



American Association of
Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
E-Newsletter

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News & Events for August 2014

Events To Watch For At The Annual Meeting !

BVDV - ESVV Pestivirus Pre-Conference Symposium
Tuesday-Wednesday, Oct. 14-15

AAVLD Quality Assurance Pre-Conference Symposium
Thursday, Oct. 16

AAVLD Foundation Auction and Dinner
Friday, Oct. 17, Exhibit Hall B

IDEXX presents: Introduction to the new IDEXX RealPCRTM Modular System
Sat, Oct 18, 6:00-6:30 in Atlanta A

AAVLD / USAHA Presidents' Reception and Dinner
Sunday, Oct. 19, Exhibit Hall B

Various Symposiums, Seminars and Activities
Check out the following link:
<http://www.aavld.org/symposium-workshops-2014>

Zoetis Granted Conditional License for PEDv Vaccine

PorkNetwork.com
September 3, 2014

On Wednesday, Zoetis Inc. announced that the USDA has granted a conditional license for a vaccine to help fight porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv) in pigs.

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The two-dose inactivated vaccine, licensed for use in healthy pregnant sows and gilts, is designed to help them develop antibodies that can be transmitted to their newborn piglets.

Zoetis anticipates the vaccine will be available to veterinarians and pork producers later in September.

"This vaccine is an important part of our commitment to working with veterinarians and pork producers to help minimize the impact of PEDv on pigs in their care," said Gloria Basse, vice president, U.S. Pork Business Unit, Zoetis. "To achieve the best possible results, producers should work closely with their veterinarians and the Zoetis technical services team to implement the new vaccine into their biosecurity programs."

Full text:

<http://www.porknetwork.com/pork-news/273753991.html>

Safety Stand Down For Laboratories

*USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Bulletin
September 3, 2014*

Due to recent events in several Federal government research facilities which highlight some lapses in biosafety and inventory protocols, the White House Office of Science Technology and Policy (OSTP) and the National Security Council (NSC) issued a memo describing some immediate steps for all Federal facilities which possess, use, or transfer human, animal, or plant infectious agents or toxins. This memo directs impacted Federal departments and agencies to perform a "Safety Stand Down."

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has developed a strategy for all USDA agencies in order to achieve compliance with the White House directive. Within the next 30 days, impacted USDA Agencies will perform a "Safety Stand Down."

USDA is encouraging all extramural laboratories to perform a Safety Stand Down. For more information on how to complete a Safety Stand Down, please review the attached USDA memo for extramural labs and visit the following links.

USDA Safety Stand Down resources: <http://go.usa.gov/mxUY>

White House memorandum on biosafety and biosecurity in U.S. laboratories: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/08/28/ensuring-biosafety-and-biosecurity-us-laboratories>

Federal Biological Select Agent and Toxins (BSAT):
<http://www.selectagents.gov/>

Source:

<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/bulletins/cd8a59>

New Positives Found for Porcine Delta Corona Virus

US Pig Farm Samples Positive for Porcine Delta Corona Virus: 381

ThePigSite.com

September 1, 2014

US - Porcine Delta Corona virus (PDCoV) has been detected in six more positive samples in the most recent week, bringing the total number of positive samples so far to 381 from pig farms in 17 states.

For the latest weekly report - for the week of 23 August in a report dated 27 August from the USDA Animal Health Inspection Service and made available by the American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV) - six pig farms (termed "swine accessions") have tested positive for the PDCoV, bringing the cumulative total to 381.

The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) began collating testing data on PDCoV for the week of 30 March 2014. So far, 4,997 accessions have been tested, 271 in the most recent week reported, so the overall percentage found positive is 7.6 per cent.

The total number of states affected remains at 17. Wyoming is the latest state to report its first PDCoV-positive sample.

Full text:

<http://www.thepigsite.com/swinenews/37527/us-pig-farm-samples-positive-for-porcine-delta-corona-virus-381>

See Also:

PED-Positive Farm Samples in US: 8,199

ThePigSite.com

September 1, 2014

US - The total number of pig farm samples that have tested positive for the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea (PED) virus now stands at 8,199 in 30 states, writes Jackie Linden. There were 73 new positive samples in the most recent week reported.

The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) reports 73 positive accessions out of 719 tested at 11 veterinary diagnostic labs for the week ending 23 August, according to the American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV).

The number of states reported to the NAHLN as having at least one confirmed case of PED remains at 30.

Full text:

<http://www.thepigsite.com/swinenews/37528/pedpositive-farm-samples-in-us-8199>

Members On The Move

Bruce Akey



On September 3, the Texas A&M System Board of Regents named Bruce L. Akey, MS, DVM, interim director of the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL). Dr. Akey began as executive deputy director at TVMDL in June of this year.

"Dr. Akey has many years of outstanding leadership in veterinary diagnostics," said Dr. Bill Dugas, acting vice chancellor and dean for Texas A&M AgriLife. "I am pleased to have Dr. Akey's experience and expertise to guide TVMDL forward in ensuring both animal and human health for Texas."

