

Animal Diagnostic Lab
Suggestions to the Long Range Planning Committee

Findings:

1. The AVALD Audit implies that current laboratory facilities and equipment may not be viable for the long term under existing financial conditions.
2. Laboratory Fees lack oversight to determine if they cover costs of operation plus test costs.
3. Management of operation ultimately lies with Executive Officer and the Board of Livestock.
4. Current funding sources may not be sufficient in the future.
5. Veterinary laboratories are considered Critical Infrastructure as designated by Homeland Security.
6. In state veterinary AAVLD/NAHLN laboratories are critical for Foreign Animal Disease response directed by the state veterinarian and in cooperation with USDA:APHIS: Veterinary Services to speed up the return to business by the livestock industry.

Recommendations:

Facility:

1. Board of Livestock and industry appoint an advisory committee made up of stakeholders including but not limited to; livestock producers, veterinarians, potential partners (MSU, FWP, Wool Lab, etc.).
 - a. Advisory committee role is to assess facility options, provided by the DOL.
2. Executive Officer develops a plan that includes options for facility. Options should include accurate information on cost of facility, operational cost and how facility meets regulatory requirements. Options should include assessment of; no action, closing lab, developing a lab that meets basic regulatory requirements as well as developing private and institutional partnerships. Options should be scalable to finances available.

Operations:

1. Executive Officer and Laboratory Administrator institute study of lab fees to determine whether or not fees cover all costs of operation and testing.
2. Investigate other sources of funding, including but not limited to; Federal grants, APHIS, CDC and Homeland security.
3. Investigate economics and practicality of outsourcing lab tests.
4. Survey states without state labs to ascertain how they deal with disease outbreaks and regulatory testing.
5. The Board of Livestock should appoint one member to oversee a laboratory stakeholder advisory group.
6. The Board of Livestock should consider hiring a full or half-time lab administrator whose sole purpose to run the lab as a business and who does not have any clinical duties. i.e. the New Mexico veterinary lab is a living example.