



One Health for 2015 & Beyond

Interest in One Health (OH) is surfacing in both the public and private sector. The private sector understands that harnessing the combined expertise of medical and veterinary science can transform the ability to control and eradicate a range of pathogens that pose major threats to both human and animal health, and that undermine the viability of livestock agriculture and food production. As part of its vision for the future, VS is committed to embracing OH as part of the solution to address the changes and challenges of the animal health landscape. As the federal government animal health authority, VS will contribute expertise, infrastructure, networks, and systems to partner effectively in a multi-disciplinary, multi-level (local, state, national and international) collaborative approach to promote healthy animals, people, ecosystems, and society.

VS' Charge for One Health

- Optimize our unique expertise and capabilities in animal health to support public, environmental, and societal health
- Adapt to meet the new challenges and needs of the evolving animal health landscape and global community
- Balance the needs of animal agriculture with the interests of people, the environment, and our society so that all may thrive
- Provide U.S. leadership for the animal health component of One Health

Challenges

1. Educate APHIS VS employees and stakeholders about VS' role in One Health
2. Gain support for VS' role in One Health, both within USDA and with external partners
3. Optimize VS infrastructure to adequately coordinate One Health issues
4. Develop effective communications regarding One Health
5. Identify funding and budget structure

Proposed VS Goals for One Health

Goal 1: Align VS with One Health vision

1. Develop administrative systems, platforms, policies, and process to support OH activities at the national, regional, and local levels.
2. Define how VS will coordinate OH with our respective OH partners at the State and Federal level.
3. Determine VS' role in non-traditional/non-program OH areas.
4. Strengthen VS' role as a partner in OH for supporting scientific research and development, including identifying internal and external OH research needs and gaps.

Goal 2: Build collaborations and partnerships

1. Maintain existing collaborations and build new partnerships with international agencies and organizations, Federal agencies and organizations, State and local level agencies and organizations, Tribal organizations, universities and the academic community, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations.

Goal 3: Spearhead outreach and communication

1. Develop a VS 2015 OH communications strategy targeting the public and other stakeholders outside of VS.
2. Develop a VS 2015 OH communication strategy to inform Congress of VS accomplishments
3. Increase the presence of VS OH at conferences and training courses.
4. Increase presence of OH partners at meetings and conferences traditionally attended and supported by VS.

Goal 4: Transform VS' culture and workforce

1. Encourage VS employees to interface with OH partners.
2. Inform the VS workforce of OH goals and activities; assess progress toward reaching OH goals.
3. Build new skill sets in VS workforce to prepare them to conduct OH activities.

Goal 5: Support One Health with unique VS competencies

1. Develop, link, and integrate human and animal surveillance systems into a coordinated network of networks.
2. Promote and evaluate VS OH activities.
3. Apply VS' unique competencies in surveillance and epidemiology to OH opportunities.
4. Assist in the development or modification of animal health assessment tools to include OH.

Proposed Future Directions & Activities

- Establish policies for national involvement in incidents involving zoonotic agents.
- Establish policies for regional and area offices (or equivalent) to support One Health activities.
- Develop APHIS VS policy and role in pre-harvest food safety.
- Create One-Health Training and Development courses for APHIS VS employees.
- Identify the State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories that are working on selected or prioritized zoonotic diseases and determine how APHIS VS can help coordinate surveillance efforts.

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