

Program Priority

[Agriculture and Food Research Initiative \(AFRI\)](#)

Rapid Response Food and Agricultural Science for Emergency Issues: Eradication of Cattle Fever Ticks, *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* and *R. annulatus*, from the US

Program Code - 97100

National Program Leaders – Drs Peter Johnson (202-401-1896 or pjohnson@csrees.usda.gov) or Mark Poth (202-401-5244 or mpoth@csrees.usda.gov)

Letters of Intent – not required

Application Deadline – for consideration for this priority please respond by COB (5:00 PM Eastern Time) on **August 20, 2009**. Late applications will not be reviewed.

How to Apply – PLEASE see the full request for applications for AFRI at

http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/rfas/afri_rfa.html; and the “[CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for Preparation and Submission of CSREES Applications via Grants.gov.](#)”

For this announcement in particular, please note the AFRI Rapid Response program opportunity description on **pages 108-110**, and the application instructions on **pages 116-125** of the AFRI RFA. Proposed integrated or research project budgets must not exceed \$250,000 (including indirect costs) for a project period up to 2 years. Requests exceeding the budgetary guidelines will not be reviewed. Proposals must indicate the type of AFRI project being proposed, as described on **pages 13-21** of the AFRI RFA.

Background

A major setback for the U.S. Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program is the infestation of cattle with cattle fever ticks while grazing on premises that have been vacated of cattle for up to and beyond the nine-month regulatory quarantine period. An expanding area of farm land in southern Texas has been put under temporary Preventative Quarantines. Cattle fever ticks (*R. microplus* and *R. annulatus*) are vectors of *Babesia bovis* and *B. bigemina*, causative agents of bovine babesiosis, which is a foreign animal disease and potentially fatal to cattle in the US. There is significant evidence that ticks are spreading due to the increased density of white-tailed deer. Understanding the extent to which infested deer are present on premises and identifying specific locations where immediate intervention is needed will provide important information to aid in controlling the spread of these ticks and the threat of bovine babesiosis.

FY 2009 Priority

This funding opportunity seeks to support an **eradication** approach that includes the following three areas:

- 1- Risk Assessment to quantify the role of white-tailed deer (WTD) in impeding the eradication of cattle fever ticks (*Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* and *R. annulatus*) in Texas;
- 2- Evaluation of the integration of tick eradication methods for ungulate wildlife species;
- 3- Assessment of the distribution of *Babesia bovis* and *Babesia bigemina* to target resources based on ungulate wildlife species exposure to those pathogens.

The proposal's management plan is expected to describe how USDA-APHIS and USDA-ARS will be integrated into the project.