

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 5 APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK COORDINATOR

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) was established in 2002 and at that time a NAHLN coordinator was selected to coordinate the activities of the NAHLN. This is a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) position and has been occupied by Barbara Martin for the last ten years. We recognize the outstanding job she has done as coordinator and congratulate her on her retirement. This position is critical in the continued success and progress of the NAHLN. When the original coordinator was appointed the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians had representation on the selection committee.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) strongly urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to with utmost haste implement the necessary process to identify a new National Animal Health Laboratory Network coordinator and urges USDA to allow AAVLD to have input again in the selection process.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS is committed to ensuring that the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) maintain a strong working relationship with our State and industry stakeholders by hiring a NAHLN Coordinator in an expedient manner.

The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) Director has initiated the process for advertising the NAHLN Coordinator position, and plans to have the position

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announced this winter through the Federal government employment site (USA Jobs) and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), the American Veterinarian Medical Association (AVMA) and the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) job boards.

As the hiring process progresses, NVSL will continue to keep State and industry partners informed, and will ensure an invitation is sent through the current AAVLD president for a representative from AAVLD to join the interview panel.