5 | | |
| | | |
| | | |

**Travel**

*Describe both local and out of state travel needed to accomplish each objective, including details for each traveler. Identify the objective(s) where the travel is needed and number of trips to achieve the objective(s). If a traveler name is not yet known, list as Person 1, Trainer 2, or similar. For local travel (no overnight stay), indicate "0" for number of nights of lodging. For means of travel, describe transportation type (air, GOV for government owned vehicle, etc.). Add rows as needed.*

| Traveler Name, Title | Trip Purpose, Justification, and Objectives Where Travel Is Needed | # Trips | # Nights Lodging (per trip) | Starting Location and Destination | Means |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

**Equipment**

*Describe the type, purpose, and quantity of equipment having a per unit value greater than $5,000 needed to accomplish the project. Identify the objective(s) where the equipment will be used. Recipient procurements must be in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200.317 or 2 CFR Part 200.318, as applicable. Add rows as needed.*

| Type of Equipment to be Purchased | Purpose, Justification, and Objectives Where Equipment Will Be Used | Quantity and Value |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

*Describe how will each type of equipment be disposed of or utilized after the period of performance.*

| |
|---|
| |

**Supplies**

*Describe the type, purpose, and quantity of consumable supplies needed to accomplish the project objectives. Identify the objective(s) where the supplies will be used. Recipient procurements must be in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200.317 or 2 CFR Part 200.318, as applicable. Add rows as needed.*

| Type of Supplies to be Purchased | Purpose, Justification, and Objectives Where Supplies Will Be Used | Quantity and Value |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

*Describe how unused supplies totaling more than $5,000 would be disposed of or utilized after the period of performance.*

| |
|---|
| |

**Contracts/Sub-Agreements**

*Describe contracts and/or sub-agreements to be awarded by the recipient to accomplish the project objectives, including specific details about what the contract or sub-agreement will provide to the project. Include the objective(s) where the contract and/or sub-agreement is needed. Add rows as needed.*

| Name of Contractor/Contributor | Purpose, Justification, and Objective(s) Where the Contract or Sub-Agreement Will Contribute |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |

**Other Costs**

*Describe and provide justification for all other costs listed in the Financial Plan. Add rows as needed.*

| Type of Other Cost | Purpose, Justification, and Objective(s) Where the Other Costs Apply |
|---|---|

| | |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |

**In-Kind Contributions to the Project**

*Describe in-kind contributions that the submitting organization will provide to each objective. Type of contribution may include personnel, facilities, equipment, event space, travel, and other items that will assist in completing the project outcomes or deliverables. Add rows as needed.*

| Contributor Name | Type of Contribution | Description of the Contribution and Applicable Objectives | Quantity |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

## VII. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

**References**

*Provide references to support the proposed method/approach using either current scientific knowledge in the case of CWD research proposals or relevant experience in the case of CWD management proposals, as applicable.*

| |
|---|
| |

**Supporting Documents**

*List any supporting documents (e.g., articles, reports, testimonies from concerned interests other than the applicant, preliminary data from other ongoing or planned studies, letters of collaboration) supporting the need for the project. When referring to specific documents from this list in the proposal Work Plan, applicants may refer to documents from this list using a numbered format. Upload these documents separately from the proposal Work Plan.*

| List of Supporting Documents |
|---|
| |
| |

# APPENDIX 4: FARMED CERVID PREDICTIVE GENETICS MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL WORK PLAN TEMPLATE

Farmed Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease Management and Research Activities 2024: White Tailed Deer Predictive Genetics Herd Management Proposal Work Plan Template

**Instructions**

The information requested in this template includes information required for all proposal "Work Plans" and includes specific sections exclusively for projects utilizing predictive genetics.

Applicants may submit more than one project proposal. Applicants who submit more than one proposal must submit each proposal as a separate proposal package that includes a separate Work Plan. *Note: Applicants should submit a separate project proposal for activities not related to genetic herd management. Multiple proposals may be awarded to the same applicant.*

This work plan addresses the funding priority to conduct novel research on, or implement, whole genome predictive genetics in farmed cervids in the 2024 Funding Opportunity. A description of the evaluation criteria that will be used to assess your proposal is described in Section E.1.

