

REPORT OF THE USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

Chair: Barbara Powers, CO
Vice Chair: Harry Snelson, NC

Helen Acland, PA; John Adaska, CA; Bruce Akey, TX; Gary Anderson, KS; Cat Barr, TX; Bill Barton, ID; Tim Baszler, WA; Tammy Beckham, KS; Lisa Becton, IA; Steven Bolin, MI; Richard Breitmeyer, CA; James Britt, AR; Sandra Bushmich, CT; Beverly Byrum, OH; Craig Carter, KY; Emily Cooper, OK; Estela Cornaglia, QC; Dustin Cox, NM; Marie Culhane, MN; Barbara Determan, IA; Edward Dubovi, NY; François Elvinger, NY; Ann Fitzpatrick, MN; Richard Fredrickson, IL; Mallory Gaines, CO; Joseph Garvin, VA; Patricia Godwin, KY; Stephen Goldsmith, VA; Patrick Halbur, IA; Steven Halstead, MI; Timothy Hanosh, NM; Beth Harris, IA; Bob Hillman, ID; Stephen Hooser, IN; Pamela Hullinger, CA; Marv Jahde, KS; Bill Johnson, OK; Jim Kistler, FL; Elizabeth Lautner, IA; Randall Levings, IA; Mary Lis, CT; Christina Loiacono, IA; Rodger Main, IA; David Marshall, NC; Barbara Martin, IA; Terry McElwain, WA; Michael McIntosh, NY; Thomas McKenna, MA; Beth Melton, MO; Rey Molina, TX; Igor Morozov, KS; Stacy Morris, TX; Thomas Mullaney, MI; Dustin Oedekoven, SD; Claudia Osorio, MD; Kristy Pabilonia, CO; Lanny Pace, MS; Elizabeth Parker, TX; Roger Parker, TX; Amar Patil, NJ; Robert Poppenga, CA; Barbara Powers, CO; M. Gatz Riddell, Jr., AL; Keith Roehr, CO; Jeremiah Saliki, GA; Renee See, WV; Kathryn Simmons, DC; Harry Snelson, NC; Wendy Stensland, IA; Amy Swinford, TX; Manoel Tamassia, NJ; Deepanker Tewari, PA; Sarah Tomlinson, CO; David Zeman, SD; Shuping Zhang, MO.

The Committee met on October 16, 2016 at the Sheraton Greensboro Hotel in Greensboro, North Carolina from 12:02 p.m. until 2:45 p.m. There were 38 members and 30 guests present.

Presentations and Reports

Farm Bill and Legislative Update

Barb Powers, Colorado State University

American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) worked with Brad Mollet to obtain \$5 million for National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) in the FY2016 budget. AAVLD has had to suspend Brad's time and needs to raise donations to support lobbying efforts. AAVLD developed Friends of the Laboratories on the AAVLD website to facilitate collection of donations to support lobbying efforts. The Association needs to raise approximately \$10,000 to support these efforts. Continuing to work with Gina Luke at American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) to address some challenges restricting funding to only Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM)-associated NAHLN laboratories. If approved, this would eliminate funding to approximately half of the NAHLN laboratories since they are not affiliated with a CVM.

National Pork Producers Council (NPPC)

Liz Wagstrom, NPPC

Working for adequate funding for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine bank and mandatory funding for NAHLN diagnostic laboratories to support FMD diagnostics. NPPC is seeking \$30 million for the NAHLN laboratories in addition to funding to support foreign animal disease response. Animal agriculture has historically been poorly represented in mandatory spending in the USDA budget. This emphasis is the importance of gaining mandatory funding and new dollars.

Update in NAHLN Codification

Sarah Tomlinson, USDA-APHIS-NAHLN

National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) restructure – Based on 2012 NAHLN Concept Paper. There is now a 3-tier structure (Levels 1, 2, 3) – all received infrastructure funding based on the level of participation.

Codification is moving forward. The work plan has been finalized and submitted through APHIS management. The next step is submission to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval to be followed by drafting the program standards. The program standards will be circulated for stakeholder comment.

Antimicrobial Resistance Project

Beth Harris, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)

Antimicrobial Resistance Project is part of the President's National Strategy for Combatting Antimicrobial Resistant Bacteria (CARB). USDA's plan (involving National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) and longitudinal studies, Veterinary Accreditation Program, and One Health) addresses each of the five CARB goals. USDA has finalized a survey of veterinary diagnostic laboratories to assess current practices and developed a pilot project targeting Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories (VDLs) that includes recommendations of anti-microbial resistance (AMR) testing.

National List of Reportable Animal Diseases (NLRAD)

Sarah Tomlinson, USDA-APHIS-NAHLN

The framework document has recently been released for comment. It incorporates Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), laboratory role in NLRAD, NLRAD communication, data management and confidentiality issues (including intellectual property concerns). NLRAD as designed is divided into Monitored and Notifiable lists. Laboratory role: joint working group formed to develop detailed implementation plan for NLRAD and emerging diseases in the laboratories. Included discussions of case definitions, timelines and triggers for reporting and information sharing.

Electronic Messaging

Sarah Tomlinson, USDA-APHIS-NAHLN

Nineteen laboratories (18 NAHLN + National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) are actively messaging. They can receive messaging for ten diseases (Influenza A Virus in Avian Laboratories (IAV-A), Influenza A Virus of Swine Laboratories (IAV-S), African swine flu (ASF), bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), classical swine fever (CSF), foot and mouth disease (FMD), porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDV), pseudorabies virus (PRV), vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV). Goals for 2017 include: expand number of laboratories that can message, expand messaging to include scrapie and anti-microbial resistance (AMR) data, support National List of Reportable Animal Diseases (NLRAD) implementation, integration with other internal Veterinary Services (VS) systems, and enhance utility of messaging standards. Four hundred thirty-nine thousand messages were received in FY16. The key issue remaining is reporting messaging data back out to the submitting Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories (VDLs); still not able to make that work.

NAHLN Support of Outbreak Testing

Christina Lioacono, USDA-APHIS-VS-NVSL

- Surveillance: bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) (4 laboratories), classical swine fever (CSF) (41 laboratories), Influenza A Virus of Swine Laboratories (IAV-S) (38 laboratories), pseudorabies virus (PRV) (14 laboratories), Scrapie (19 laboratories), highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) (19 laboratories) -- OTHERS
- HPAI/LPAI testing support through the local NAHLN laboratories; also involved in wild bird surveillance.
- Quality Management System Support training – 14 trainings since 2010 (542 participants)
- Expanded proficiency testing available through the NAHLN portal includes NAHLN and APHIS regulatory testing
- Exercises and Drill Working Group – provide informational webinars and develop preparedness drills
- Methods Technology Working Group – implement new membership structure to be more inclusive (core and general membership). Completed methods comparison projects and reviewed validation dossiers.

2017 priorities for NAHLN

- Complete codification of the NAHLN
- Implementing pilot activities for National List of Reportable Animal Diseases (NLRAD) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
- Increase electronic messaging
- Complete validation projects

Livestock Industry Use of Electronic VDL Data

Maryn Ptaschinski, National Pork Board

Ptaschinski addressed how a major swine integrator utilizes laboratory data to make production decisions. The efficient transmission and aggregation of Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories (VDL) diagnostics with production data and the capability to share that data on a permissioned basis internally and externally is greatly facilitated through the use of electronic means. She described how her production company utilizes the AgConnect technology to visualize information from disparate databases on a single dashboard and the enhanced passive surveillance capabilities achieved by real-time on-farm data capture using the bovine embryonic fibroblast (BEFS) technology.

Committee Business:

The committee passed two new resolutions.