

# WVDL Winter Newsletter

January 2024

---



## Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

---

### WVDL Holiday Closure for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

WVDL (both Madison and Barron locations) will be closed this coming Monday, January 15, 2024, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. Please plan accordingly for this interruption in shipping and testing. There will be no sample receiving or testing on Monday (1/15/2024). Regular business will resume Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

# MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. *Day*



---

## Message from the Director

We hope that 2024 has gotten off to a good start for all of you and, if you are located in Wisconsin, you are enjoying the more winter-like weather. Thank you for taking the time to read our quarterly newsletter. We have a lot to share and welcome your feedback about sample submission, current findings, trends, and changes to WVDL workflow. Our goal is to make sure you have the best possible results with the shortest turnaround times.



I would like to introduce Laura Zitur, our new Chief Operating Officer. Laura comes to WVDL from the School of Medicine and Public Health Department of Anesthesia with an extensive science and leadership background. We are very excited to have Laura on our team!

At the December WVDL Board of Director's meeting, we approved a 3.5% testing fee increase for fiscal year 2025, which starts on July 1, 2024. There are several components that are assessed prior to implementation of fee changes, such as pay plan/salary, consumables, and test kit costs. We will review and analyze these prior to the start of the fiscal year and will report back if any changes are required.

We are wrapping up our work with Danelle Bickett-Weddle (Preventalytics), Darlene Konkle (Wisconsin State Veterinarian), Kurt Grakowski (DATCP), Charlie Brown (URUS), Ailam Lim, and myself from WVDL on the Bovine Germplasm Movement Plan (BGMP). The BGMP is a guidance document for continuity of business for US bovine genetics industry in the event of a foot and mouth disease outbreak and it will be housed on the Secure Beef Supply and Secure Milk Supply website. We appreciate all the help from our clients, colleagues, and stakeholders to formulate the BGMP.

We are looking forward to working with you in 2024!

Keith

---

## In The News...

### WVMA Panelist Discussion - Atypical Canine Respiratory Disease



The Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association (WVMA) Online Learning Seminars kicked off the new year with a timely topic with a panel of animal health experts. The discussion moderated by the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory focused on the emergence of Atypical Canine Respiratory Disease in Wisconsin. Experts from WVDL & UW School of Veterinary Medicine shared information and lab findings over the past several months as well as information from discussions at the national level. To view this seminar visit: <https://wvma.org/product/atypical-canine-respiratory-disease/#:~:text=Join%20the%20discussion%20moderated%20by,quickly%20spreading%20around%20the%20country.>

---

## Bacteriology

### Changes to the price for the Combination Test of *Campylobacter fetus* subspecies *venerealis* culture and *Tritrichomonas foetus* culture

Starting **March 1, 2024**, the WVDL will be updating the cost of the combination test which includes *Campylobacter fetus* subspecies *venerealis* culture and *Tritrichomonas foetus* culture from \$23.12 to \$25.82 to reflect the increased cost of supplies needed for the culture of *C. fetus venerealis* culture. The cost of the individual cultures will remain the same, which is currently listed as the *C. fetus venerealis* culture at \$17.41 and the *T. foetus* culture and direct observation at \$8.41. The change in pricing only affects the combination testing for *C. fetus venerealis* and *T. foetus* cultures.

---

# Molecular Diagnostics

## **Tritrichomonas foetus PCR Sampling Update**

WVDL has implemented a new *Tritrichomonas foetus* PCR assay in September, 2023, which has eliminated the pre-PCR overnight culture requirement, thus samples can be submitted in 1.5 mls of saline or Lactated Ringer's solution for PCR testing. The traditional TF InPouch™ can still be used, but is not required. Please see more information on proper collection and shipping of these samples to WVDL [here](#).

