Laboratory Information and Services

Last Modified:

APHIS laboratory services are provided by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, IA, and Orient Point (Plum Island), NY. The NVSL provides a wide variety of information and services, centered around diagnosis of domestic and foreign animal diseases, support of disease control and eradication programs, reagents for diagnostic testing, training, and laboratory certification.

About NVSL

Featured

NVSL Submission Forms

Find downloadable laboratory-related forms.

Diagnostic Testing

Authorized individuals may submit specimens to the NVSL facilities for diagnostic testing. Learn about the types of tests performed at the NVSL and see instructions for submitting samples (includes statement regarding ownership of specimens).

Reagents and Proficiency Tests

Diagnostic reagents are produced by the NVSL as needed when a commercial source of reagent is not available or when commercial sources are not fulfilling diagnostic needs. View a list of available reagents, including proficiency tests, and instructions for ordering.

Frequently Asked Questions

Read frequently asked questions about testing and reagents.

Approved Laboratories

Some diagnostic testing may be conducted by APHIS-approved State, Federal, or private laboratories. View lists of laboratories currently approved by APHIS to conduct specific tests.

Diagnostic Training

The NVSL provides a variety of courses on diagnostic testing, specimen collection, and disease recognition. Find courses and instructions to register for a course.

NCAH Portal Guidance for NVSL Submitters

The National Centers for Animal Health (NCAH) Portal is used to submit paperwork electronically for sample submissions to the NVSL. Find guidance on using this Portal.

National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN)

The NAHLN is part of a nationwide strategy to coordinate the work of all organizations providing veterinary surveillance and testing services.

Learn More About NAHLN

National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF)

The new National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) is located in Manhattan, KS, and will be a national asset that helps protect the Nation’s agriculture, farmers, and citizens against the threat and potential impact of serious animal diseases. The USDA will conduct foreign animal disease research, training, and diagnostics in the state-of-the-art facility with enhanced biocontainment capabilities and modern laboratory designs.

Learn More About NBAF

Visit APHIS' NBAF Scientist Training Program

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