

NDAES Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Mission: To provide reliable testing and diagnostic support services to veterinarians, producers, animal owners and the public health sector.

Overview: The full-service laboratory is accredited for all species by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (ISO 17025 equivalent) through 2022. It is a level II USDA National Animal Health Laboratory Network Laboratory and a member laboratory of FDA's Veterinary Laboratory Investigation and Response Network.

The laboratory has just completed its second year in the new facility, which was recently renamed in honor of former Sen. Bill Bowman. The facility is functioning well and has significantly increased the testing capacity of the laboratory which offers more than 170 different tests.

Staffing: 5 - board certified veterinary specialists (DVM), 15 - BS, MS, PhD level technical staff, 3 - BS level part-time technical staff

Laboratory testing information (2018):

Cases submitted: 12,579

Total tests: 118,600 (**60 % increase from 2016**)

- 1,316 Necropsies/Cause of death investigations
- 2,714 Toxicology submissions
- 6,234 Bacterial cultures
- 1,285 Antibiotic sensitivity panels

Opportunities: The laboratory produces a tremendous amount of field derived, valuable data from running over 118,000 tests and examinations but lacks an extension veterinary epidemiologist to analyze, interpret and disseminate evidence-based information to animal producers and the public.

Examples of data:

- Antibiotic resistance patterns and effectiveness of therapy
- Changes in incidence of diseases or disease agents
- Newly emerging diseases
- Changes in water quality
- Changes in fungal toxin type or quantity in feed
- Nutrition challenges

Value: Extension programs to disseminate information and recommendations, relevant to specific areas of the state, will help veterinarians, producers and animal owners to make evidence-based decisions regarding management practices and positively impact animal and human health in ND.

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