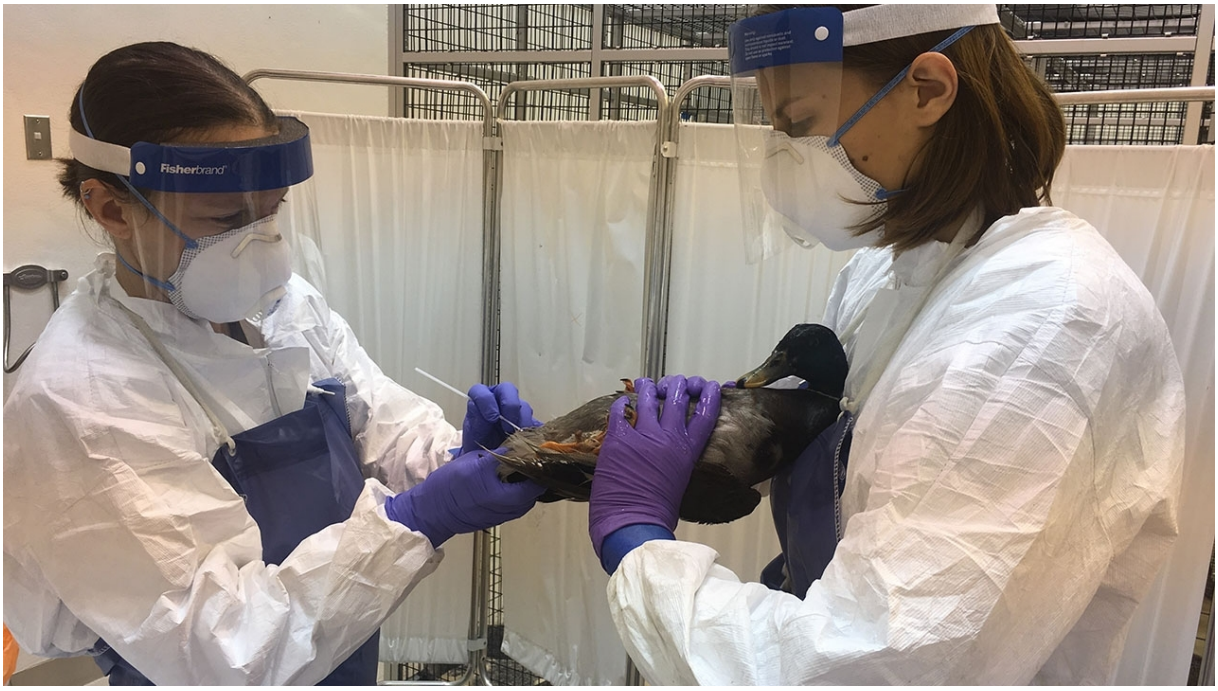
NWRC Research Areas: Wildlife Disease

Last Modified:



Our scientists are conducting research to support National Wildlife Disease Program surveillance activities, identify and characterize wildlife pathogens at the wildlife-agriculture interface, and develop tools to identify and mitigate disease risks to agricultural, public, and wildlife health.

Wildlife diseases not only impact wildlife, but also have the potential to spillover and affect livestock and human health. A One Health approach that simultaneously considers human health, animal health, and the environment is critical to understanding the risks associated with wildlife diseases and mitigating those risks. Of particular concern is the introduction and spread of novel pathogens/diseases that rapidly increase in incidence, either due to spillover into a new host or mutation resulting in a change in the epidemiology of the pathogen.

Some examples of pathogens that can be transmitted by wildlife are influenza A virus, SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19 in humans), African swine fever virus, foot-and-mouth disease virus, and *Mycobacterium bovis*. When new variants or strains of these viruses emerge, National Wildlife Research Center scientists rapidly respond by studying which wildlife species are susceptible to these viruses and which species have the potential to transmit the viruses to each other, to other wildlife species, to livestock, or humans. Understanding which species are susceptible and capable of transmission of novel viruses is critical for prioritizing which species to sample in national wildlife disease surveillance efforts.

The primary goals of the Wildlife Disease Research Project are to conduct research to support surveillance activities of the National Wildlife Disease Program, to identify and characterize wildlife pathogens at the wildlife-agricultural interface, and to develop tools for the identification and mitigation of disease risks to agricultural, public, and wildlife health.

Contact Us

Wildlife Disease Research

Kim Pepin, Project Leader

Email: Kim.M.Pepin@usda.gov

Phone: 970-266-6162

Learn More

- Learn More About Dr. Kim Pepin

National Wildlife Research Center

4101 Laporte Avenue

Fort Collins, CO 80521

Learn More

- Learn More About Dr. Kim Pepin

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