United States
Department of Agriculture

The NAHLN is a nationally coordinated network of animal disease diagnostic laboratories. NAHLN laboratories provide animal disease diagnostic testing to detect biological threats to the nation's food animals, thus protecting animal health, public health, and the nation's food supply.

National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN)

Originally composed of twelve laboratories, the NAHLN has grown to include **66 state, federal, and university laboratories across 43 states**.

NAHLN laboratories are **capable of testing large numbers of samples** for specific diseases with an estimated capacity of 450,000 PCR tests per week for avian influenza.

NAHLN diagnostic laboratories are the **first-line laboratories** for early detection of adverse animal health events whether naturally or intentionally introduced.

The National Veterinary Services Laboratories **(NVSL) continue to serve as the nation's reference laboratories** for both the NAHLN and USDA.

Over 80% of the Level 1 NAHLN Laboratories have in-house **Biosafety Level 3 facilities**.

The NAHLN supports U.S. animal agriculture by developing and enhancing the capabilities and capacities of a national veterinary diagnostic laboratory network to support early detection, rapid response, appropriate recovery from high-consequence animal diseases, and monitoring antimicrobial resistance in livestock pathogens.

The NAHLN mission addresses the need for early detection and outbreak tracking of threats to the U.S.'s animal agriculture, whether they emerge locally or globally, and regardless of their association with farm animals or non-agricultural animals. To ensure the U.S. can meet the constant threats to critical food chain assets, NAHLN routinely conducts emergency response scenarios and training exercises, ensuring laboratories remain prepared to adapt and respond to critical disease outbreaks when they occur.

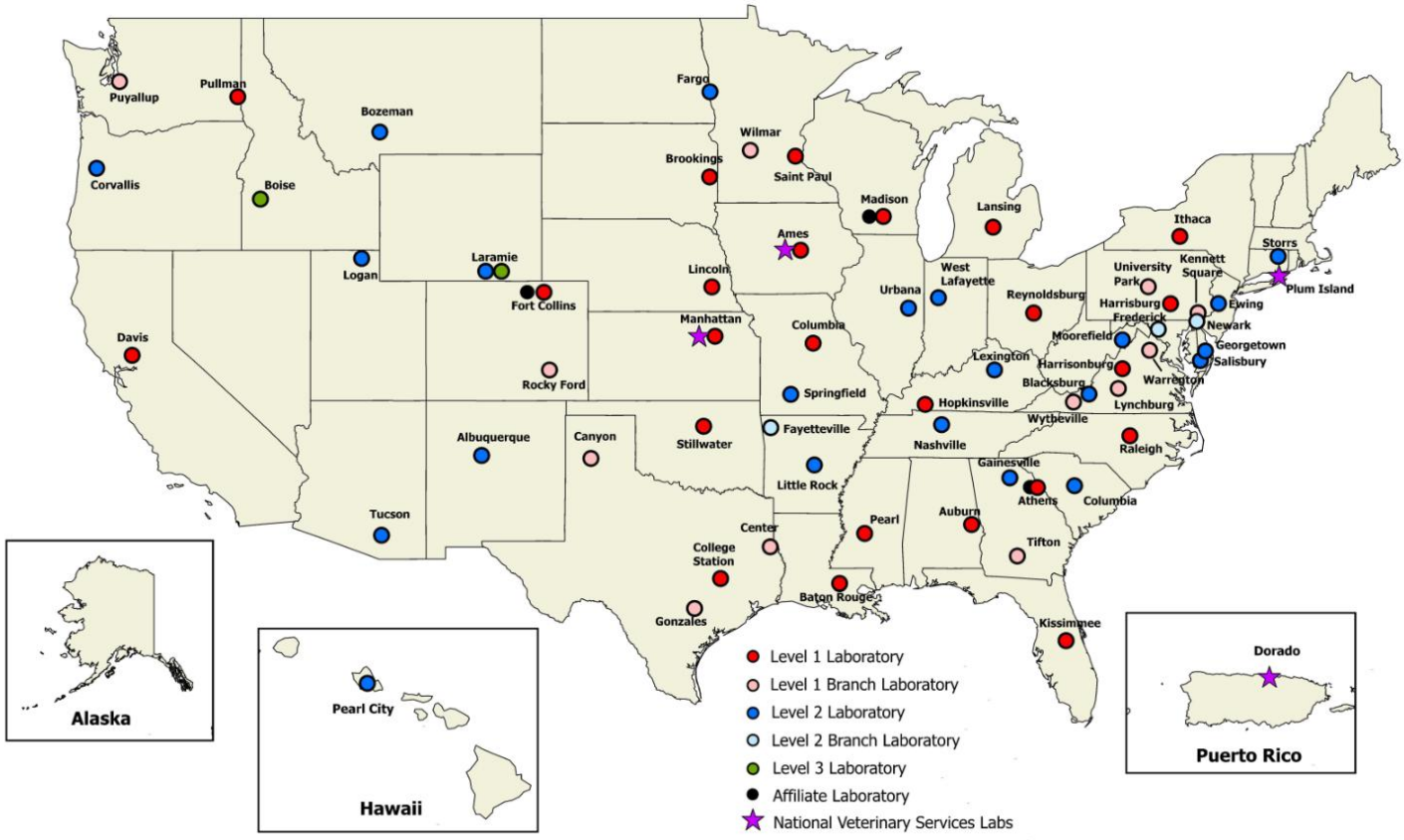
One example of NAHLN's critical surveillance role is its ongoing work to control Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in U.S. livestock. Since the outbreak began in 2022, NAHLN laboratories have helped develop and implement significant improvements to the diagnostic capabilities and response efforts.

For more information on the NAHLN Program, please visit http://www.aphis.usda.gov/nahln

NAHLN Laboratory Designations

The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN): a network of primarily animal health diagnostic laboratories that works effectively as a team, provides ongoing disease surveillance, responds quickly to disease events, communicates diagnostic outcomes to decision makers in a timely manner, and has the capability and capacity to meet diagnostic needs during animal disease outbreaks.

- **Level 1** – Highest quality accreditation requirements, provides surveillance and response testing, diagnostic development, training and Biosafety Level 3 facility support.
- **Level 2** – Provides third-party accredited quality surveillance and response testing, surge capacity, diagnostic development and training as resources allow.
- **Level 3** – Offers surveillance testing and surge capacity support.
- **Affiliate** – Federal Laboratories that can support surge capacity.
- **National Veterinary Services Laboratories** – National reference and confirmatory labs.



NAHLN Scope Diseases Include

- African Swine Fever (ASF)
- Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)
- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
- Classical Swine Fever (CSF)
- Newcastle Disease (ND)
- Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
- Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA)
- Influenza A Virus in Avian (IAV-A)
- Influenza A Virus in Swine (IAV-S)
- Pseudorabies Virus (PRV)
- Scrapie
- Spring Viremia of Carp (SVC)
- Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV)
- Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)

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