Applicants are encouraged to use this template. Please provide detailed information about the proposed project in the topic areas below. Write in narrative format where indicated and paste or type the appropriate information into each box. Expand boxes or add rows as needed. For those boxes where a word limit has been set, applicants can verify the number of words by selecting the box and referencing the word count in the lower left corner.

Work Plans using this template may not exceed twenty pages in 12-point font. The use of diagrams, visuals, and reference sheets, as well as any letters of collaboration from contributors will not count toward the twenty-page limitation. If a work plan exceeds the page limit the extra pages may not be considered.

Work Plans not using this template may not exceed ten pages in 12-point font. The use of diagrams, visuals, and reference sheets, as well as any letters of collaboration from contributors will not count toward the ten-page limitation. If a work plan exceeds the page limit the extra pages may not be considered.

***Please note, ezFedGrants attachments are limited to PDF files only (no digital signature or fillable PDFs) and the total size of all attachments cannot exceed 20mb.***

**Template**

## VIII. GENERAL INFORMATION

**Project Title**

[Insert State] farmed white-tailed deer herd management utilizing predictive genetics

**Name of Organization Submitting the Proposal**

| |
|---|
| |

**Type of Applicant**

*Select the type of applicant from the list below:*

- ☐State department of agriculture
- ☐State animal health agency
- ☐State department of wildlife or natural resources
- ☐Federally recognized Native American Tribal governments and Native American Tribal organizations or Universities representing Federally recognized Native American Tribal governments*
- ☐Research Institute**
- ☐University**

NOTES:

**For Federally recognized Native American Tribal governments, Native American Tribal organizations or universities representing Federally recognized Native American Tribal Governments, list the name(s) of the Indian Tribal entities as they appear on the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior; Indian Tribal Entities Recognized by and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs website. Native American Tribal organizations or Universities representing Federally recognized Native American Tribal Governments must attach letter(s) indicating intent to participate from the represented Federally recognized Native American Tribal government(s).*

***Research institutes and universities **must** cooperate with and **submit** a letter of support from the farm cervid regulatory authority for the state(s) involved to have a management plan considered for funding.*

**Regulatory Compliance Statement**

*Select one statement from the following:*

- ☐ The activities described in this proposed Work Plan are compliant with current Federal and State regulations where the activities will occur.
- ☐ The activities described in this proposed Work Plan are not compliant with current Federal and State regulations where the activities will occur, but a waiver from the regulatory authorities is included in the proposal's supporting documentation.
- ☐ The activities described in this proposed Work Plan are not compliant with current Federal and State regulations where the activities will occur.

**Funding Priority Area**

Conduct additional research on, or implement, whole genome predictive genetics in farmed cervids and improve the management of CWD-affected farmed cervid herds.

**Genetics and Testing Funding Requested**

| $_____ |
|---|

*Each proposal should not exceed $250,000 in requested funds for personnel including accredited veterinarian fees, to purchase supplies (ear punches, formalin vials, disposable instruments, shipping, etc.), conduct white-tailed deer predictive genetics testing through NADR, and to conduct ante mortem rectal biopsy immnunohistochemistry (RB) testing at a National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratory with an approved deviation to test rectal biopsies (TX, WI, PA). NOTE: You must provide a letter indicating their intent to participate from the NAHLN laboratory or the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL). NVSL will be able to support a limited number of RB tests for states without NAHLN laboratories. Please contact aaron.d.lehmkuhl@usda.gov to explore RB testing at NVSL or to request a NAHLN laboratory deviation.*

**Indemnity Funding Requested**

| $_____ |
|---|

*An eligible applicant may request additional funds in excess of $250,000 for the indemnification of white-tailed deer (WTD) as part of an overall predictive genetics management plan. Indemnity may be requested for WTD from chronic wasting disease (CWD)-positive, exposed, or trace herds with predictive genetics genomically estimated breeding value (GEBV) scores above -0.056, and animals that test positive for CWD via rectal biopsy. For mixed species herds, indemnity may also be requested for removal of exposed susceptible species that are not WTD (if this is the case it must be added as another objective and an estimated number of animals provided). The use of indemnity funds and animal valuation must follow the standard USDA APHIS VS indemnity guidelines (9 CFR 55 and Chronic Wasting Disease Program Standards 2019).*