For six years, Tammy R. Beckham, DVM, PhD, served as TVMDL director, and since 2010, has split her time directing TVMDL and the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases (IIAD), a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science & Technology Center of Excellence affiliated with Texas A&M AgriLife Research. In August, she announced her intention to leave the lab to become full-time director of IIAD.

"We wish Dr. Beckham well in her full-time role as IIAD director," said Dr. Akey. "She set a precedent for excellence and growth within TVMDL, where the diagnostic services we offer clients continue to grow and adapt to the needs of the livestock and companion animal industries. As interim director, I intend to continue that work to serve the State of Texas."

A graduate of the College of William and Mary with a bachelor's degree in biology, Dr. Akey also holds a master of science in parasitology from the University of Florida and a doctorate of veterinary medicine from the University of Minnesota. He served three and a half years as assistant state veterinarian for the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, was the chief of the Office of Laboratory Services at the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for 13 years, and was in private clinical practice for 4 years prior to that. From 2006 through mid-2014, Dr. Akey served as assistant dean for diagnostic operations and the executive director of the Animal Health Diagnostic Center in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University.

An agency of the Texas A&M University System, TVMDL operates four veterinary diagnostic labs across Texas. The day-to-day operations of the four diagnostic laboratories will continue to promote animal health through diagnostics by testing hundreds of specimens each day and using expert professionals and state-of-the-art technology to diagnose each case.

For more information on the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, visit tvmdl.tamu.edu.

Tammy Beckham

Tammy Beckham transitions to full-time director of Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases

Dr. Tammy Beckham, who has been director of the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory since 2008, will transition into a full-time role as director of the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases (IIAD), effective immediately. Leadership of the Institute was added to Beckham's duties in 2010. The Institute and diagnostic lab are part of Texas A&M AgriLife, headquartered in College Station.

The Institute was founded in 2004 as a U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Center of Excellence. It focuses on research, education and outreach to prevent, detect, mitigate and recover from transboundary, emerging and/or zoonotic diseases, which may be introduced intentionally or through natural processes. Under her direction, the Institute implemented a leadership strategy modeled by other DHS Centers of Excellence. Her guidance has resulted in new partnerships, an increased focus on technology transition and recognition of IIAD as a collaborating center in the specialty of biological threat reduction for the World Organization for Animal Health.

"Dr. Beckham has done a great job while serving in multiple demanding roles," said Dr. Craig Nessler, Texas A&M AgriLife Research director in College Station. "However, the Institute's portfolio has expanded greatly under her leadership, and we are very excited about the future of the Institute with her being able to devote her full attention to it." During her administration, the Institute has become a lead performer for DHS in developing novel assays and validating new sample matrices

under the agricultural screening tools project. In addition, her efforts have increased the Institute's funding to build upon technologies developed under the DHS Office of University Programs cooperative agreement. Since 2010, the Institute has brought in nearly \$15 million in contracts beyond DHS and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperative agreements.

The Institute's AgConnect suite, developed under her leadership, was expanded to include the Enhanced Passive Surveillance and business continuity components, two novel innovations supporting U.S. agricultural industries' preparedness and response efforts.

"Dr. Beckham's leadership in expanding the Institute's reputation and influence is largely responsible for the Institute's continued growth and success," said Dr. Matt Clark, director of the DHS Office of University Programs. "Her ability to apply novel solutions to prevent and treat deadly animal diseases, combined with her ability to build powerful coalitions among domestic and international government agencies, producers and commercial partners, are why Texas A&M has been a DHS Center of Excellence for 10 years."

"The Institute has grown tremendously during the last four years," Beckham said. "This team has incredible potential, and we've been able to develop strong partnerships with industry, state animal health officials and federal partners. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to serve in this role in a full-time capacity and continue to expand the tools and technologies that serve to protect our livestock and public health sectors - both nationally and globally."

Prior to joining the Texas A&M University System, Beckham served as director of the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory with USDA, a part of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center in New York. Her responsibilities included managing the diagnosis of animal diseases, overseeing diagnostic test development for a nationwide animal health diagnostic system, and coordinating efforts with DHS, the National Animal Health Laboratory Network and other entities.

Beckham is a magna cum laude graduate of Auburn University, where she earned her doctor of veterinary medicine degree in 1998. She also holds a doctorate in biomedical science from Auburn, received in 2001 while she served as a captain in the U.S. Army. She served at the Army's Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases in Frederick, Maryland, where she helped develop improved techniques for detecting deadly pathogens such as Ebola and Marburg viruses.

New Tests From Biovet Coming

Biovet is a Canadian company that operates a diagnostic laboratory offering a full range of analysis (hematology, biochemistry, bacteriology, serology, molecular diagnosis, etc.) for the animal and the agri-food industries. The company was founded in 1991. Its head office is located in Saint-Hyacinthe,

Quebec. With 4 locations, including one in Minneapolis, the company employs over 50 individuals, including more than 10 scientists.

