

**From:** [American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians](http://www.aavld.org)  
**To:** [rozuna@aaavld.org](mailto:rozuna@aaavld.org)  
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## American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians E-Newsletter

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Issue: # 9-13

September 2013

### New Guidance Document for Validating PCR Tests Approved by Accreditation Committee

A new document offering guidelines for validating PCR tests has been reviewed and approved by the AAVLD Accreditation Committee. The document entitled "Guidelines for Development and Performance of PCR Assays In Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories" can be found [here](#)

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### Excerpt:

*Development of novel PCR-based assays is often required of laboratories for a variety of applications. The guidelines are meant to provide a template to assist the development process from initial assessment of need and intended use to implementation. No attempt has been made to provide performance benchmarks, as assays are required for a wide variety of needs, from detection of nucleic acid in clinical samples to typing of bacterial or viral isolates. It is the responsibility of the individual developing the assay to establish acceptable assay characteristics fit for the intended use of the assay.*

*Use of these guidelines will facilitate evaluation of assay performance between labs and allow independent assessment and comparison of assay characteristics when published.*

*This document is not intended to be a review of assay validation principles. A comprehensive discussion of assay validation can be found in references provided at the end of this document.*

Jim Kistler, IOM, CAE

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**117th USAHA/ 56th AAVLD Annual Meeting**  
Town and Country Hotel  
San Diego CA  
**Pre-Registration is Closed So Plan To Register Onsite !**

The 2013 USAHA-AAVLD Annual Meeting is just a couple weeks away - make plans to attend this year's premier forum for animal health. This year we return to the friendly Town and Country Hotel in beautiful San Diego, California.

The USAHA and AAVLD programs are ready, including AAVLD's Plenary and scientific sessions as well as committee sessions that will bring together the latest in regulatory and scientific developments on a broad range of animal health and diagnostic related topics.

\*\*\*\*\*  
*The USAHA-AAVLD Joint Plenary Session on Monday, October 21 is entitled "Vaccines: 100 Years of Virus Serum Toxin Act and Beyond." Detailed presentations of this session will include:*

- Hog cholera: the need for the Virus Serum Toxin Act (VSTA)
- The economics of vaccination: why do we vaccinate?
- Current technologies in vaccines
- Autogenous vaccines: isn't this why VSTA was established?
- Gap analysis for high consequence diseases
- Future of vaccines: beyond existing regulatory diseases

AAVLD features our Plenary Session on Saturday, October 19, under the theme of "Getting Ahead of the Ball: Diagnostic Adaptation in a Global Health Community".

The AAVLD Technology Committee will present "Basic Bioinformatics for Developing and Monitoring PCR Assays" in a pre-conference half day symposium.

Another pre-conference presentation - Staying Alive - will investigate the challenges laboratories face in this economy.

Finally, don't forget the multiple scientific presentations to take place Saturday and Sunday in addition to posters and exhibits.

\*\*\*\*\*

Look for more information on the complete program details at [www.aavld.org/annual-meeting](http://www.aavld.org/annual-meeting).

Registration:

Registration is available onsite prior to and during the meeting.

See you in San Diego!

Jim Kistler, IOM, CAE  
Executive Director

## What is USDA Doing to Protect our Nation's Livestock from Foreign Animal Disease Threats?

Posted by Sandra Avant, Public Affairs Specialist,  
USDA, Agricultural Research Service  
USDA Press Release

September 25, 2013

On an island off the northeastern tip of Long Island, N.Y., U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) scientists are doing their part to safeguard the U.S. food supply.

At the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, a USDA research team works to ensure that we're prepared to protect ourselves against exotic animal diseases that threaten livestock production in the United States and around the world. The center, now operated by the Department of Homeland Security, offers a safe and secure site for developing vaccines, diagnostic tests and other technology to help prevent animal disease outbreaks, and to respond to outbreaks that might occur.

USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists at Plum Island investigate infectious diseases such as classical swine fever and foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). Recently, they renewed efforts to help combat African swine fever, a deadly pig disease that's invading other countries.

When research began on Plum Island nearly 60 years ago, the main focus was to detect and prevent FMD, which only affects cloven (or divided) hooved animals such as cattle, swine, goats and sheep. Considered the most economically devastating livestock disease in the world, FMD was eradicated from the United States in 1929, but it remains in other countries and is spreading. While FMD is a serious animal disease, it is not a food safety or public health threat. And even though FMD is not a public health threat or a food safety concern, USDA remains focused on ensuring the disease does not reach our shores so that our Nation continues to provide consumers worldwide with an affordable and steady meat and milk supply.

Great progress has been made in understanding how FMD and other viruses function-how they infect livestock and how the animal's immune system responds against infections. ARS scientists were the first to identify the primary site-certain cells in the back of the cow's throat-where the FMD virus infection begins in cattle.

