



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
CHARLES H. BRONSON, Commissioner
The Capitol • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800
www.doacs.state.fl.us

Please Respond to:
Division of Animal Industry
407 South Calhoun Street, Room 325B
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0800
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February 5, 2010

Dear Equine Practitioner:

Due to the outbreak of Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) in the United States, discovered in December 2008, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is instituting a CEM surveillance plan that includes culturing an estimated 133 active breeding stallions in Florida. The testing is voluntary and the specifics of the surveillance plan are listed in the attached USDA Manual for Active Breeding Stallions.

There are several financial incentives for owners to participate in this surveillance. The USDA plan includes payment of laboratory costs of the requested set of samples sent to an approved CEM laboratory. In addition, if a stallion tests positive for CEM, the USDA will pay for all costs necessary for the treatment and retesting procedures.

If you are interested in testing a client stallion, please be sure to review the entire USDA document as only certain stallions qualify for testing and the protocol for collection, handling and submission of samples is very specific and time sensitive.

Prior to any sampling, please contact me to ensure the proper procedures are followed and that we have all the necessary information on a particular stallion.

Sincerely,

CHARLES H. BRONSON
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Michael Short, D.V.M.
Veterinarian Manager
Bureau of Animal Disease Control

MAS/

Attachment



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