**Period of Performance**

*Enter proposed project start date (on or before September 30, 2024) and end date (not to exceed 12 months).*

| Proposed Project Start Date | Proposed Project End Date |
|---|---|
| | |

**Submitting Organization's Principal Investigator/Program Manager**

*Primary point of contact for administration of the cooperative agreement.*

| Name | |
|---|---|

| | |
|---|---|
| **Title** | |
| **Phone** | |
| **Email** | |

**Submitting Organization's Financial Point of Contact**

*Primary point of contact for financial administration of the cooperative agreement.*

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name** | |
| **Title** | |
| **Phone** | |
| **Email** | |

**Contributors**

*Name, title, organization, phone number, and email of co-investigators or other lead technical experts. Add rows as needed.*

| Name | Title | Organization | Phone | Email |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

**Other Proposals Submitted to These Opportunities**

*If submitting multiple proposals to either the Veterinary Services (VS) 2024 Farmed Cervid CWD Funding Opportunity, the Wildlife Services (WS) 2024 Wild Cervid CWD Funding Opportunity, or the WS 2024 Tribal Nations Wild Cervid CWD Funding Opportunity, list all other submissions in the table below.*

| Funding Opportunity | Application Number | Project Title |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

## IX. PROJECT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND NEED FOR ASSISTANCE

**Objectives**

*Below are the specific objectives whole herd predictive genetics projects must accomplish.*
**Additional objectives can be added to the project table below, changing or removing objectives may impact our ability to fund the proposal.*

| Objectives | Description |
|---|---|
| Objective 1 | Incorporate predictive genetics management into the herd plan of participating CWD-positive, exposed, or trace WTD herds under quarantine. |
| Objective 2 | Collect predictive genetics data for all WTD in the herds and identify all animals with GEBV scores greater than -0.056 for removal. |
| Objective 3 | Conduct *antemortem* IHC rectal biopsy testing on all deer 12 months or older in a CWD-positive and/or exposed herds and/or CWD exposed deer in trace herds under quarantine. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Objective 4 | Depopulate all deer positive for CWD and depopulate or harvest all deer that are found to be highly susceptible to CWD (GEBV score greater than -0.056). If the current quarantine allows, these deer could be hunted out during the next hunting season if appropriate. Some flexibility can be applied to the score cutoff with consultation between the state and national cervid program staff. |
| Objective 5 | Only use bucks, or semen from bucks, that score below the GEBV cut off value. |

**Critical Relevant Need or Problem Requiring Solution**

*Describe in 100 words or less. (The text below may be used meet this requirement, if desired additional information may be added in the box to better reflect the situation.)*

There can be insufficient indemnity or owner desire to remove entire CWD-positive, exposed, or trace WTD herds. Therefore, a strategy is needed to minimize the risk and prevalence of CWD in these herds. This can be accomplished by identifying and removing deer positive for CWD and deer highly susceptible to CWD.

| |
|---|
| |

**Number of Herds and animals, and status of a genetic-based herd plan**

*List the number of herds and deer to be included in this project and the number that have signed genetic-based herd plans or herd plan amendments.*

| | **# With signed genetic-based herd plans or genetic-based herd plan amendments** | **# Others expected to participate that don't have signed plans**** |
|---|---|---|
| Number of HCP* herds | | |
| Number non-HCP herds | | |
| Number of WTD in HCP herds | | |
| Number of WTD in non-HCP herds | | |

** Includes herds that were enrolled in the HCP at the time the positive was detected.*

****Project participation explanation**

*Please provide an explanation below of how you determined the number of additional herds that will participate and your basis for believing they will participate.*

| |
|---|
| |

**Expected Impact and Value**

*Describe in 100 words or less the anticipated impact and value that this project will provide in the selected priority area(s) from the Funding Opportunity Announcement. (The text below may be used meet this requirement, if desired additional information may be added in the box to better reflect the situation.)*

Removing CWD positive WTD and those with poor predictive genetics scores in positive, exposed, and trace herds under quarantine reduces the number of CWD positive and highly susceptible animals on the landscape and provides states with a herd management tool. In turn, this approach reduces CWD environmental contamination and the probability of a herd becoming CWD positive in the future.