Biovet is the unique Canadian veterinary kit producer. The company is developing its kits in collaboration with various American and European universities and research centers. Biovet's manufacturing facility has been approved by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The company's kits are distributed in over 45 countries worldwide.

To date, Biovet has primarily developed ELISA kits for the serological diagnosis of various viral, bacterial and parasitic diseases in cattle and swine. It is the first company to have launched an ELISA kit for detecting antibodies to *Neospora caninum* in cattle as well as being a leader in the serology of *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae* (APP).

In addition, Biovet has recently launched the first North American PEDV ELISA kit. The test is intended to detect IgG antibodies to PEDV nucleoprotein in serum samples. Its relative sensitivity vs. IFA is 100% and its specificity 97%. The test is a remarkable complementary tool to the molecular detection methods of the virus.

Biovet is always on the forefront of efficient and cost-effective diagnostic tools. For example, the company has recently started developing multiplexed fluorometric immunoassays (MFIA). This new technology in veterinary medicine allows detecting and differentiating of antibodies to several antigens in a single reaction (well). This allows saving a great deal of labour, time and reagent costs and permits a "syndromic" rather than a "disease specific" diagnostic approach.

Biovet's most recent MFIA kit is a 5-plex test allowing the detection and differentiation of antibodies to the serogroups 1-9-11, 2, 3-6-8-15, and 4-7 of APP. The company will soon have a 7-plex kit including additional APP10 and APP12 antigens. In the future Biovet is considering producing customized kits with various antigen combinations according to specific customer requirements.

Biovet is also working on a 4-plex MFIA for detecting antibodies to the Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus (PRRSV) type 1 and 2, the Swine Influenza virus (SIV) type A, and the Porcine Circovirus type 2 (PCV2) in serum and oral fluid samples.

Biovet is heavily investing in R&D to develop new diagnostic assays and, as a gold sponsor of the 2014 AAVLD meeting, Biovet

hopes to meet you all in Kansas City this fall to further discuss our present and future products and services.

Rene Lallier, D.V.M., M.B.A.
President and Chief Executive Officer

Zoetis: What's In A Name

Zoetis (zMEH-tis) is derived from zoetic, which means "pertaining to life."

In February 2013, Pfizer Inc. spun off Pfizer Animal Health, creating the independent animal health company Zoetis. Zoetis is now the leading animal health company, dedicated to supporting its customers and their businesses. Building on more than 60 years of experience in animal health, Zoetis discovers, develops, manufactures and markets veterinary vaccines and medicines, complemented by diagnostic products and genetic tests and supported by a range of services.

Diagnostics is a relatively new venture for Zoetis.

Pfizer Animal Health (PAH) acquired the diagnostics company Synbiotics in December 2010, enabling PAH to enter the diagnostic testing market for the first time in its 60-plus year history. US licensed and/or international products include point-of-care and reference laboratory tests for avian, bovine, canine, equine, feline, and porcine species. High-quality tests include **DiroCHEK®** for canine and feline heartworm disease and the **ViraCHEK®** and **ProFLOK®** lines of ELISA tests for equine and feline and avian species, respectively. A focused team of sales, marketing, and veterinary technical services experts, collectively referred to as the US Diagnostics division, are dedicated to support this new customer segment.

Zoetis also has a dedicated veterinary team in Veterinary Medical Information and Product Support (VMIPS) that is available for your product inquiries. Coincidentally, Zoetis employs the largest number of veterinarians across its worldwide organization.

Zoetis, too, excels at educating and partnering with its customers with its vast resources. Zoetis-employed and external veterinarians across all species daily educate individual and small and large groups of veterinary professionals. Continuing education credit often accompanies the latter. To date, new or existing customers of the University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory benefited from this value-added service. Similarly, this month customers of the University of Georgia Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory will receive education on serological testing of companion animals, a collaboration between university laboratory and Zoetis veterinarians.

These educational events are examples of partnerships between Zoetis and its laboratory customers, and they are one of two initiatives that the US Diagnostics team has created to help its customers like you gain more local or regional exposure such that you gain more business. The second initiative is the access to marketing support for our customers to promote

their laboratory and service offerings. The Zoetis US Diagnostics team has already partnered with laboratories to promote their services including the availability of Zoetis' TiterCHEK® CDV/CPV, an ELISA test for identifying antibodies to canine distemper virus and canine parvovirus. To learn more about these initiatives, contact your US Diagnostics' Strategic Account Manager and visit the entire US Diagnostics team in the exhibit hall at the annual AAVLD conference.

What's in the name Zoetis?

- A dedicated team to support you
- Initiatives to help your laboratory gain business
- High-quality diagnostic test kits for multiple species

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Sincerely,

Jim Kistler
Executive Director
American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians