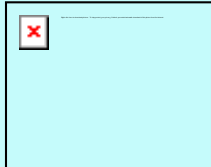


From: American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians <jkistler@aavld.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2018 7:22 PM
To: rozuna@aavld.org
Subject: February 2018 E-News



E-Newsletter

February 2018

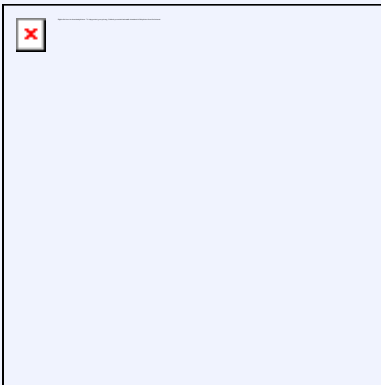
Don't miss out!

The next issue of JVDI will be sent soon. You must be a current member of AAVLD to receive it.

AAVLD memberships expire each year on December 31. If you have not joined for 2018, please click on the following link

[AAVLD Membership](#)

If you are unsure of your membership status, please email Reda at rozuna@aavld.org or Jim at jkistler@aavld.org



AAVLD President's Message

***What's In There?
(It shouldn't be pentobarbital...)***

Pentobarbital is again in the news. Its discovery in some pet foods has resulted in recalls from stores. Although only low levels have been found this year, a year ago, a sudden onset of illness in a number of dogs, that was possibly food-related, was reported to the FDA through submission of a Consumer Complaint by the owner. The FDA CVM Veterinary Laboratory Investigation and Response Network (Vet-LIRN) coordinated a necropsy at the member veterinary diagnostic laboratory in that state with subsequent analysis of food and stomach contents at another member laboratory which offered analytical toxicology testing. High levels of pentobarbital were found. The FDA CVM used those test results to prioritize

regulatory testing of the product for pentobarbital, following which the manufacturer recalled the product.

In that case, many people in multiple AAVLD laboratories contributed in the effort to identify the cause of the illness and eliminate it. The Vet-LIRN coordinated professional expertise and facilities of veterinary diagnostic laboratories across the country to respond to that chemical food contamination event. Since its inception in the wake of the melamine/cyanuric acid pet food crisis, Vet-LIRN has provided a means for coordination of AAVLD laboratories to rapidly respond to reports of animal feed or drug-related illnesses and has worked with the laboratories to document, investigate and diagnose the cause of illness in those cases enabling a coordinated response.

Steve Hooser
AAVLD President

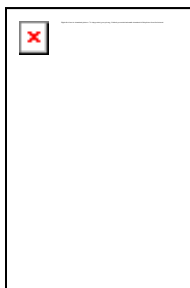
Economic Impact of University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories: A case study.

A study by Iowa State University researchers recently published in a peer-reviewed journal, found the ISU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory delivers a robust return on investment for taxpayers and a sense of stability for Iowa's animal agriculture industry. The analysis concluded that the benefits provided by the diagnostic laboratory outstrip the state tax dollars devoted to it. The ISU College of Veterinary Medicine commissioned the original economic analysis of the laboratory, and the authors recently published their findings in the peer-reviewed journal Preventive Veterinary Medicine.

[Link to an Iowa State University news article which has a link to the published article:
https://www.news.iastate.edu/news/2018/01/30/vdleconstudy](https://www.news.iastate.edu/news/2018/01/30/vdleconstudy)

Case Study:

[Economic impact of university veterinary diagnostic laboratories: A case study](#)



2018 AAVLD / USAHA Government Relations Conference

The 2018 Government Relations Conference (GRC) in Washington, DC. is scheduled for March 12-15, 2018.

Historically, we have met with the following agencies/organizations: APHIS-VS, ARS, NIFA, FSIS, FDA-CVM, NAHLN/NVSL, DHS, Animal Agriculture Coalition, AVMA and AAVMC. This list is not set in stone, and if we need to connect with other partners, we will make every effort to make that happen.

In addition to our agency meetings, AAVLD leaders will be meeting with their congressional representatives and agriculture committee leaders. A focus of these meetings will be the passage of a Farm Bill in 2018. Links below provide information that will be provided to our elected officials.

This is an intense week of discussions related to the NAHLN, animal agriculture, veterinary diagnostic medicine and the regulations applicable to the veterinary profession.