They also have developed different vaccine delivery techniques-one for pigs and one for cattle-that protect animals from FMD virus until their vaccinations take effect. In addition, a novel technology that allows safe production of FMD vaccine in the United States is under development by a private company.

These are just a few examples the important research being undertaken by ARS scientists at Plum Island. ARS scientists are making important

discoveries, while working with their counterparts in industry, international and U.S. government agencies, to help prepare for an emergency that could result from a foreign animal disease outbreak. To learn more, be sure to check out the October 2013 edition of Agricultural Research magazine for a feature story on what ARS researchers are doing to guard our country against foreign animal diseases-available online next week at:

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/>.

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/nyb893y>

## Farm bill talks may be headed into overtime *[edited]*

By Christine Souza  
Sierra Sun Timies

September 25, 2013

As farmers work to complete this season's harvest and begin making decisions and purchases for 2014 crops, they're also paying attention to the ongoing farm bill debate in the U.S. Congress.

Both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives are expected to name members of a farm bill conference committee, now that the House has completed its farm bill package. The House approved a three-year nutrition bill last week on a partisan, 217-210 vote. The legislation by Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., would cut \$39 billion during 10 years from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or food stamps.

The naming of conferees would begin the formal process of reconciling differences among three bills passed by the House and Senate. The nutrition-only bill adopted by the House last week complements a farm program bill it adopted in July. The Senate passed a comprehensive farm bill in June.

Rayne Pegg, manager of the California Farm Bureau Federation Federal Policy Division-who was in Washington, D.C., last week advocating on behalf of California farmers and ranchers-said it is important for both houses to select conferees quickly, so they can negotiate a final farm bill that the president will sign.

However, Pegg said she believes a conference between the two houses is highly unlikely prior to Sept. 30. That's when the 2008 Farm Bill-extended last year by Congress-is due to expire.

Finalizing a farm bill remains important, Pegg said, describing the measure as an economic stimulus bill that creates jobs and helps small businesses and rural communities. The farm bill contains key programs important to California agriculture, she said, including programs that enhance the environment and protect crops and livestock from invasive pests and diseases.

"The new farm bill must include programs to help farmers and ranchers implement projects to meet federal, state and local air-quality regulations," Pegg said. "The farm bill must allow managed grazing on Conservation Reserve Program land, in accordance with a conservation plan. It's crucial that the bill assure funding for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network

and for plant pest and disease prevention programs."

Full text: <http://tinyurl.com/m96sfbt>

## Interdisciplinary cooperation hopes to achieve "One Health"

Texas A&M Extension  
Drovers CattleNetwork.com

August 30, 2013

"One Health" is a growing movement at Texas A&M which strives to unite the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment using transdisciplinary research, education and outreach.

"I walk by and read that every day, and it reminds me how we must all come together if we're going to solve society's greatest problems," says Michael Chaddock, assistant dean for One Health and Strategic Initiatives within Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. "Whether it's global food security, climate change, infectious diseases or the availability of clean water, it's going to take people from every area of study to tackle these issues."

This spirit of collaboration is driving the One Health movement forward at Texas A&M, where students and faculty from every discipline - from engineering and science, to business, liberal arts and medicine - are being encouraged to join forces to achieve optimal health globally for all residents of planet Earth.

Full text: <http://tinyurl.com/mq3uhdp>

## AAVLD Foundation Auction 2013 Annual Meeting

### **AAVLD Foundation Auction Presidents Reception**

**FRIDAY, October 18, 2013**

#### **2013 Highlights**

- Graduate student trainee travel awards increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500 each to more fully pay for travel costs. Same number of total graduate student trainee travel awards as 2011 and 2012 (9-11 depending upon applicant pool).

- CPCVM total funding increased 50% (from \$4,000 to \$6,000) to increase number of DVM students attending the meeting.

**How to participate:**

- Donate an item(s) of at least \$50 value
- Email Reda Ozuna at the AAVLD Secretary-Treasurer's office - [rozuna@cahfs.ucdavis.edu](mailto:rozuna@cahfs.ucdavis.edu) and include:
  - 1) name of item(s)
  - 2) picture of item(s) (PDF or JPEG format)
  - 3) value of donation for bidding purposes
- Ship item(s) directly to the hotel to arrive between October 15-19, 2013

**Donation Suggestions:**

Hand-made Items  
Art  
Gift Certificates  
Adventure, Travel, Spa packages  
Gift Baskets

**Shipping Address:**

AAVLD Meeting  
Attn: Reda Ozuna  
c/o Town & Country Hotel  
500 Hotel Circle North  
San Diego, CA. 92108

*Come join the fun and help recruit the next generation of veterinary lab diagnosticians.*

Jim Kistler, IOM, CAE  
Executive Director

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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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