

NAHLN Quality Management Systems Training



This map shows the many countries represented by participants of the NAHLN QMS training.

The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratories may participate in various emergency preparedness and response efforts—surveillance for the early detection of a foreign animal disease, “surge” testing during an animal health outbreak, and diagnostic testing during an outbreak recovery phase. Accordingly, there must be a high degree of confidence in the quality of the laboratories and the associated test results.

All NAHLN laboratories must have a quality management system in place. Laboratories may demonstrate that they meet this requirement through accreditation by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) or by an accrediting body according to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)/International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17025 standard. If a NAHLN laboratory is not accredited, it must have implemented a quality management system consistent with the AAVLD or OIE/ISO 17025 standard, be willing to participate in regular site visits, and be approved by USDA’s National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL).

To assist NAHLN laboratories in meeting this requirement and to continuously improve quality management systems throughout the network, the NAHLN program office collaborated with members of the AAVLD Accreditation Committee and the NVSL Quality Core Team to develop and provide an ongoing Quality Management System (QMS) Training Program.

Delivered in August 2010, the initial QMS Training Program provided an interactive class environment with training on quality system requirements, the accreditation process, document control, internal auditing, and root cause analysis. In addition, a wet laboratory provided the opportunity for participants to conduct an audit and recognize non-conformances. Since that time, four other training courses have been held: one to assist another Federal program in providing training to State representatives and three others involving U.S. and international participants.

National Animal Health Laboratory Network

NAHLN, a State and Federal partnership to safeguard animal health

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