

From: [American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians](http://www.aavld.org)
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American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians E-Newsletter

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Issue: # 1-13

January 2013

AAVLD Is Growing !!

Your AAVLD association membership is growing!

AAVLD membership grew in 2012 - with total membership exceeding both 2010 and 2011. New and exciting benefits are coming online all the time, for instance:

- New member search features are available including a search by zipcode;
- The AAVLD newsletter is now a monthly feature;
- The AAVLD Facebook page is running with more people joining all the time;
- The Annual Conference and Scientific meetings are growing and expanding - with a new mobile app planned for your smart phone to assist in making your conference planning easier and more rewarding;
- Additional membership tools such as a new and improved website, community forums and archived discussions are planned for 2013

Your 2013 AAVLD membership will provide new opportunities for sharing research, opinions and ideas.

DON'T MISS OUT! Make sure your membership is active for an exciting year in 2013.

Jim Kistler, IOM, CAE
Executive Director

**USDA Entomology Stakeholder Workshops Now
Include Online Participation**

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The USDA Agricultural Research Service' National Program on Veterinary, Medical, and Urban Entomology has the mission to develop more effective means to eliminate or suppress insects and ticks that harm agricultural animals and humans. We request input from stakeholders on what we can do better to perform research on the control of insects and ticks that affect livestock, poultry, and people.

In the past, as a way of gaining input, every five years the Agricultural Research Service's Veterinary, Medical, and Urban Entomology Program held a stakeholder workshop to discuss program objectives. As a result of cost savings initiatives, we are pleased to announce a change from a physical meeting to a virtual location, which allow us to reach a larger audience while also saving tax dollars.

There are two ways you can provide your input, either via our recently launched Open.Gov website, (<http://tiny.cc/7nswqw>), or by webinar participation.

The Open.Gov website requires registration to post ideas or comments. We would appreciate your thoughts on the research we should perform during the next five year cycle (2014-2019).

To post ideas and comments, you must register first (top right hand corner)

- There is a tan colored box on the top right-hand corner that says "**Register**"
- After registering, **Login** entering the email username and password you registered with (top left)
- Click on the **IdeaSpace** topic (Left-hand side of page) you wish to comment on and then click on **New Idea** located on the upper right side of the page.
- Be sure to click on **Save Idea** when you have completed posting your comment.
- You will then need to click on the next IdeaSpace topic to enter new comments.

You may also choose to attend one or more of our webinars. The webinars will discuss the same question in Opengov, consisting of a short introduction and an open discussion revolving around five different topics. The dates and topics of discussion are as follows:

- February 19, 2013, 3 pm - 5 pm (EST): Research toward registration and licensing of products
- February 20, 2013, 3 pm - 5 pm (EST): Research on protecting the public from insects and ticks
- February 21, 2013, 3 pm - 5 pm (EST): Research on protecting the military from insects and ticks
- February 22, 2013, 3 pm - 5 pm (EST): Research on protecting livestock and poultry from insects and pests
- February 25, 2013, 3 pm - 5 pm (EST): Research on protecting agriculture and the public from damage caused by invasive species of ants

Since stakeholder input is a critical part of the Agricultural Research Service' research planning cycle, and with this approach we can widen the range of input, please feel free to pass this invitation on to colleagues who may be interested. For further information about our Veterinary, Medical, and Urban Entomology National Program, please visit us at

http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/programs/programs.htm?NP_CODE=104.

If you have any questions about this site, please contact Kathryn Vickery at Kathryn.vickery@ars.usda.gov.

Schmallenberg Could Kill 1/3rd of Lamb Flocks in UK

Farmers could lose a third of lambs in flocks according to a new study.

By Louise Gray, Environment Correspondent
reprinted from The Telegraph

The virus, that first arrived in the UK last year and causes lambs to be born dead or deformed, is set to spread to most flocks this lambing season.

Infection does not necessarily mean all lambs will die but early research suggests that death rates could be high.

Data collected by students from the Nottingham Vet School show that average losses could be as high as 30 per cent on some severely affected holdings.

Last year the virus was recorded on around 1,000 farms and hundreds of animals died.

This year more than 200 farms have recorded outbreaks so far. More than 20 farms have seen deformed lambs in Wales and flocks in England have recorded losses up to 40 per cent

Dr Rachael Tarlinton, a registered veterinary surgeon and an expert in virology, said there are likely to be more losses as the lambing season takes off.

"Things aren't looking good for this year's sheep farmers. We are already seeing a lot of reports of abnormalities in the early lambing stock, as well as ewes requiring caesarean births. If the ewe can't lamb or has been damaged too much it is kinder, from an animal welfare point of view, to euthanase the ewe as well. It is a grim picture."

There is also concern about the virus spreading to more cattle herds, killing calves.

Once a sheep or cow has been infected they will develop immunity, so gradually British farms will build up resistance. It is only when a mother is infected when she is pregnant that it causes death and deformity.

There are also hopes for a vaccine. Until then Dr Tarlinton said farms will have to suffer.

"It is likely the virus is here to stay. Because the midges are all over Europe, the virus will eventually settle down to be endemic. When this happens we hope that most animals will be infected in their first year of life before they get pregnant and can build up immunity. Most cattle and sheep in the area where the virus was first identified have had it. It is assumed that they are now immune and won't have another affected lamb. We are concerned about the animals that were infected after being mated in autumn last year."

Watch Out! - The 2013 AAVLD Annual Conference Will Be in San Diego

The 2013 AAVLD Annual Conference and Scientific Symposia will be October 17-23, 2013. The meeting will be in San Diego CA:

**Town and Country Hotel
500 Hotel Circle North
San Diego, CA. 92108**

Join AAVLD as we partner with the U.S. Animal Health Association to bring exciting pre-conference and conference scientific presentations to keep you up-to-date on the latest animal health information.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW !

NEW ZIP CODE MEMBER SEARCH FEATURE NOW ONLINE

New Zip Code Searches Are here!

AAVLD has added new user search functions that include more customization and the ability to identify members through location-based zip code searches!

When you are logged into, go to the member directory and enter the zipcode in the search box.

LIKE US on Facebook

Follow us on Facebook for more on AAVLD and members in the news

Visit www.facebook.com/AAVLD and like us.

We value your opinion and contributions. If you have any comments, questions or suggestions for articles, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Jim Kistler
Executive Director
American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

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