RESOLUTION NUMBER: 14   APPROVED

SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON SWINE**

SUBJECT MATTER: **State Animal Health Official and Submitting Veterinary Diagnostic Lab Access to Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Records Reported from the National Animal Health Laboratory Network Labs and the National Veterinary Services Laboratory to the United States Department of Agriculture's Laboratory Messaging Service**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Laboratory Messaging Service (LMS) is a database application that serves as the centralized point of receipt for electronic veterinary diagnostic records being reported from National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) labs to the USDA. LMS also receives test results being reported from cases forwarded from NAHLN labs to the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for further diagnostic testing. Significant advances have been made in the NAHLN's ability to electronically transfer (message) veterinary diagnostic records from NAHLN labs and NVSL to LMS. These stepwise improvements in connectivity between veterinary diagnostic laboratories (VDLs) and USDA represent great progress towards establishing seamless and scalable systems of reportable disease veterinary diagnostic information transfer between United States VDLs and veterinary medical officials. However, USDA does not currently have an effective application for providing State Animal Health Officials (SAHOs) electronic access to the VDL records received into LMS that have originated from animals or farm sites in their respective States. Similarly, NAHLN labs do not have electronic access to diagnostic results from case submissions in which they forward onto NVSL for further testing. Permissioned access solutions are needed to bridge this gap in connectivity that exists between the USDA's LMS, SAHOs, and VDLs.

The USDA response to a previous resolution referred to USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services (VS) doing an assessment of 2016 capabilities and initial requirements. The response then included the intention to pilot test a State-based reporting solution to provide SAHOs with electronic access to veterinary diagnostic laboratory results that have been electronically reported to VS using the VS LMS during the spring of 2018. Pending the successful pilot, the web-based software would be fully deployed by October 1, 2018.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians encourage the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to:

1. Work with State Animal Health Officials (SAHOs) and industry to determine the requirements for a web-based reporting software solution and then develop an application that provides SAHOs electronic access to veterinary diagnostic laboratory records originating from animals or farm sites within their respective States that have been reported from National Animal Health Laboratory Network Labs or USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) to USDA's Laboratory Messaging Service;
2. Provide veterinary diagnostic laboratories electronic access to diagnostic results from case submissions which that same veterinary diagnostic laboratory has forwarded onto NVSL for further testing; and
3. Work with SAHOs and industry to ensure the full deployment of the web-based software solution resulting from the 2018 pilot project if the project meets the previously determined launch date of October 1, 2018.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association and appreciates the opportunity to respond. VS has assessed current capabilities and initial requirements to report collated testing data for official USDA testing conducted at National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratories to State Animal Health Officials (SAHOs) from animals or farm sites in their respective States. VS is working on internal prototypes for reporting Laboratory Messaging Service (LMS) test results to SAHOs. Once VS establishes prototypes using role-based security by State, VS will work with the NAHLN to finalize requirements and acceptance of products that will provide LMS lab results to SAHOs and labs. VS will conduct a pilot project to deploy secure State-based dashboards to laboratories in spring 2018. The dashboards will include State-specific LMS data. Pending results of the pilot project and successful deployment of the software into a production environment, VS would plan a roll-out of this reporting solution to the States by the end of fiscal year 2018.