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:	Anthrax
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E-mail address:	ginger.r.harvey@usda.gov
Website:	www.aphis.usda.gov/nvsl
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:	Ginger Harvey, Microbiologist, 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
none	0	0	0
Direct diagnostic tests		Nationally	Internationally
Bacteriological Cultur	Yes	13	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
Gamma phage	Gamma phage lysis	Produced	12	3	2	☐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?

Yes

Name of the OIE Member Country receiving a technical consultancy	Purpose	How the advice was provided
VIETNAM	Provided procedures for the isolation and identification of Bacillus anthracis.	E-mail
ARGENTINA	Discussion of primers and probes for the detection of Bacillus anthracis along with the use of internal controls.	E-mail
SPAIN	Discussion of attenuated strains of Bacillus anthracis.	E-mail
UZBEKISTAN	Discussion of alternatives to animal testing to confirm the identity of Bacillus anthracis.	E-mail
UNITED KINGDOM	Discussion of field tests for the detection of Bacillus anthracis.	E-mail
ALBANIA	Provided a source for a proficiency test for Bacillus anthracis.	E-mail
ITALY	Provided procedures for the isolation and identification of Bacillus anthracis.	E-mail

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?

No

If the answer is no, please provide a brief explanation of the situation:
Anthrax is a well-controlled disease within the United States. Each state within the United States is responsible for collecting, analyzing and distributing their own data.

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

No

If the answer is no, please provide a brief explanation of the situation:
Each state within the United States are responsible for analyzing and distributing their own data.

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: 0

b) International conferences: 0

c) National conferences: 0

d) Other:
(Provide website address or link to appropriate information) 1
Correspondence through contact information listed on the OIE or NVSL website.

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?

No

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	Testing ISO 17025.pdf

16. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
Biochemical Testing	A2LA
Microscopic Examination (staining)	A2LA
Solid Media (various)	A2LA
Antibiotic Susceptibility	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?

No

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?

No

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

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 National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) has shown a lack of international diagnostic activity and/or production and supply of reference material. Attempts were made this past year to increase our visibility and begin a Laboratory Twinning with Canada, but plans were thwarted by COVID. Diagnostics and provision of reagents within the United States were also low due to the complete halt and then slow movement of both animals and shipment of reagents and diagnostic samples for several months this past year.