## X. APPROACH

**Outcomes/Deliverables**

*Minimal outcomes/deliverables that demonstrates successful completion of each objective have been provided below. Additional outcomes/deliverables may be included. Identify in which quarter of the project each part of the objective is expected to begin and end. Add rows as needed.*

| Objectives | Outcomes/Deliverables | Start | End |
|---|---|---|---|
| Objective 1: Incorporate the predictive genetics management into the herd plan/s of participating CWD-positive, exposed, or trace herds. | | | |
| 1.1 | Signed herd plans that include the identification and removal of all CWD positive and highly susceptible white-tailed deer. | | |
| 1.2 | | | |
| Objective 2: Determine the susceptibility (based on predictive genetics) for all animals in participating CWD-positive, exposed, or trace herds. | | | |
| 2.1 | Predictive GEBV scores from North American Deer Registry (NADR) | | |
| 2.2 | | | |
| Objective 3: Conduct *ante mortem* IHC rectal biopsy testing on all deer over 12 months of age in participating CWD-positive, exposed, or trace herd/s. | | | |
| 3.1 | CWD results on *ante mortem* rectal biopsy samples for each deer over 12 months of age in the herd | | |
| 3.2 | | | |
| Objective 4: Depopulate all deer positive for CWD and all deer that are found to be highly susceptible (GEVB >-0.056) to CWD. | | | |
| 4.1 | All identified CWD positive and highly susceptible deer depopulated from the herd/s | | |
| 4.2 | | | |
| Objective 5: Only use bucks, or semen from bucks, that score below the GEBV cut off value | | | |
| 5.1 | Breed for offspring with improved GEBV scores | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5.2 | | | |

**Activities or Methods**

*A detailed description of proposed activities or methods have been provided below for each objective. Include any additional applicable protocols, standards that will be met, or other supporting information. Add rows as needed.*

| Activities or Methods for Each Outcome/Deliverable | |
|---|---|
| Objective 1- Incorporate the predictive genetics management into the herd plan/s of participating CWD-positive, exposed, or trace herds. | |
| 1.1 | Re-write or amend herd plans for herd/s participating in this project |
| 1.2 | |
| Objective 2- Determine the susceptibility (based on predictive genetics) for all animals in participating CWD-positive, exposed, or trace herds. | |
| 2.1 | Establish a process to receive official genetic data reports (GEVB scores) from NADR |
| 2.2 | Collection of ear punches of all deer in the herd |
| 2.3 | Send ear punches to NADR for predictive genetics results |
| 2.4 | Identify all deer with GEBV scores greater than -0.056. |
| Objective 3- Conduct *ante mortem* IHC rectal biopsy testing on all deer over 12 months of age in participating CWD-positive, exposed, or trace herd/s. | |
| 3.1 | Collect *ante mortem* rectal biopsy samples from all deer over 12 months of age in the herd. Fix in formalin. |
| 3.2 | Send fixed samples to NVSL, or NAHL lab with a rectal biopsy deviation |
| 3.3 | Identify all CWD-positive deer |
| Objective 4- Depopulate all deer positive for CWD and all deer that are found to be highly susceptible to CWD. | |
| 4.1 | Determine number of deer that are highly susceptible to CWD (GEBV > -0.056) or that test positive for CWD |
| 4.2 | Develop a depopulation plan to remove these deer and utilize indemnity if requested |
| Objective 5- Only use bucks, or semen from bucks, that score below the GEBV cut off value | |
| 5.1 | Herd owner utilizes artificial insemination and semen from good scoring bucks or selectively breeds only using bucks with good GEBV scores |
| 5.2 | |

