

Proposal for DHI Laboratory certification through the NVSL Johne's Milk ELISA proficiency test program using Quality Certification Services Inc. (QCS), a subsidiary of National DHIA, Proficiency Testing Data:

Objective: To integrate the QCS milk proficiency test into the NVSL Johne's Milk ELISA proficiency test program allowing DHI laboratory certification utilizing the QCS monthly proficiency test results.

Laboratory Application Process:

1. An invitation letter will be sent by the NVSL to all labs participating in the previous year's Johne's Milk ELISA proficiency test.
2. A proficiency test order form will be included with the invitation letter.
3. The order form will contain a check box area to select whether the laboratory is a DHI laboratory.
 - a. For participating non-DHI laboratories, the laboratory will mark the "non-DHI laboratory" check box.
 - b. For participating DHI laboratories, the laboratory will mark the "DHI laboratory" check box.
4. On the lower portion of the order form, where laboratories select how many kits requested, two options will be available for selecting the proper pricing structure.
 - a. For participating non-DHI laboratories, the laboratory will mark the kit quantity requested to be sent to the particular laboratory.
 - b. For participating DHI laboratories, the laboratory will mark the "DHI laboratory – administrative fee" option.
5. For non-DHI laboratories the kit purchase fee will apply for each kit ordered. For DHI laboratories, a designated administrative fee will be applied to cover the costs involved in evaluating test results and administrating approval letters and certificates.

Kit Composition and Administration:

1. The QCS milk panel will be utilized for evaluating all laboratories participating in the annual NVSL Milk ELISA proficiency test program.
2. One to three months prior to administration, QCS shall forward information related to panel composition, grading criteria, and other panel specifics to ensure the NVSL is aware of testing specifics.
3. The panel will consist of 20 total samples. Ten different milk samples will be utilized, with each sample utilized in duplicate.
 - a. The entire kit shall consist of three to five Johne's negative milk samples and five to seven Johne's positive milk samples, each used in duplicate.
4. The milk samples utilized in the QCS kits will also be supplied to the NVSL in sufficient quantity so that the same milk samples are utilized in the NVSL Johne's Milk ELISA proficiency test kits.
 - a. This will ensure all participating laboratories are being tested on the same characteristic milk samples.
5. One specific month will be designated, in coordination with QCS, to serve as the official testing month.

6. QCS shall administer kits to participating DHI laboratories and the NVSL shall administer kits to all participating non-DHI laboratories.

Answer submission and results evaluation:

1. The QCS testing data from participating DHI laboratories for that particular month will be utilized for certification of DHI labs.
2. QCS will submit to the NVSL, in a spreadsheet format, the testing data for each participating DHI laboratory.
 - a. The raw testing data shall be included in the spreadsheet. The data will include the following: Laboratory Identifier, Individual submitting results, Kit manufacturer, Kit Lot Number, Date Test Completed, Negative Control values, Positive Control values, Sample Number identifier, Sample Test Value, Result interpretation.
3. The NVSL shall evaluate the DHI laboratory testing data in combination with all other participating laboratories.
4. For the NVSL proficiency test, the previously established NVSL qualifying criteria for a passing score shall stay in effect.

Laboratory Results Reporting and Certification:

1. Upon completion of testing data evaluation, laboratories shall be notified by the NVSL as to final results (pass/fail).
2. For laboratories not passing the initial round of testing shall be allowed one retest. A retest kit will be administered by the NVSL in these particular occurrences.
3. For laboratories completing the testing criteria satisfactorily, the NVSL shall notify those laboratories with a summary report letter and a certificate of satisfactory completion.