## **Bluetongue virus and Epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus PCR panel**

Beginning January 1, 2024, the Molecular Diagnostics section has instituted a Bluetongue virus (BTV) and Epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus (EHDV) PCR panel. BTV and EHDV can be carried by the same vector and can cause hemorrhagic disease which is clinically undistinguishable. Diagnostic testing is essential to distinguish BTV and EHDV infection. This panel assay is now run on Wednesdays and Fridays, with results available within 24 hours. For sample types, please submit 5-7 ml of blood in an EDTA test tube, tissue, or fluid from scabs, erosion, vesicular lesions. Fresh tissues are preferable to frozen. Swabs must be submitted in viral transport media. Detailed test and fee information can be found on the WVDL website:

<https://custportal.wvdl.wisc.edu/testFeeList.jsp>.

---

## Pathology

### **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza virus H5N1 Found in Wildlife Mammals**

WVDL pathologist Dr. Betsy Elsmo and Virology section head Dr. Ailam Lim were co-authors on a recent Emerging Infectious Disease manuscript detailing findings in wild mammals naturally infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza virus H5N1.

This investigation developed out of collaboration co-authors Erin Lemley, CVT and Dr. Shawna Hawkins of the UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine and the Dane County Humane Society Wildlife Center.

Reach the article here: [https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/29/12/23-0464\\_article](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/29/12/23-0464_article)

or listen to a podcast about the topic here:

<https://tools.cdc.gov/medialibrary/index.aspx#/media/id/740678>

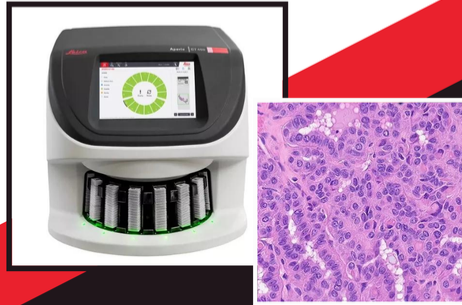


### **WVDL Offering Digital Slide Scanning Services**

Contact WVDL today for more information on this NEW SERVICE!

# NEW SERVICE

## Digital Slide Scanning



- \$15/slide
- High resolution scans at 40x
- Access to eSlide database for two months\*
- Secure data management
- Aids in remote work, consultations, images for publishing, storage solutions, etc.

Contact us for more info today!

Info@wvdl.wisc.edu

### Multi-drug resistant *Salmonella* ser. Dublin cultured from cryopreserved Holstein semen

Recently the UW School of Veterinary Medicine and WVDL collaborated to publish a report which outlines a case of a clinically healthy, mature Holstein bull found to be shedding multi-drug resistant (MDR) *Salmonella* ser. Dublin in his semen. To the authors' knowledge, this is the first report of *Salmonella* ser. Dublin being isolated from the male reproductive tract and cryopreserved bovine semen in the United States. To read about this clinical case report please visit:

<https://bvajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/vrc2.791#:~:text=their%20reproductive%20tract,-,Salmonella%20ser.,insemination%20in%20the%20United%20States.>

---

## Serology & Dairy Product Testing

### Barron Laboratory

#### EIA Testing Season Is Just Around The Corner

WVDL is preparing for yet another busy season of Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA; Coggins) testing. To ensure we are able to continue providing exceptional diagnostic services, we have provided updates and important information about testing in this correspondence.

**Updates to EIA Testing Services**

1. Official certificates can be expected within 72 hours of receipt at the Barron laboratory.
2. Testing services may be expedited with results available within 24 hours of receipt for an added fee. Please see the website for more information.
3. Submissions that do not meet USDA requirements and require clerical attention for processing will be charged an additional processing fee. Testing services may also be delayed.



### Helpful Hints for Frustration-Free EIA Testing

1. The only EIA/Coggins testing available is ELISA.
2. Please submit 1mL of serum, refrigerated and shipped on cold packs. Please note, hemolysed serum will be rejected.
3. Samples must be submitted with their completed submission form. Please note, the animal ID listed on the paperwork MUST match and be clearly identified on the serum sample.
4. Submitting Veterinarians MUST have a valid National Accreditation Number.
5. WVDL-Barron accepts 3 types of submission forms: the Official Federal VS10-11 form, as well as electronic forms via Global Vet Link and APHIS Veterinary Services Process Streaming (VSPS).

