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National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN)

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What is the NAHLN?

A partnership between State and University
Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratories,
as represented by the AAVLD, and the
USDA-APHIS-VS National Laboratories
and USDA-CSREES



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NAHLN Objectives

- Develop and maintain a coordinated diagnostic capability and capacity at the national level for early detection, response, and recovery from foreign animal and (re-) emerging disease events
- Enhance the research, education, and extension efforts, and routine diagnostic services of the NAHLN laboratories in order to improve the effectiveness of the NAHLN at the local, state, and national levels



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A Short History

- 2002 – 12 laboratories identified (geographic distribution, animal industries), organized, and funded through CSREES and APHIS for initial activities to establish the Network
- 2005 – 16 laboratories added to Network
- 2007 – The NAHLN includes 59 laboratories in 47 states
 - 2 USDA-APHIS-VS, 1 FSIS, and 1 DOI laboratories
 - 55 State/University Laboratories
 - 28 receive cooperative agreement funding through CSREES
 - 27 are fee-for-service (APHIS-VS) or adjunct laboratories



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Current NAHLN Activities

- Surveillance and testing for AI, END, CSF, BSE, CWD, and Scrapie
- Deployment of FMD RT-PCR assay
- Development and validation of other assays (e.g., RVF, ASF, CBPP, LSD, RP RT-PCRs)
- Proficiency testing for all capabilities
- Deployment of high-throughput technology
- Train-the-trainer activities
- Harmonization of LIMS and data reporting



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Scenario Testing

One of the central activities of the NAHLN is the support of state, regional, and national animal health emergency training exercises that test and evaluate the diagnostic capabilities and capacities, and the communication and reporting protocols of the network.



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Future NAHLN Activities

- Increase capabilities and capacities for testing and surveillance for foreign animal and (re-)emerging diseases
- Enhance IT capabilities, expand data collections, and integrate data reporting with human health resources
- Expand roles of NAHLN laboratories to help improve animal health efforts at local, state and national levels



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Integration

- Internal – AAVLD, USAHA, NASAHO, USDA (APHIS, ARS and CSREES)
- External – Industries, Cooperative Extension Services, EDEN, Veterinary Schools, Professional Associations (AVMA, AAVMC, *etc.*)
- Interagency Consortium of Laboratory Networks (ICLN)
 - HHS, EPA, DOD, DOE, DOI, EPA, DHS, USDA