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# Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## Newsletter - Spring 2015

### Message from Interim Director Peter Vanderloo

The proposed budget for the 2015-2017 biennium is now public. The news for the WVDL is the proposed transfer of the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and the State Laboratory of Hygiene to the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection. By way of understatement, this was not expected. The budget approval process is just starting, and there are as many unknowns as knowns. Feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns.



### Client Services

As you may have noticed, we have adopted the University of Wisconsin Crest as our main logo and have updated our forms and website. As part of the UW, we are taking full advantage of the internationally recognized brand to maintain

and grow the laboratory's testing caseload and research capabilities.

The shipping program, launched in July of 2014, provides free pick up at your clinic and low rates to get your sample to the laboratory reliably. Rates are for any size and weight: \$7 ground, \$10 for 2<sup>nd</sup> day air, and Next day air is \$14.00. The entire state of Wisconsin and most counties bordering in Iowa, Minnesota, Upper Michigan, and Illinois arrive over night for \$7 ground shipping.

See our website for details: <http://www.wvdl.wisc.edu/index.php/shipping-information/>

Dr. Donald Sockett has been busy speaking at producer and veterinary meetings as well as providing consulting services around the country. Please contact us with questions or to schedule testing and herd visits.

## Microbiology

This quarter the Madison Microbiology Laboratory has added two tests for the detection of avian *Mycoplasma*. The first includes a multiplex PCR used for the detection of *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, *M. iowae*, *M. meleagris*, and *M. synoviae* (Test Code: AMYCPCCRALL). Additionally, we are also offering PCR detection for each of these species individually (Test Code: AVMYCOPCR.IND).

The Microbiology Laboratory has been using a state-of-the-art detection system (MALDI BioTyper) to identify bacterial isolates, which has reduced the time to identify a bacterial isolate significantly. In the month of January, the lab has identified over 85 different bacterial isolates. It is important to note that many environmental bacterial isolates will be identified using this method and veterinarians are asked to contact the WVDL if they are unsure of the implications of an identified bacterial isolate.

Two emerging pathogens identified by MALDI are *Staphylococcus chromogenes* and *Staphylococcus simulans*, which have been implicated in subclinical bovine mastitis. These coagulase-negative *Staphylococcus* (an example of a coagulase-positive *Staphylococcus* is *S. aureus*, a principle mastitis pathogen) have been implicated in reducing milk quality, increasing somatic cell count (SCC), and less commonly causing a reduction in milk production. Interestingly, one research group found that *S. chromogenes* colonization might have a protective effect against *S. aureus* infection.

Please call the WVDL if you need further interpretation of milk culture results.

## Pathology/Chemistry

In addition to pathology and chemistry-toxicology testing, our section does extensive testing for transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) diseases including Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in both wild and captive cervids. See the table below for total TSE testing at WVDL for 2014.

| TSE Testing at WVDL - 2014       |        |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| CWD Wild deer/elk                | 8,899  |
| CWD Captive deer/elk             | 2,737  |
| Bovine spongiform encephalopathy | 7,198  |
| Scrapie (sheep and goats)        | 2,213  |
| Total                            | 21,047 |

\*Please remember that WVDL does not accept live animals for necropsy

\*\*Sick animals should be euthanized prior to submission with exceptions for poultry and fish.

## Virology

### Bird Flu in Western States

Recently, highly pathogenic avian influenza (Bird Flu) has been detected in Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Utah and California. The strains, identified as H5N8 and H5N2, typically do not cause disease in most wild birds but will cause severe disease in gallinaceous birds (domestic poultry and game birds). The strains are described as highly pathogenic because of rapid spread and high mortality in domesticated poultry.

WVDL is preparing for possible introduction of the virus in Wisconsin's backyard and commercial flocks. Go to <http://www.wvdl.wisc.edu/index.php/avian-influenza-backyard-flocks/> for more information about preparedness.

## Barron Lab

The laboratory in Barron was sad to see pathologist Dr. Mark Carlson retire in January of 2015 and wishes him well on his sailing adventures. Necropsy services have temporarily continued at the laboratory with Dr. Raman Muthuswamy, but due to retirements, pathology services will be transferred to the Madison laboratory on March 16th, 2015.

Field/bottle necropsies may be sent directly to the Madison Laboratory (same shipping procedures, different address). Microbiology, serology, and similar testing is still in place at Barron. Drop off service is still available. Please contact us at any time with questions regarding this change. See above for news of our shipping program in the Client Services Section of this newsletter.

Shipping details can also be found here:

<http://www.wvdl.wisc.edu/index.php/shipping-information/>

Along with necropsy service, Dr Raman recently presented information on calf necropsy and calf disease diagnosis at Calf College™ in Cameron, WI sponsored by Lakeland Cooperative.

We are also preparing, along with the Madison Laboratory, to see increased caseload of samples and specimens for avian influenza with the recent developments of positive birds in the Western United States and Canada. Please see our website for recent stories and client information.  
[www.wvdl.wisc.edu](http://www.wvdl.wisc.edu)



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