OIE Reference Laboratory Reports Activities

Activities in 2020

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Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated OIE Reference Laboratory:	Newcastle disease
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Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):	Dr. Suelee Robbe-Austerman, Director, National Veterinary Services Laboratories, DB, VS, APHIS, USDA
Name (including Title and Position) of OIE Reference Expert:	Dr. Mia Torchetti, Director, Diagnostic Virology Laboratory, National Veterinary Services Laboratories, DB, VS, APHIS, USDA
Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply:	Governmental

ToR 1: To use, promote and disseminate diagnostic methods validated according to OIE Standards

1. Did your laboratory perform diagnostic tests for the specified disease/topic for purposes such as disease diagnosis, screening of animals for export, surveillance, etc.? (Not for quality control, proficiency testing or staff training)

Yes

Diagnostic Test	Indicated in OIE Manual (Yes/No)	Total number of test performed last year	
Indirect diagnostic tests		Nationally	Internationally
Hemagglutination-inhibition (HI) antibody identification (APMV-1)	yes	0	0
Direct diagnostic tests		Nationally	Internationally
Real-time RT-PCR (matrix, fusion)	yes	1,110	0
Virus Isolation (positive/total samples)	yes	278/4,017	0
Molecular pathotype (Sanger)	yes	317	0
In vivo pathotype (ICPI)	yes	52	0
Whole genome sequencing	yes	460	0

ToR 2: To develop reference material in accordance with OIE requirements, and implement and promote the application of OIE Standards.
To store and distribute to national laboratories biological reference products and any other reagents used in the diagnosis and control of the designated pathogens or disease.

2. Did your laboratory produce or supply imported standard reference reagents officially recognised by the OIE?

No

3. Did your laboratory supply standard reference reagents (non OIE-approved) and/or other diagnostic reagents to OIE Member Countries?

Yes

Type of reagent available	Related diagnostic test	Produced/ provide	Amount supplied nationally (ml, mg)	Amount supplied internationally (ml, mg)	No. of recipient OIE Member Countries	Region of recipients
Reference antigen	HI	both	12	40	2	☐Africa ☒Americas ☐Asia and Pacific ☐Europe ☐Middle East
Reference antisera	HI	both	8	40	2	☐Africa ☒Americas ☐Asia and Pacific ☐Europe ☐Middle East
Positive amplification controls	rRT-PCR	both	1	0.5	3	☐Africa ☒Americas ☐Asia and Pacific ☐Europe ☐Middle East
Positive extraction control	rRT-PCR	both	0	0	0	☐Africa ☐Americas ☐Asia and Pacific ☐Europe ☐Middle East
Proficiency test panels	rRT-PCR	both	0	0	0	☐Africa ☐Americas ☐Asia and Pacific ☐Europe ☐Middle East

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

No

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to OIE Member Countries?

No

ToR 3: To develop, standardise and validate, according to OIE Standards, new procedures for diagnosis and control of the designated pathogens or diseases

6. Did your laboratory develop new diagnostic methods validated according to OIE Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

7. Did your laboratory develop new vaccines according to OIE Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

ToR 4: To provide diagnostic testing facilities, and, where appropriate, scientific and technical advice on disease control measures to OIE Member Countries

8. Did your laboratory carry out diagnostic testing for other OIE Member Countries?

No

9. Did your laboratory provide expert advice in technical consultancies on the request of an OIE Member Country?

No

ToR 5: To carry out and/or coordinate scientific and technical studies in collaboration with other laboratories, centres or organisations

10. Did your laboratory participate in international scientific studies in collaboration with OIE Member Countries other than the own?

No

ToR 6: To collect, process, analyse, publish and disseminate epizootiological data relevant to the designated pathogens or diseases

11. Did your Laboratory collect epizootiological data relevant to international disease control?

Yes

If the answer is yes, please provide details of the data collected:
USDA-APHIS (2020). Epidemiologic and other analyses of avian influenza affected poultry flocks: July 21, 2020 Report. United States Department of Agriculture: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: Veterinary Services: Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health. Fort Collins, CO. pgs. 56

12. Did your laboratory disseminate epizootiological data that had been processed and analysed?

Yes

If the answer is yes, please provide details of the data collected:
USDA-APHIS (2020). Epidemiologic and other analyses of avian influenza affected poultry flocks: July 21, 2020 Report. United States Department of Agriculture: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service: Veterinary Services: Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health. Fort Collins, CO. pgs. 56