**Additional Contributors**

*List organizations, cooperators, consultants, or other key individuals, in addition to those listed in Section I, who will contribute to the project. This may include, but is not limited to, land grant or other universities; State or national livestock, wildlife, sportsmen, or conservation organizations with direct and significant interest in the control of CWD; or a federal agency. NOTE: cooperating*

*Federal agencies can't be reimbursed for their contributions from the APHIS VS share since this cooperative agreement will be awarded across fiscal years. A letter of collaboration from each contributor should be uploaded separately from the Work Plan as attachments.*

| Name, Title, Organization | Role or Contribution |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |

**Need for APHIS Assistance**

*Describe any support needed from APHIS to accomplish the project objectives, such as help from APHIS VS subject matter experts. Include a description of the quantity or duration of the need for assistance. Add rows as needed.*

| Type of Assistance Requested | Describe the Need for APHIS Assistance |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |

**Qualifications and Relevant Experience of the Principal Investigator/Program Manager and Lead Technical Experts**

*Present the qualifications of the lead technical experts and other key personnel indicating their qualifications, skills, abilities, and experience to successfully achieve the objectives, conduct the proposed methods or activities, and produce a successful outcome. Applicants may attach this information in separate documents instead of listing it here. Add additional rows as needed.*

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name and Title** | |
| **Organization** | |
| **Role in this project** | |
| **Qualifications and Relevant Experience (If submitting a research proposal include relevant publications)** | |

**Potential Problems and Anticipated Solutions**

*Describe any factors that may negatively impact the project (potential problems) and how these factors might be mitigated to reduce risks (anticipated solutions). Be sure to address any situations that may cause a delay in the project schedule, resulting in objectives not being completed in the proposed period of performance.*

| Potential Problems | Anticipated Solutions |
|---|---|
| | |

## XI. PERFORMANCE METHODS AND CRITERIA

**Quantitative and Qualitative Project Evaluation Methods and Criteria for Success**

| Objectives | Quantitative (Measurable) and Qualitative Evaluation Methods and the Criteria Used to Measure Success |
|---|---|
| Objective 1- Incorporate predictive genetics management into the herd plan/s of participating CWD-positive, exposed, or trace herds under quarantine. | |
| All participating CWD-positive, exposed, or trace herds under quarantine have a herd plan with the predictive genetics plan included or as an amendment. | |
| Objective 2- Determine the susceptibility (based on predictive genetics) for all animals in participating CWD-positive, exposed, or trace herds. | |
| Receipt of predictive genetics GEVB scores for all animals in the participating herds. | |
| Objective 3- Conduct *ante mortem* IHC rectal biopsy testing on all deer over 12 months of age in participating CWD-positive, exposed, or trace herds. | |
| Usable IHC rectal biopsy results from official reports that show the CWD *ante mortem* testing result. | |
| Objective 4- Depopulate all deer positive for CWD and all deer that are found to be highly susceptible to CWD. | |
| Removal of CWD positive and highly susceptible deer from participating herds. | |
| Objective 5- Only use bucks, or semen from bucks, that score below the GEBV cut off value | |
| Selective breeding in the herd that optimizes the use of the GEBV scores to improve score of offspring. | |
| Overall Project | |
| The removal of CWD positive and highly susceptible deer from CWD-positive, exposed, and trace herds. | |

**Information Management**

*Discuss the management of test and genetic information collected during the project, including a description of how this information or data will be shared and maintained.*

**Knowledge Transfer**

*Describe in 100 words or less. (The text below may be used meet this requirement, if desired additional information may be added in the box to better reflect the situation.)*

Recipient will provide a summary and other information that is likely to be of interest at the annual CWD Cooperative Agreement Stakeholder meeting by herd including: the number WTD

tested (rectal biopsy and separately predictive genetics), the number of CWD positive by rectal biopsy, the number of highly susceptible deer identified, the number depopulated, and the IHC results on obex and RPLN for animals that were depopulated or died linked with their predictive genetics score and rectal biopsy result.

## XII. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A concise executive summary of no more than 500 words is required for all projects.[21] **If the executive summary exceeds 500 words, only the first 500 words will be used.**

**Executive Summary**

*(The text below may be used to meet this requirement, if desired additional information may be added in the box to better reflect the situation.)*

This project provides a CWD herd management option for CWD-positive, exposed, and trace WTD herds when indemnity is not available for whole herd depopulation, or an owner does not wish to depopulate their herd. This option removes CWD positive deer identified by *ante mortem* IHC rectal biopsy, and deer that are highly susceptible to CWD as identified via their predictive genetics GEBV score. Removing positive animals helps reduce environmental contamination and may limit spread of CWD particularly when coupled with predictive genetics. Whole genome predictive genetics (Seabury *et. al.* 2020) can identify deer that are highly susceptible to CWD so they can be removed from a herd reducing CWD prevalence in positive herds and reducing or eliminating the introduction of CWD into other herds or spreading to wild deer across the fence line. This approach provides states an option other than whole herd depopulation to help manage the incidence of CWD in farmed deer.

## XIII. BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

All costs must be reasonable and necessary to complete the project objectives and budget requests should reflect a good use of existing resources. Information provided in this section must align with the cost guidance outlined in Section B.1 and support the information provided in the project's Financial Plan. **Specific and detailed justification for each budget category is required.**

**Funding Requested**

*For each of the objectives listed in Section II, provide the total amount of funding requested.*

| Objectives | Amount of Funding Requested |
|---|---|

[21] If the project is funded, recipients can expect that this executive summary will be used in its entirety or in part for media purposes including press releases or program reports, and to provide upper echelons of government with a snapshot of the project.

| | |
|---|---|
| Objective 1 | |
| Objective 2 | |
| Objective 3 | |
| Objective 4 | |
| Objective 5 | |
| **Total** | |

**Personnel Funded by the Project**

*Describe all personnel who will be paid by the project for each objective, including the number of people and the number of hours for each position. Include a short description of the title or type of personnel needed and what they will do (purpose or role). If the personnel name is not yet known, list as Technician 1, Trainer 2, or similar. Add rows as needed.*

| Personnel | Role and Justification for Each Position/Person |
|---|---|
| Objective 1 | |
| | |
| | |
| Objective 2 | |
| | |
| | |
| Objective 3 | |
| | |
| | |
| Objective 4 | |
| | |
| | |
| Objective 5 | |
| | |
| | |

**Fringe Benefits**

*Provide the fringe benefit rate and a description of what the rate includes for each of the personnel listed in the table above. Fringe benefits may include health/life insurance, leave, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, retirement, social security, pensions, etc.*

| Personnel | Rate | Fringe Benefit Description |
|---|---|---|
| Objective 1 | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Objective 2 | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Objective 3 | | |
| | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| Objective 4 | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Objective 5 | | |
| | | |
| | | |

**Travel**

*Describe both local and out of state travel needed to accomplish each objective, including details for each traveler. Identify the objective(s) where the travel is needed and number of trips to achieve the objective(s). If a traveler name is not yet known, list as Person 1, Trainer 2, or similar. For local travel (no overnight stay), indicate "0" for number of nights of lodging. For means of travel, describe transportation type (air, GOV for government owned vehicle, etc.). Add rows as needed.*

| Traveler Name, Title | Trip Purpose, Justification, and Objectives Where Travel Is Needed | # Trips | # Nights Lodging (per trip) | Starting Location and Destination | Means |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

**Equipment**

*Describe the type, purpose, and quantity of equipment having a per unit value greater than $5,000 needed to accomplish the project. Identify the objective(s) where the equipment will be used. Recipient procurements must be in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200.317 or 2 CFR Part 200.318, as applicable. Add rows as needed.*

| Type of Equipment to be Purchased | Purpose, Justification, and Objectives Where Equipment Will Be Used | Quantity and Value |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

*Describe how will each type of equipment be disposed of or utilized after the period of performance.*

| |
|---|
| |

**Supplies**

*Describe the type, purpose, and quantity of consumable supplies needed to accomplish the project objectives. Identify the objective(s) where the supplies will be used. Recipient procurements must*

*be in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200.317 or 2 CFR Part 200.318, as applicable. Add rows as needed.*

| Type of Supplies to be Purchased | Purpose, Justification, and Objectives Where Supplies Will Be Used | Quantity and Value |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

*Describe how unused supplies totaling more than $5,000 would be disposed of or utilized after the period of performance.*

| |
|---|
| |

**Contracts/Sub-Agreements**

*Describe contracts and/or sub-agreements to be awarded by the recipient to accomplish the project objectives, including specific details about what the contract or sub-agreement will provide to the project. Include the objective(s) where the contract and/or sub-agreement is needed. Add rows as needed.*

| Name of Contractor/Contributor | Purpose, Justification, and Objective(s) Where the Contract or Sub-Agreement Will Contribute |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |

**Other Costs**

*Describe and provide justification for all other costs listed in the Financial Plan. Add rows as needed.*

| Type of Other Cost | Purpose, Justification, and Objective(s) Where the Other Costs Apply |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |

**In-Kind Contributions to the Project**

*Describe in-kind contributions that the submitting organization will provide to each objective. Type of contribution may include personnel, facilities, equipment, event space, travel, and other items that will assist in completing the project outcomes or deliverables. Add rows as needed.*

| Contributor Name | Type of Contribution | Description of the Contribution and Applicable Objectives | Quantity |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

## XIV. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

**Supporting Documents**

*List any supporting documents (e.g., articles, reports, testimonies from concerned interests other than the applicant, preliminary data from other ongoing or planned studies, letters of collaboration) supporting the need for the project. When referring to specific documents from this list in the proposal Work Plan, applicants may refer to documents from this list using a numbered format. Upload these documents separately from the proposal Work Plan. If being submitted as a research proposal by a university or research institution must include documentation such as peer-reviewed publications and/or technical reports demonstrating the qualifications of the principal investigator to manage the study.*

| List of Supporting Documents |
| --- |
| |
| |

# APPENDIX 5: FARMED CERVID PROPOSAL FINANCIAL PLAN TEMPLATE

## Farmed Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease Management and Research Activities 2024 Proposal Financial Plan Template

### Instructions

The information requested in this template is required in all proposal Financial Plans.

Applicants must submit a detailed Financial Plan that clearly identifies the costs associated with the proposed activities for each objective listed in the Work Plan and include all of the information outlined in the Farmed Cervid Proposal Financial Plan Template. Financial Plans must match the required SF-424A submitted through ezFedGrants and provide additional details as necessary.

***Please note, ezFedGrants attachments are limited to PDF files only (no digital signature or fillable PDFs) and the total size of all attachments cannot exceed 20mb.***

Allowable uses of cooperative agreement funds include, but are not limited to, activities, equipment, supplies, and services needed to complete approved program activities that support the funding priorities and considerations as described in Section B.1. Funds are intended to complement and build upon activities associated with other APHIS cooperative programs or grants geared toward controlling or preventing CWD in farmed cervids.

Allowable costs must be reasonable, allocable, and necessary to the project. Office of Management and Budget cost principles (2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E) must be used to determine whether a cost can be charged to the project and, if so, the extent to which it can be charged.

When identifying the resources needed, the applicant must be compliant with Federal and State policy, the cost guidance in Section B.1, and should include the following details:

1. *Personnel:* APHIS VS will allow costs for salary and wages for personnel who are essential to complete the activities in the Work Plan. The total compensation per individual employee must be reasonable for the work performed, conform to the established policy of the organization, and be consistently applied to Government and nongovernment activities. Applicants must:
    - List personnel needs to accomplish the project and include their titles, number of hours, hourly rate (or percentage of effort), and the total number needed for each employee classification.
    - Identify if employees are full-time, temporary, or part-time workers.
    - Explain how the employee compensation was calculated.
    - Identify any compensation increases projected during the award period.
2. *Fringe Benefits*: List the fringe benefit rate and a description of what the rate includes. Fringe benefits may include health and life insurance, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, leave, retirement, social security, pensions, etc.
3. *Travel:* Funds may be requested for field work, training, attendance at meetings and conferences, and other travel costs associated with the proposed work. Recipients should follow their State's written travel policies when calculating travel costs. If there is no State travel policy, Federal per diem rates should be used in the calculation of travel costs. Federal per diem rates can be found on the General Services Administration website. Reference 2 CFR Part 200.475.

