

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

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The Committee met on October 19, 2014 at the Sheraton Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri, from 1:03pm were 25 members and 19 guests present

- Brad Mollet, Capital Consuls
 - Requested \$30 million in Farm Bill. Successfully obtained authorization for \$15 million. NAHLN was also funded at approximately \$3 million through NIFA and about \$7 million through APHIS (FY2014). For FY 2015, sent a letter requesting a line item for NAHLN (120 organizations signed onto the letter). Continue to push for \$30 million mandatory funding.
- Sarah Tomlinson – NAHLN Strategic Plan
 - NAHLN Strategic plan was updated this year.
 - Five strategic priorities
 - Implement new NAHLN structure
 - Emerging Disease identification
 - Standardize data capture and electronic messaging
 - Integrate with and support animal health community initiatives
 - Ensure a coordinated effort to meet resource needs for NAHLN
 - Conducted a SWOT analysis
- Sarah Tomlinson – NAHLN structure update
 - Four steps to the transition plan
 - Self-assessment – lab assessment of which level they believe best fit the established criteria. Don't know how much money will be available to support each level. Assessment has been completed
 - Level 1: 23 labs
 - External Review – APHIS and NIFA will review the self-assessments. Completion date: November 2014
 - Needs evaluation – assessment of the number of labs needed at each level. Requested that CEAH share the needs assessment with the USAHA/AVLD Joint NAHLN committee among others for review prior to initializing. Completion date: January 2015
 - Recommendations for Lab Distribution
- Sarah Tomlinson – IT updates
 - SECD has helped NAHLN move ahead.
 - Can now receive messages for SECD, CSF, and AI. Still need PRV and Scrapie capability.
 - Using EMRS to manage field data. Can now electronically receive data from the labs and move it to EMRS.
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- Lindsey Holstrom –
 - AgConnect update
 - Collects, integrates, shares data based on permissions
 - EPS project – syndromic analysis at the field level
 - Plans for expansion to multiple states
- Sarah Tomlinson – NAHLN summary from last year and plans for next year
 - Support for surveillance testing
 - NAHLN portal promotes sharing information between NAHLN labs and NAHLN program staff.
 - Methods Technical working group –
 - methods comparison network
 - reviewed a number of test dossiers
 - pen-side studies – FMD test looks good. Specificity > 95% for all spp and tissue types. Need to decide how it might be used.
 - have conducted educational webinars and tabletop exercises
 - plans for next year
 - restructuring the network
 - codification of the NAHLN
 - methods group needs to evaluate action steps for emerging diseases
 - ASF/FMD pilot will begin this year
 - Work on feral swine surveillance with wildlife services
 - AMR White House plan
 - National List of Reportable Animal Diseases
 - Aquaculture currently in Phase I
 - Phase II – include non-NAHLN labs (private labs)
 - Phase III – incorporate more aquaculture diagnostics
 - Role in EPS working with AgConnect

Committee Business:

- EIA Resolution discussion:
 - Labs doing EIA testing are subject to AAVLD or A2LA credentials as evidence of meeting and exceeding the standards required by VS thus VS inspection is redundant.
 - VS memo requires VS to conduct annual inspections
 - Action: Resolution was considered, rewritten, moved, seconded and approved
- The committee considered the mission statement but proposed no changes.
- Recommendation:

Recommendation

Subject matter: Inspections of APHIS and NPIP Testing Laboratories with NAHLN, AAVLD and/or A2LA Credentials

Committee: AAVLD/USAHA Joint NAHLN Committee

Background:

National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) member laboratories, the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) and American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) accredited veterinary diagnostic laboratories are required to have robust quality assurance programs. Criteria for NAHLN membership include AAVLD, or equivalent accreditation inspections that far exceed the inspections required by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) for laboratories approved to conduct APHIS and NPIP testing. Requiring NAHLN member laboratories, AAVLD, and A2LA accredited Laboratories to be subject to additional USDA APHIS VS inspections in order to conduct testing crates

redundancy and wastes limited personnel and financial resources of both VS and the accredited laboratory.

Recommendation:

The AAVLD urges the USDA APHIS VS to consider concurrent NAHLN membership and/or AAVLD or A2LA credentials and passing of relevant proficiency tests as evidence of meeting and exceeding the standards required by USDA APHIS VS for laboratories approval to conduct APHIS and NPIP testing and thus eliminating the need for an additional separate laboratory inspection by USDA APHIS VS.

The meeting adjourned at 2:36pm