UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2026 Resolution

130th Annual Meeting
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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 10 APPROVED

Source: **JOINT COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

SUBJECT MATTER: **Eligibility for all National Animal Health Laboratory Network Approved and American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians Accredited Laboratories to Apply for United States Department of Agriculture National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program funding opportunities**

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) strongly urge the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), to ensure that advancements in diagnostic capabilities and diagnostic laboratory readiness remain foundational components of United States animal health preparedness and response. Therefore, USAHA and AAVLD urge USDA-APHIS-VS to include all National Animal Health Laboratory Network-approved and AAVLD-accredited laboratories, including state and university laboratories, as entities eligible to submit project proposals for consideration under annual competitive funding opportunities by:

1. Maintaining the eligibility criteria from the 2018 Farm Bill National Animal Disease Preparedness Response Plan (NADPRP) funding opportunity to include land-grant universities and other entities eligible to receive funds under a capacity and infrastructure program, as defined in section 251(f)(1)(C) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 United States Code 6971(f)(1)(C)). This includes entities eligible for National Institute of Food and Agriculture federal assistance programs; and/or

2. Providing laboratory-specific priority funding opportunities for projects that advance diagnostic preparedness and response activities; and/or

3. Allowing laboratory-specific projects to be submitted for consideration under the noncompetitive components of the 2026–2027 NADPRP funding opportunity, including ad hoc projects, USDA-APHIS-led projects, and the continuation of past or existing projects.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The 2018 Farm Bill authorized $120 million in mandatory funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 through FY2022 for three programs: the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP), the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN), and the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank (NAVVCB), of which $5 million was reserved for NADPRP. In FY2023 and each fiscal year thereafter, the 2018 Farm Bill provided $30 million in mandatory funding for the three animal health programs, with no less than $18 million designated for NADPRP. Additionally, the 2018 Farm Bill authorized appropriations of $30 million annually for NAHLN from FY2019 through FY2022 and authorized such sums as necessary for NADPRP and NAVVCB through FY2023. The 2018 Farm Bill expired in September 2023 and was extended twice through FY2025.

Working with cooperators, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has leveraged this funding to establish these three programs as critical components of efforts to safeguard United States (US) animal health and strengthen the nation's capabilities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to animal disease outbreaks through a multifaceted approach. Since FY2020, NADPRP has provided nearly $70 million to federal, state, Tribal, university, veterinary association, and industry entities to fund projects supporting animal disease traceability and movement, biosecurity, depopulation, disposal and disinfection, outreach and education, training and exercises, and state and Tribal preparedness, as well as commodity-specific projects involving aquaculture, equine, and sheep and goat vaccines.

The NAHLN, comprising 65 university, state, and federal laboratories, plays a vital role in protecting US livestock, wildlife, and public health by providing rapid diagnostic testing, early disease detection, and surge capacity during foreign animal disease outbreaks, routine national surveillance activities, and public health emergencies. Since FY2020, 104 NAHLN-specific projects, totaling $22 million, have been funded through Farm Bill funds, demonstrating the crucial role veterinary diagnostic laboratories play in supporting preparedness and response. These projects have included test method development and validation; advancements in information technology standardization, electronic messaging, and data management; increased capacity for disease testing and surge sample handling; and overall enhancements to laboratory emergency preparedness.

Beginning in FY2026, the One Big Beautiful Bill provides an approximately eightfold increase in annual funding for these three programs, totaling $233 million: $153 million per year for NAVVCB, $70 million per year for NADPRP, and $10 million per year for NAHLN. In late 2025, USDA hosted listening sessions to gather stakeholder input on how the new funds should be used to strengthen national, regional, and local capabilities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to animal disease outbreaks. One common theme expressed by stakeholders was the need to ensure coordination between the NADPRP and NAHLN Farm Bill programs to advance diagnostic capabilities and laboratory preparedness.

In FY2026, the $10 million for NAHLN was distributed among member laboratories as part of the annual infrastructure agreements that support NAHLN laboratories' operational expenses, resulting in a moderate increase in funding (e.g., 16% for Level 1 laboratories). Diagnostic

laboratories have experienced significant increases in the costs of equipment, supplies, reagents, service contracts, and staffing. The network appreciates this increase, which is critical to addressing the continually rising costs of daily laboratory operations. However, $10 million of the total $233 million represents only 4.3% of the funding available for laboratory preparedness and response activities. Excluding the $153 million designated for NAVVCB, the $10 million allocated to NAHLN represents 12.5% of the remaining $80 million.

Limiting eligible entities under NADPRP to state, regional, and industry applicants that may subaward funds to certain NAHLN-approved and American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians-accredited laboratories raises concerns about inefficiencies because institution-mandated indirect costs could potentially increase the overall cost of projects. This approach also presents practical challenges because some state animal health and industry organizations may lack the resources, capacity, and infrastructure necessary to manage multiple subawards under large agreements. Conversely, universities have established capabilities, systems, and staff to manage such agreements.