If you know of any emerging issues or hot topics that have developed since the most recent annual meeting, please send me that information so that it can be included in the appropriate discussions.

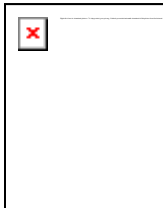
This conference offers a unique opportunity to engage in dialogue with some non-traditional partners!

We will provide you with an update on the meeting in the next newsletter.

Dr. Steve Hooser, AAVLD President
Jim Kistler, AAVLD Executive Director

[NAHLN One Pager](#)

[NAHLN Postcard](#)



CALL FOR ARTICLES

*Consider submitting articles to the future JVDI focus issue
on Diseases of Backyard Poultry!*

Topics will include disease investigations, epidemiologic analyses, and regulatory aspects in various geographic locations. All manuscripts will be subjected to the routine JVDI peer review process. Dr. Ash Mete is our guest editor for this issue, planned for January 2019. Feel free to contact Dr. Mete at amete@ucdavis.edu with suggested submissions. Deadline for submission of manuscripts for peer review via JVDI's MSCentral is **July 1, 2018.**"

Sincerely,

Holly M. Farrell
Managing Editor
Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation
editorial@aavld.org
<http://journals.sagepub.com/home/vdi>



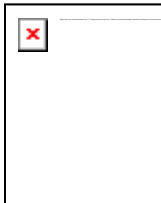
Secretary Perdue Statement on Confirmation of Bill Northey for Key USDA Post

(Washington, D.C., February 27, 2018) -
*U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today applauded the Senate's long-awaited confirmation of Bill Northey to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Northey will serve as Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Service (FFAS)**

Secretary Perdue issued the following statement:

"I applaud Bill Northey's patience over these many months, which demonstrates what a strong leader he will be at USDA. We thank everyone who worked on his confirmation. Bill will come aboard at a crucial time, as his knowledge and expertise will be immediately put to use as the new Farm Bill is formulated to address the needs of American farmers. In addition, his leadership will be key in the newly-constituted mission area, where the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Risk Management Agency will be providing an even better customer experience. I am excited to finally have Bill on board."

*NOTE: As part of a reorganization of USDA, Secretary Perdue has created, the President appointed, and the Senate confirmed a new Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, as directed by the 2014 Farm Bill. The creation of the new mission area prompted the realignment of several agencies under a newly-named Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC), the position for which Northey is intended. FPAC will encompass the USDA's domestic-facing agencies: the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Risk Management Agency.



JVDI in Focus

This month's focus is on "Validation of 2 point-of-care meters for measuring triglycerides in chickens using whole blood and plasma" by Katherine L. Irvine, Christoph Mans, and Kristen R. Friedrichs; J Vet Diagn Invest 2018;30(2).

Abstract. Gangrenous dermatitis (GD) is a disease of chickens and turkeys that causes severe economic losses in the poultry industry worldwide. *Clostridium septicum*, *Clostridium perfringens* type A, and occasionally *Clostridium sordellii* are considered the main causes of GD, although *Staphylococcus aureus* and other aerobic bacteria may also be involved in some cases of the disease. GD has become one of the most significant diseases of commercial turkeys in the United States. Several infectious and/or environmental immunosuppressive factors can predispose to GD. Skin lesions are considered to be the main portal of entry of the microorganism(s) involved. GD is characterized by acute onset of mortality associated with gross skin and subcutaneous tissue lesions consisting of variable amounts of serosanguineous exudate together with emphysema and hemorrhages. The underlying skeletal muscle can also be involved. Ulceration of the epidermis may be also noticed in cases complicated with *S. aureus*. Microscopically, necrosis of the epidermis and dermis, and subcutaneous edema and emphysema are commonly observed. Gram-positive rods can be identified within the subcutis and skeletal muscles, usually associated with minimal inflammatory infiltrate. A presumptive diagnosis of GD can be made based on history, clinical signs, and gross anatomic and microscopic lesions. However, confirmation should be based on

demonstration of the causative agents by culture, PCR, immunohistochemistry, and/or fluorescent antibody tests.

**** The goal of *JVDI in Focus* is to bring attention to an interesting article appearing in the most recent issue of the *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation*.**



American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians,
8220 Pompano St., Navarre, FL 32566

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