<https://www.wvdl.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Equine-Infectious-Anemia-EIA-Submissions-Frustration-Free-Equine-Infectious-Anemia-Testing.pdf>

Please feel free to call (715-637-3151) or email ([info@wvdl.wisc.edu](mailto:info@wvdl.wisc.edu)) us at any time for answers to your questions. More information can be found at: <https://www.wvdl.wisc.edu/index.php/equine-infectious-anemia-virus-eia-diagnostic-testing/>

### Update to Dairy Product Testing: Water is now accepted for Osmolality Testing

The ratio of milk replacer powder to water (% total solids) is very important when raising livestock, as high concentrations of powder can lead to delayed abomasal emptying, diarrhea, bloat, and sodium toxicity. Osmolality, measures the total solute concentration of an aqueous solution. It can be used as an indicator of a proper milk replacer to water ratio. Combining osmolality and % total solids testing is the best way to evaluate liquid feed diets that are fed to newborn animals. To provide further nutrition analysis, WVDL-Barron **has validated the testing of water, as a sample type, for Osmolality Testing** because water quality can vary substantially from farm to farm. Please contact WVDL if you have any questions.



## Virology

Serum Neutralization Titer Reporting

Beginning January 1, 2024, the Virology section has instituted standard serum neutralization titers. This will streamline testing and data entry into the LIM system. The standard titer cut-off for reporting of negative/positive results are listed below. Any samples with neutralizing antibodies at the cut-offs will be reported as a positive titer.

Serum Neutralization Assay	Cut off for titer reporting
Bovine herpesvirus-1 SN	1:2
Bovine herpesvirus-1 SN (OIE method)	1:4
Bovine viral diarrhea virus-1 & -2 SN	1:8
Epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus-1 & -2 SN	1:8
Vesicular stomatitis virus SN	1:32

### Bovine herpesvirus-1 ELISA Results Reporting

The Virology section has recently incorporated the optical density (OD) readings for bovine herpesvirus-1 cELISA assay in the LIMS report. The assay result interpretations remain unchanged. The OD readings are provided to aid clients in monitoring their animals, especially those with borderline (grey zone and high grey zone) results. The borderline results can be an indication of low-level antibodies (early infection) or high, non-specific background. For these animals, WVDL will utilize the Bovine herpesvirus-1 SN (OIE method) to differentiate the status.

### Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) Update

Unfortunately, HPAI continues to be a threat for WI poultry producers. Wild birds infected with HPAI can show no signs of illness and carry the disease to new locations when migrating. This fall, WVDL has identified 1 backyard flock and 6 commercial flocks in Wisconsin that were infected by the HPAI. A loss of close to 350,000 birds that had to be depopulated.



All bird owners should review their biosecurity procedures and continue to stay vigilant to protect poultry and pet birds from HPAI. **Any high increases in mortality or abnormal clinical signs should be reported to DATCP at (800) 572-8981.**

For your testing need, please use the avian submission form (can be found at: <https://www.wvdl.wisc.edu/forms/>) Please clearly check the box for which category of testing is requested. Use [AISubmissions@wvdl.wisc.edu](mailto:AISubmissions@wvdl.wisc.edu) when contacting WVDL about avian influenza questions and sample submissions.



### Contact US

*Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Providing You With  
Reliable Results and Exceptional Customer Service*

**Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory - Madison**  
445 Easterday Lane

Madison, WI 53706  
Phone: 608-262-5432  
Toll Free: 800-608-8387  
Fax: 608-504-2594

**Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory - Barron**

1521 E. Guy Avenue  
Barron, WI 54812  
Phone: 715-637-3151  
Toll Free: 800-771-8387  
Fax: 715-449-5052

**Email:** [info@wvdl.wisc.edu](mailto:info@wvdl.wisc.edu)

**Website:** <https://www.wvdl.wisc.edu/>

**Location:** [445 Easterday Lane, Madison, WI, USA](#)

**Phone:** [1.800.608.8387](tel:18006088387)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinVeterinaryDiagnosticLaboratory/>

**Twitter:** [@wvdl\\_lab](https://twitter.com/wvdl_lab)



**WVDL**

Please visit our website for more information: <https://www.wvdl.wisc.edu/>



Contact

Subscribe