

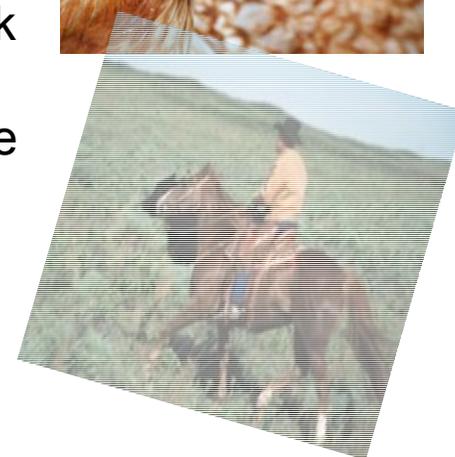


United States Department of Agriculture

# Veterinary Services

## Update on NAHLN Activities

National Animal Health Laboratory Network  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Veterinary Services  
October 2015





# NAHLN and AI preparedness

Personnel maintain current training and proficiency testing status for preparedness purposes and application to routine AI programs.

The preparedness measure provides confidence and the option during a foreign animal disease investigation for duplicate sample collection, as outlined in

[Veterinary Services \(VS\) Guidance 12001](#)





# NAHLN Activation and Support of HPAI Outbreak

- 17 NAHLN labs involved in outbreak response
  - 12 electronically message results
- ~95,000 PCR assays run
- ~1300 Virus Isolations run

**\*\* Network capacity remained available  
>31,000 PCR samples/day across  
network**



## NAHLN Activation and Support of HPAI Outbreak

- Activation plans updated
- Directed samples to other NAHLN labs
- Deployed personnel from one NAHLN lab to another to increase local capacity
  - Funding mechanism finalized-  
Intergovernmental Personnel Agreement
- MDVL providing real time support for PT



## **NAHLN Activation and Support of HPAI Outbreak – Lessons Learned**

- The exercises and drills provided to the laboratories by NAHLN have helped identify and address gaps.
- Being able to incorporate emergency response into normal business routine and expand functionality vs changing functionality is essential.
- Labs in states where premises IDs were readily available and where field staff could pool samples before they reached the lab were ahead of the game.
- Capacity of individual laboratories was never maxed out. However, sample delivery at odd times and in low numbers stressed the efficiency of some labs.



## **NAHLN Activation and Support of HPAI Outbreak – Lessons Learned**

- Accessioning was a limiting factor: PINs, owners, packaging
- Dealing with glass tubes in BSL-3 facilities and local requirements, such as needing a respirator for work with undiagnosed high risk samples, were challenges.
- A potential shortage of testing kits caused concern, especially given the urgency placed on decreasing turn-around-time, "same day wasn't good enough".
- The responsiveness of NVSL and NAHLN in handling requests associated with proficiency testing, IT issues, and protocol questions was appreciated.



## Fall HPAI Outbreak Planning

- Assessed equipment needs and moved equipment
- Assessed lab availability
- Mobile lab activation plan finalized
- Active communication and information exchange with commercial vendors regarding reagent availability
- Wild bird surveillance plan ~40,000 samples in 7 labs
- Increasing electronic messaging capability
  - 8 additional laboratories have developed/demonstrated capability to message



## Fall HPAI Outbreak Planning

- packaging material disinfection from sample delivery;
- setting delivery times and expectations for clients;
- and assigning personnel that can handle communication with clients.



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# Questions?

