

Multi-State Initiative-Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals update

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What we are

- A “Multistate Initiative” (MI) approved by USDA NIFA in September, 2012
- The MDA provides a vehicle to maintain and expand the networking, collaboration and basic infrastructure developed through JDIP, allowing participants to identify, obtain and share resources needed to address issues related to Johne’s and other mycobacterial diseases.

Focus

- The ***multi-state initiative*** is focused on two mycobacterial disease complexes - paratuberculosis (Johne's disease; JD) and the tuberculosis complex of diseases (TBc; i.e bovine tuberculosis).

Objectives

- **Objective 1:** Increase understanding of the epidemiology and transmission of Mycobacterial diseases in animals, including predictive modeling;
- **Objective 2:** Develop and implement new generations of diagnostic tests for JD and TBc;

Objectives

- **Objective 3:** Improving our understanding of the biology and pathogenesis of Mycobacterial diseases, as well as the host response to infection;
- **Objective 4:** Develop programs to evaluate and develop new generations of vaccines for JD and TBc; and,

Objectives

- **Extension/Outreach:** Develop and deliver education and outreach material related to JD and TBc in electronic and print form for use by extension specialists, veterinarians, government agencies, producers and other stakeholders. Utilize trade media, producer organizations and other outlets to aid in dissemination of information generated through the initiative.

MDA Goal

Projects within each of these objectives, with cross-cutting contributions, will be designed to address the major animal, human, and societal issues surrounding detection and control of mycobacterial infection, including how these organisms move and spread within cattle, small ruminant and wildlife populations.

Organization

- **Executive Committee (EC)**: The initial Executive Committee is comprised of a total of nine members, representing individuals with leadership in Mycobacterial disease research, extension, and education, a documented commitment to helping the community realize a shared vision, and a history of working together as a team.

Organization

- **External Advisory Board (EAB)**: The EAB consists of public and private stakeholders (regulatory agencies, members of industry, and prominent scientists from related disciplines and Experiment Station Directors), to provide advice on programmatic matters, and ensure that the initiative stays true to its mission. The Chair of the External Advisory Board is a member of the Executive Committee

Actions

- Successfully applied for and received a conference grant from USDA to support our “2nd MDA Annual Meeting” held yesterday
- Included a section in the AAVLD poster area for MDA poster presentations
- Provided travel grants for four graduate or postdoctoral students to attend the MDA and USAHA meeting to present their work

Actions

- Assisted in coordination of the completion of the Vaccine and Diagnostics projects
- Working to make the sample repository developed in JDIP available for additional uses
- Actively pursuing additional grants to move needed research forward
- Joined coalition letters encouraging federal funding for agricultural research

Outreach

- Article highlighting Johne's research was published in the English, Spanish and Japanese issues of Hoard's Dairyman
- Met with 9 editors of dairy trade publications and did 3 radio interviews during World Dairy Expo to introduce the MDA
- Johne's/TB Interest group meeting at JAM2013

Plans

- Expand involvement of TBc interests into the organization and activities of the MDA
- Continue to assist in identifying and prioritizing research and educational needs related to mycobacterial diseases
- Utilize the expertise available through the MDA network to seek new grants and funding opportunities to do this work

Thank You

For more information about becoming a part of
the MDA contact:

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