AAVLD Committee Report

(Note: Please attach any additional pages necessary for the following subtopics and your minutes / narrative)

___AAVLD/NVSL Proficiency Testing Committee _ October 25, 2015_____
Committee Date

__Eileen N. Ostlund (NVSL)____ _____Richard E. Mock _____
Committee Chair Co-chair if applicable

____Terra Jenson (representing NVSL)__ _____Tina Buffington_____
Nominees for upcoming chair / co-chair Nominees for upcoming chair / co-chair

Committee Statement of Purpose:

AAVLD/NVSL Proficiency Testing Committee Mission: 1) Bring transparency to the proficiency test (PT) process, 2) Have AAVLD input in the PT process for process improvement, 3) Guide and aid development of new PTs to help AAVLD lab-community.

Strategy(ies) for Committee Activity Supporting AAVLD Strategic Plan (Please List):

- Terra Jenson, Section Head, Proficiency Testing and Reagents, Diagnostic Virology Laboratory, NVSL, Ames, IA provided an introduction of new Proficiency Test and Reagent (PTR) section within NVSL. This section is working to streamline and give laboratories a single contact for PT questions. Terra also described the NAHLN Proficiency Test Portal (*Use of the NAHLN Portal for NVSL Proficiency Tests – It's not just for NAHLN anymore!*). The portal serves as the online interface NVSL will be using for the administration of proficiency testing panels. Portal features include registration of participants for the proficiency test, reporting results, and pass/fail notifications.

- Diane Holder, FMD/CSF PT Manager NVSL-FADDL, RVSS, Plum Island reviewed *Foreign Animal Disease Proficiency Test Panel Development, Production and QC Testing*.

- A meeting participant asked about Expiration Dates on Proficiency Test (PT) certificates. NVSL considers prior PT certifications valid until the next PT is available. During the discussion NVSL proposed making an addition to the certificates to include language stating "XXX has been certified to perform Y testing until the next scheduled proficiency test is offered by the NVSL".

- Attendees were queried about additional PTs that would be useful. There was a general consensus that more PTs for agent detection would be desirable. Suggested agents and tests include: *Leptospira* PCR, *Mycoplasma* PCR, *Salmonella typhimurium* identification, mastitis agent identification.
  - NVSL mentioned the difficulty in assembling PT kits for agent ID for organisms which NVSL does not routinely test or receive samples. NVSL needs contribution of relevant materials from other laboratories. An example was the recent equine herpesvirus PCR PT.
  - NVSL-PTR section is available to assist laboratories on the development of Ring Trials for these agents.

- An attendee questioned the Mycoplasma serology PT availability. A representative of Charles River SPAFAS-Avian Product commented that the chickens used for the antiserum production were to be sampled within the next week (November 1st). Completion of the Mycoplasma serology PT kits was estimated mid to late December 2015.

- Tina Buffington, Quality Manager, North Carolina Veterinary Laboratory System, North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, NC presented *Use of proficiency tests for monitoring kit performance*. Tina provided an example of identifying a problem in a kit antigen by closely monitoring the performance of the kit on known weak positive samples. This issue clearly demonstrates the importance of proficiency test providers to include weak positive samples as the vast majority of screening tests result in negative results which may not reflect slight shifts in kit performance from lot to lot. These benchmarking samples are very important to the participants to determine current test performance and assist with troubleshooting when needed.

Items for Review by the Executive Board (Please List):

None – other than acceptance of new co-chairs for this committee.

Action Items for the Committee (Please List):

The committee will work to facilitate creation of additional proficiency tests to serve the needs of AAVLD laboratories.

Please provide this form to Jim Kistler, Executive Director. Also attach a copy (word) with the committee report narrative (due two weeks after conclusion of Annual Meeting) The committee reports will be posted on the AAVLD website and available to members. If you have any questions, please email jkistler@aavld.org.