National Wildlife Disease Program

Last Modified:

The National Wildlife Disease Program (NWDP) promotes safe agricultural trade by protecting the health of humans, animals, plants, and ecosystems and reducing levels of incurred losses to agricultural and natural resources.

NWDP participates in wildlife disease monitoring and surveillance in all regions of the United States. Large-scale projects include wildlife surveillance for avia influenza, SARS-CoV-2, and plague. Activities on emerging pathogens are routinely implemented as well, with recent projects on bovine brucellosis in wildlife, hantavirus spillover to humans, and coordination of rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus 2 reporting.

The program's Wildlife Disease Biologists function as WS' first responders through NWDP's Surveillance and Emergency Response System (SERS). The NWDP also collaborates with non-governmental organizations and officials from other countries to promote and help in the development of wildlife disease monitoring programs worldwide.

Surveillance and Emergency Response System

The Surveillance and Emergency Response System is an essential component of the National Wildlife Disease Program and serves as the primary emergency response

contact point within Wildlife Services.



Avian Health

NWDP collects samples from wild birds for disease surveillance. Surveillance helps APHIS better understand and track the presence of avian influenza and other pathogens of concern along migratory bird pathways.



SARS-CoV-2

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is the virus that causes COVID-19. Animals in many environments are susceptible to the virus.



Chronic Wasting Disease

NWDP carries out cervid CWD surveillance, testing, management, and response activities, including further developing and evaluating techniques and strategies to prevent or control CWD in cervids.



Plague

Plague is a disease of concern to people, wildlife, and domestic animals in the United States. It is also considered a "Category A" disease by the Department of Homeland Security, meaning it could potentially be used as a bioterrorist agent.



Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus

NWDP works closely with collaborators and other Federal and State agencies to track and report the prevalence and spread of RHDV2 across the United States.



Bovine Tuberculosis

NWDP assists with bovine TB surveillance in wildlife and with determining potential management actions to help control disease in wild populations.



Diseases Associated with Feral Swine

NWDP collaborates with the National Feral Swine Damage Management Program on disease management, research, pathogen surveillance, emergency response, education and outreach regarding diseases of feral swine.



Contact Us

National Wildlife Disease Program

The National Wildlife Disease Program works with partners nationwide to conduct disease monitoring and surveillance in wild animals and is the primary emergency response contact point within APHIS Wildlife Services. Our program coordinator is available for questions about wildlife disease monitoring and surveillance, the status of disease outbreaks and emerging disease events, and wildlife emergency response activities in natural disasters (floods, hurricanes, wildfires) or oil spills.

Julianna Lenoch

National Wildlife Disease Program Coordinator

Email: julianna.b.lenoch@usda.gov

Phone: 970-266-6350

Sarah Bevins

Assistant National Wildlife Disease Program Coordinator

Email: sarah.n.bevins@usda.gov

All Contacts
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