13. What method of dissemination of information is most often used by your laboratory? (Indicate in the appropriate box the number by category)

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals: 2

b) International conferences: 4

c) National conferences: 1
February 19-20 2020: Live Bird Market (LBM) Meeting
March 2020: National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) workshop
October 2020: VIRTUAL United States Animal Health Association and American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians Annual Meeting

d) Other:
(Provide website address or link to appropriate information) 3
USDA-APHIS (2020). “Epidemiologic Analyses of Virulent Newcastle Disease in Poultry in California.” USDA:APHIS:VS:Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health. Fort Collins, CO. in preparation

ToR 7: To provide scientific and technical training for personnel from OIE Member Countries
To recommend the prescribed and alternative tests or vaccines as OIE Standards

14. Did your laboratory provide scientific and technical training to laboratory personnel from other OIE Member Countries?

Yes

a) Technical visits: 1
b) Seminars: 0
c) Hands-on training courses: 0
d) Internships (>1 month): 0

Type of technical training provided (a, b, c or d)	Country of origin of the expert(s) provided with training	No. participants from the corresponding country
a: VIRTUAL Assessment and Support of Molecular Diagnostic Testing for Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease with the national reference laboratory in Chile (Servicio Agricola y Ganadero, SAG – Agricultural and Livestock Service)	Chile	6

ToR 8: To maintain a system of quality assurance, biosafety and biosecurity relevant for the pathogen and the disease concerned

15. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System?

Yes

Quality management system adopted	Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)
ISO 17025 Biological Testing	2020 A2LA Accreditation Certificate.pdf

16. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
Hemagglutination-inhibition	American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)
Real-time RT-PCR	A2LA
Virus Isolation	A2LA
In vivo pathogenicity assay	A2LA

17. Does your laboratory maintain a “biorisk management system” for the pathogen and the disease concerned?

Yes

(See Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals, Chapter 1.1.4)

ToR 9: To organise and participate in scientific meetings on behalf of the OIE

18. Did your laboratory organise scientific meetings on behalf of the OIE?

No

19. Did your laboratory participate in scientific meetings on behalf of the OIE?

No

ToR 10: To establish and maintain a network with other OIE Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease and organise regular inter-laboratory proficiency testing to ensure comparability of results

20. Did your laboratory exchange information with other OIE Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease?

Yes

21. Was your laboratory involved in maintaining a network with OIE Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease by organising or participating in proficiency tests?

No

22. Did your laboratory collaborate with other OIE Reference Laboratories for the same disease on scientific research projects for the diagnosis or control of the pathogen of interest?

Yes

Title of the project or contract	Scope	Name(s) of relevant OIE Reference Laboratories
Studies in Poultry Transmission, Airborne Spread and Mitigation Tools for Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease in the USA	Interagency agreement	USDA ARS National Poultry Center Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory

ToR 11: To organise inter-laboratory proficiency testing with laboratories other than OIE Reference Laboratories for the same pathogens and diseases to ensure equivalence of results

23. Did your laboratory organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with laboratories other than OIE Reference Laboratories for the same disease?

Yes

Note: See Interlaboratory test comparisons in: Laboratory Proficiency Testing at: http://www.oie.int/en/our-scientific-expertise/reference-laboratories/proficiency-testing see point 1.3

Purpose for inter-laboratory test comparisons[1]	No. participating laboratories	Region(s) of participating OIE Member Countries
Administered by NVSL and required to conduct official testing in the U.S.; shipped internationally by request	58	☐Africa ☒Americas ☐Asia and Pacific ☐Europe ☐Middle East

ToR 12: To place expert consultants at the disposal of the OIE

24. Did your laboratory place expert consultants at the disposal of the OIE?

No

25. Additional comments regarding your report:

The Diagnostic Virology Laboratory of the National Veterinary Services Laboratories is undergoing restructuring and will be identifying new subject matter experts. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted national and international laboratory activities and sample receipt.
The vNDV (genotype Vb) event that started on 17 May 2018 was closed in June 2020. Refer to USDA APHIS Newcastle disease page at https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/virulent-newcastle/vnd