



MISSION

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

OBJECTIVES

- Conduct diagnostic tests as an AAVLD accredited full-service laboratory.
- Test for foreign animal diseases as a participant in the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN).
- Provide public health services by performing tests for rabies and other zoonotic diseases.
- Bridge the “Great Divide” (research to clinical applications) by providing diagnostic services to ND researchers.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- NDSU VDL performed over 35,000 tests on 12,351 cases submitted last year – primarily to determine cause of livestock disease and death loss for ND producers.
- Diagnosticians conducted testing for high consequence diseases such as rabies, anthrax, tularemia, and high path avian influenza.
- Toxicology unit, specialized in livestock species, developed assays to detect mycotoxins, ergot, blister beetle toxin, and bromethalin in animal feed or tissues.
- Microbiologists continued to be at the forefront of standardizing antimicrobial sensitivity testing and interpretation in veterinary species.
- Laboratory Director recognized for service to ND producers and veterinarians with the NDVMA Veterinarian of the Year award.
- Received national award for energy efficient building design through ASHRAE.

CHALLENGES

- No school of veterinary medicine associated with ND from which to recruit veterinary specialists.
- Current veterinary toxicologist is nearing retirement age; however, there are too few trainees to recruit to ND to fill the position.
 - ND will be without a veterinary toxicologist within the next five years.
- There is no veterinary epidemiologist in the state devoted solely to disease surveillance, response, and prevention.
 - An epidemiologist will help minimize the effects of foreign and endemic animal diseases in ND flocks and herds.

SOLUTIONS

- Identify a regional veterinarian with a toxicology interest to train in veterinary toxicology under the boarded toxicologist before retirement. The NDSU VDL has been using this model to train the current veterinary pathology resident.
- Recruit a local veterinarian with an epidemiology interest. The veterinary epidemiologist will investigate disease outbreaks and work closely with Extension agents to disseminate important disease information to producers and the public.

NDSU VDL SBARE REQUESTS

**(1) 1.0 FTE temporary AES
veterinary toxicology resident
(three-year position)**

**(2) 1.0 FTE permanent AES
veterinary epidemiologist**