

Section VII
Medical and Veterinary Pests

BLUE TONGUE VIRUS IN WHITE TAIL DEER IN SE WASHINGTON

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People in the field in late summer through fall often find dead White Tail Deer. Often these are yearling bucks. Consultation with the SE Regional Wildlife Officer, Jim Nelson, provided this information. There are excellent research based papers on line also.

All ruminants are susceptible to Blue Tongue Virus of which there are 24 known serotypes. BTV is a Group III, Family –Reoviridae, Orbivirus. Some serotypes are more severe than others. White Tail Deer who survive the virus are immune but may be a reservoir host. Mule Deer seem to be immune or not epidemic in infection. A gnat, *Culicoides (imicola) spp.* at least 9 species, is the vector of BTV to deer and other animals located near a stagnant water source e.g. stock tanks, pooled water from vernal streams, etc. Out breaks in other species occur at the end of hot, dry summers. White Tail Deer die off annually according to WA Fish & Game sources who actually test blood for virus titre.

Domestic cattle and especially sheep are vectored with BTV by both *Culicoides* grants and other biting flies. The BTV become epidemic and is passed much like seasonal flu from animal to animal until the outbreak ends.

Suggestions? Like the West Nile Virus vectored to birds, horses, and humans, providing fresh running water lowers the gnat population. Put gold fish in stock tanks to eat gnats and mosquitoes. Deer are on their own for protection.

Section VIII
New and Current Product Development

NO PAPERS WERE SUBMITTED FOR THIS SECTION