As of 03 January 2011 I will be leaving the Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center and the School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work in the Veterinary Diagnostic Center and to work with the talented and dedicated faculty and staff. I will be assuming the position of Research Leader of the Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit in Manhattan, Kansas with the USDA ARS. I have enjoyed working with the clients of the Center and I have very much appreciated the opportunity to serve.

My best wishes to all, sincerely,

Scott
Scott McVey, DVM, PhD
Director, Veterinary Diagnostic Center

Change in Leadership

Dr. McVey recently accepted the position of Research Leader for the Arthropod-Borne Animal Diseases Research Unit, U.S. Department of Agriculture. We are sad to lose Dr. McVey, but wish him the very best in his new position. Dr. McVey has done an outstanding job leading the VDC during these difficult economic times. Under Dr. McVey’s leadership, full accreditation was re-established. He has been instrumental in the development of standard operating procedures that insures our users that report lab results are accurate and repeatable. He also played a key role in the development of the plan for a new diagnostic facility.

Dr. Al Doster will assume the responsibilities as the new Director of the VDC on January 3, 2011. Dr. Doster brings both leadership experience and diagnostic experience to the position. I am extremely confident that the high-quality service and quick turnaround time will continue under Dr. Doster’s leadership.
Brucellosis Serology Testing Update

As many of you know the Kansas State-Federal Brucellosis Laboratory is no longer performing routine Brucella testing. We have been preparing for this transition and are certified to perform the Standard Plate (SPT), Buffered Acidified Plate Antigen (BAPA), and Rivanol testing along with the card test which we have been doing for a while. We are also working with several other state veterinary diagnostic laboratories that can perform specific tests not done here, so that we can refer the testing if necessary.

Requirements for Brucellosis Serology testing:
1-2ml serum sent on ice packs
Completed Official Brucellosis Test Record (VS From 4-33)
Determine the testing requirements for the receiving location
If you have any questions or concerns regarding the regulations for exporting animals you should contact the APHIS-VS Area Office in the State from which the animals or products will be exported. (Nebraska State Veterinarian's office can be reached at 402-434-2304).

It is the referring veterinarian's responsibility to know the testing requirements for the receiving location.

Testing Cost
Card Test $1.00
BAPA Test $2.50
Standard Plate Test $2.50
Rivanol Test $3.00.

There will be a processing fee accessed to all Brucellosis samples forwarded to another lab as well as a $10 accessioning fee from our lab and any accessioning fees from the referral lab.

Please notify the Bacteriology lab at 402-472-8470 if sending in more than 100 samples to ensure there are enough testing supplies on hand.

More information about Brucellosis Testing can be found on our website at http://nvdls.unl.edu or http://www.aphis.usda.gov or by contacting USDA-APHIS at 301-734-8364.

Also, if you are needing any testing in addition to the brucellosis, we would encourage you to send those samples with your submission. Our fee schedule/user's guide, along with our submission forms, is available on our Website at: http://nvdlc.unl.edu or you may call the Lab at (402) 472-1434 with any questions.
Thank you!

New Test Added in Virology

IDEXX Laboratories Has Announced Their Bovine Pregnancy ELISA Test

Their claims are that it accurately detects pregnancy, using serum or plasma, as early as 28 days after breeding and without interference from a previous pregnancy as soon as 60 days after calving

- Provides 99.5% sensitivity and 94.7% specificity
- Returns laboratory results in less than 2.5 hours

The testing will done as needed and the actual turnaround time in the NE VDC will be 24-48 hours. The cost will be as follows: 1-2 samples = $15.00 each; 3 – 50 samples = $5.00 each; and 51 or more samples = $3.50 each.). The volume of serum needed for the test is 1.0 ml.
Immunohistochemistry-BVD IHC Testing Turn-around

The Veterinary Diagnostic Center is now equipped to, in most cases, have 24 hour turn-around on BVD IHC on ear notches. On cases of 30 or less, we can provide same day results if the samples are into the lab before 8:30 AM and the lab is notified in advance of the request. This is true on cases with all negative results. On cases where there are positive results, the original specimen is resampled and tested to ensure accurate results. This will add an additional day for testing. If there is ever a question, on the results, we will retest an animal at no charge. This can be done by submission of a serum sample from the animal in question. The sample must be collected at least three weeks after the initial ear notch was collected. **When submitting the serum sample for retesting an animal, the previous case number must be referenced on the submission form.**

- - - submitted by
Bruce W. Brodersen, DVM, PhD
Veterinary Pathologist, Veterinary Diagnostic Center

Laboratory Testing for the National Western Stock Show

The Veterinary Diagnostic Center is prepared for testing samples submitted for entry into the National Western Stock Show in Denver and can perform any of the Brucellosis and BVD-PI testing that is requested.

Here is a link to the Livestock Health Requirements for the Stock Show.

For "rush" cases, please call ahead to notify the Diagnostic Center in advance.

- - - submitted by
Bruce W. Brodersen, DVM, PhD
Veterinary Pathologist, Veterinary Diagnostic Center
The Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center is accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians.

All regulatory testing for export is done in compliance with the code of federal regulations and technicians performing the test have been tested annually by the USDA through the National Veterinary Services Laboratories check-testing program. Additional assays within the lab regarding toxicology, microbiology and parasitology are assessed annually by check testing through the Veterinary Laboratory Association. Positive and negative control samples are included in all serologic and toxicologic testing protocols that require them.

Ancillary testing is reviewed by a single case coordinator who assures that test results are in agreement and any unusual test results are investigated to ensure that standard operating procedures are followed and that results can be replicated. Standard operating procedures are on file in each of the laboratories and available for inspection. A copy of our Quality Manual is available upon request.