



Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Newsletter - Summer 2015

Message From the Director

This newsletter contribution will be my last message written as an employee of the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. After forty years as a veterinarian (in the US Army, in private practice, and at the WVDL) my tour of duty will end in July 2015.



On 6 July 2015 Dr Philip Bochsler, currently Section Chief of Pathology, will assume the position of laboratory director. I am very confident that he will provide outstanding leadership going forward.

Since 2001 the WVDL has successfully faced many challenges and accomplished a great deal. The list is long and would perhaps be boring but because I know the challenges, I am impressed. The laboratory's success has been due to its focus on its mission: to provide outstanding service to its clients. I believe this emphasis on and trajectory toward continuous improvement will endure.

It has been my great personal pleasure to be part of the WVDL for the past fourteen years and to be associated with the School of Veterinary Medicine and the University of

Wisconsin-Madison. My memories will always be of the wonderful people with whom I have been privileged to interact.

I am a fan of Garrison Keillor's sign-off: "Be well, do good work, and stay in touch."

Peter Vanderloo, DVM
Interim Director

Microbiology

This quarter the Madison Microbiology Laboratory has added a new automated 10 liter media preparator from Microbiology International. This equipment, plus the automated plater and stacker already in use, is used to make liquid and solid media of the highest quality. Media is mostly used in the laboratory during routine testing, but some can be ordered through our website or by calling the WVDL.

<http://www.wvdl.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/MICROBIOLOGYMEDIAFORM1.pdf>

Additionally, the WVDL is enhancing mastitis client resources with the help of UW Milk Quality (milkquality.wisc.edu). Look for these new reference materials to be added to our website under client resources and provide further information on the pathogens associated with mastitis, such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus agalactiae*, *Mycoplasma* species, and many others. Information is also available for bulk tank guidelines and sampling instructions. Please contact the WVDL for further assistance with milk quality work on your client's dairies.

Lastly, we would like to update clients who use the Johne's ELISA test for small ruminants. ThermoFisher has informed the WVDL that the Parachek is still unavailable, which is the only USDA-certified kit for Johne's disease antibody detection from small ruminants. However, the Parachek 2, licensed in Europe, has been made available for US clients and is undergoing review by the USDA. We will be using the Parachek 2 for Johne's disease testing for small ruminant clients only. The USDA-certified IDEXX kit will be used for all other samples. If you have any questions about this situation, please contact the WVDL.

Client Services

We would like to express our appreciation for all of our clients that filled out the 2015 Customer Service Survey. In the end, 120 respondents completed the survey ranging from veterinarians to farm owners and technical services representatives. We are working on suggested improvements to maintain our exceptional level of customer service.

The section has seen some changes with promotion and new faces this spring. We are happy to see Katy Reed working with export and referrals and Bonnie Reid taking over pathology login. We also welcome Joe Gradel to the receiving department.

This summer, we will be working on our website to improve accessibility of information. Please contact us with any suggestions or comments. We are also working on some market analysis to develop some new tests for cattle and horses. Specifically, we would like to know if our clients are interested and if so, how many estimated samples your group would submit. Please click on the survey below (<5 minutes) to help us bring new tests to your practice.

Your Anonymous Survey Link:

Pathology-TSE-Chemistry

The WVDL pathology section's case load typically consists of ~50% bovine cases and the remaining a mix of a wide array of species.** Unusual cases lately have included a single fatal case of canine influenza submitted from the Chicago area, avian influenza from poultry within Wisconsin, and cases of Babesiosis affecting elk.

Much of our TSE* testing consists of CWD on wild deer during and after the Wisconsin fall hunting seasons, but we test year round for BSE and scrapie, and we perform CWD testing for other states. We have most recently been selected by North Carolina and Alabama to perform their CWD tests.

Recent retirements have resulted in an opportunity to recruit several new talented and enthusiastic pathologists to our staff. We are actively interviewing a broad field of applicants, and expect to complete the process by mid-June.

*Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies

**We perform diagnostic work-ups on most species, with an exception of primates.

Barron Laboratory

The Barron Laboratory offers testing for Bacteria Count in Neonatal Mammalian Liquid Feeds (reported as CFU/mL). Remember to package and ship appropriately especially as the weather gets warmer in order to keep samples frozen during transit. Other important points to know:

- Acceptable sample types include: colostrum, raw or pasteurized waste milk, and reconstituted milk replacer.
- Set up Mon, Tues, and Wed if received by noon. Results in 48 hours.
- Collect samples in vials and freeze immediately. Do not fill the vial completely; a half-filled vial is sufficient sample volume.
- Sample must remain frozen in transit. See below for more information on the WVDL Shipping Program. <http://www.wvdl.wisc.edu/index.php/shipping-information/>
- Send directly to Barron for fastest turnaround time.
- Use Milk Submission Form, check "aerobic/coliform/*E. coli* count" test and indicate sample type. The sample type determines dilution set-up.

Please visit our website for [Submission](#) and [Interpretation Guidelines](#) for this diagnostic test.

In order to best accommodate clients requests, Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis Virus ELISA (CAE) and Ovine Progressive Pneumonia Virus ELISA (OPP) are now being tested on Tuesdays and Fridays. Please contact us if you have questions about these tests.

As a reminder, the WVDL Barron Laboratory is no longer performing necropsy services. If you are shipping field necropsy or bottle necropsy submissions, please ship directly to the WVDL Madison. We are happy to ship samples dropped off at the Barron Laboratory at no charge. See this link for [WVDL's shipping program](#) for fast and ultra low cost shipping to WVDL.

Virology

The virology section has been very engaged in testing for the H5N2 strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) which was found on 10 premises in Wisconsin. Virology microbiologists have been working long hours to meet the needs of our stakeholders. We have tested surveillance samples for the USDA and DATCP as well as samples for poultry businesses in order to show absence of disease so product can be moved. The H5N2 strain has only been shown to be a threat for avian species but out of caution, all work has been performed in a biosafety level 3 environment.

Progress with containment and eradication of the virus is updated daily by DATCP:
http://datcp.wi.gov/Animals/Animal_Diseases/Avian_Influenza/index.aspx



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