



USAHA News Release

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For immediate release:

BLUETONGUE SURVEY TO BE CONDUCTED IN SOUTHEASTERN U.S. IN 2008

Reno, Nev., Oct. 23, 2007 – An upcoming bluetongue survey was outlined at the meeting of the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Bluetongue and Bovine Retroviruses held here this week.

The survey will be conducted by the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) at the request of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The objectives of the study are to determine the species of *Culicoides* in Florida and to further develop a surveillance system for bluetongue virus in white-tailed deer in the southeastern United States.

Surveys will be conducted at selected sites in Florida at locations of previous bluetongue virus activity. Additional trapping will be conducted statewide between the spring and fall of 2008 to account for the seasonal activity of the transmitting insects. Still under discussion and development by APHIS is the sampling of sentinel cattle herds in Florida and other states to determine the presence of bluetongue virus and fluctuations in viral activity.

These surveys will help determine which species of *Culicoides* are present in Florida, including exotic species not previously reported. In addition, the surveys will help determine which bluetongue serotypes are present in the southeastern United States.

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