RESOLUTION NUMBER:  12    APPROVED

SOURCE:       COMMITTEE ON JOHNE’S DISEASE

SUBJECT MATTER: NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES LABORATORY
CERTIFICATION FOR DAIRY HERD IMPROVEMENT LABORATORIES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Evaluation of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved milk enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) has shown that milk ELISA is comparable in accuracy to currently available serum ELISA kits. Previous resolutions from the Committee on Johne’s Disease to include milk ELISA testing of Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) samples as official screening tests for the Voluntary Bovine Johne’s Disease Control Program (VBJDCP) have been approved by the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA). The national Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA), through efforts of Quality Certification Services (QCS), has developed and implemented a laboratory milk ELISA proficiency program that meets the standards of proficiency for DHI laboratories and exceeds the standards of proficiency required by the milk ELISA proficiency program administered by the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL). The availability of two milk ELISA proficiency programs increases the costs of participation and testing for DHI laboratories. In an effort to reduce costs to DHI testing laboratories and to increase testing infrastructure for milk ELISA testing, a consolidation of the two proficiency systems is recommended that would meet the requirements of each of the individual proficiency programs.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association, recognizing the Voluntary Bovine Johne’s Disease Control Program is a voluntary program, requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) implement the protocol for Dairy Herd Improvement laboratory certification through the USDA-APHIS-VS-NVSL Johne’s milk enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) proficiency test program using the Quality Certification Services ELISA Proficiency Program test data.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services supports this resolution. The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) has
implemented a collaborative effort with Quality Certification Services (QCS) for certification of Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) and non-DHI laboratories.

As part of this collaboration, NVSL will receive a panel of well-characterized milk samples routinely used in the QCS monthly test panel. NVSL will evaluate these milk samples for suitability. In addition, NVSL will request specific milk samples for kit assembly to ensure the kit composition meets the description within the Uniform Program Standards for the Voluntary Bovine Johne’s Disease Control Program – 2010.

NVSL will be responsible for the distribution of the proficiency test kits to all participating laboratories. The DHI laboratories receiving these kits will conduct all required milk testing (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and milk quality testing) using these kits.

All laboratories (DHI and non-DHI) will report their proficiency test results through the QCS online reporting program. At the end of the reporting deadline, NVSL will download all results from the QCS online reporting program, evaluate the submitted results, and administer certification notices to laboratories that successfully complete the Johne’s Milk ELISA Proficiency Test.