- Local travel: Identify any local travel to daily work sites as outlined in your proposed activities. Indicate by position type who will be traveling, total projected mileage, and rate per mile. Indicate the number of trips per day/week/month, as appropriate.
- Out of State travel: Provide the number of travelers, cost of transportation, lodging, subsistence and related items, number of days, rate per day, and the total related to out of state travel. If out of state travel is necessary to attend a meeting/training, include the event title and destination. Registration fees should be included in the "Other" cost category.
- International travel: Not authorized on this Funding Opportunity Announcement.

4. *Equipment:* The Federal definition of equipment is tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than 1 year and a per unit value of $5,000 or more, unless the applicant's definition of equipment is more restrictive. Provide a description of the equipment to be purchased or leased, including unit cost, and total purchase or leasing costs. Ensure the purpose of each equipment item and how it will benefit or be used for the project has been provided in the proposed activities.
5. *Supplies:* Provide a general description of the supplies required to perform the proposed activities. Identify quantities required and per unit costs.
6. *Contractual:* Describe any contract that the applicant may enter into to complete the proposed activities. Identify what goods or services are being purchased for which activity and from where.

   Provide the contractor or sub-awardee cost breakdown of amounts in a separate budget for all applicable cost categories and totals, if available. However, the contractor or sub-awardee breakdown is not to be used to develop the applicant's breakdown; the contractor or sub-awardee total costs will be classified as contractual in the applicant's budget. Any application with a proposed subaward over $10,000 should complete an additional Financial Plan for the sub-awarded portion as a part of the proposal package.

   If testing is done as a subcontract, identify which approved laboratories will be conducting diagnostic testing, detail the type of test, number of tests, and cost per test/sample. All billing for laboratory costs shall be done on a cost-per-test basis (e.g., 500 samples at $10.00 equals $5,000). Do not include any costs which are covered by other laboratory funding sources such as NAHLN or NIFA funding.
7. *Other:* Identify any direct costs which were not itemized elsewhere, such as conference registration fees, communications, printing, publication charges, computer time or usage, applicant laboratory testing, etc.

   If testing is done in an applicant's laboratory, detail the type of test, number of tests, and cost per test/sample. All billing for laboratory costs shall be done on a cost-per-test basis (e.g., 500 samples at $10.00 equals $5,000). Do not include any costs which are covered by other laboratory funding sources such as NAHLN or NIFA funding.
8. *Indirect Costs and Recipient Cost Share:* Include the Indirect Cost rate and the applicable base, as necessary. This should be consistent with the Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement. A lower rate than what is listed on the Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement may be claimed; a higher rate may not.
9. *Recipient Share:* List the recipient share by cost category throughout the Financial Plan, as applicable.

**Template** (please use the Excel spreadsheet provided)

**DETAILED FINANICAL PLAN TEMPLATE**

**Farmed Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease Management and Response Activities 2022**

This Financial Plan must match the SF-424-A, Section B – Budget Categories. Funding requested under the budget categories must be described in detail within the narrative. If budget modifications are approved applicants must submit a revised budget template with their final report.

| | |
|---|---|
| Project Title: | |
| Recipient Name: | |
| Time Period: | *(to be added post award)* |

| Cost Category | Item Description | Quantity | Recipient Share | APHIS Share | Total Budget |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Personnel | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | Personnel Subtotal | | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| Fringe Benefits | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | Fringe Subtotal | | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| Travel | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | Travel Subtotal | | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| Equipment | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | Equipment Subtotal | | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| Supplies | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | Supplies Subtotal | | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| Contractual | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | Contractual Subtotal | | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| Other Costs | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | | | | | $0 |
| | Other Subtotal | | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| Totals | Total Direct Costs | | $0 | $0 | $0 |
| | Indirect Costs (% of Total Direct) | 10% | | $0 | $0 |
| | Total Project Costs | | $0 | $0 | $0 |