



Vet-LRN



CVM's New Program Vet-LRN

Veterinary **L**aboratory **R**esponse **N**etwork

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Vet-LRN

Veterinary Laboratory Response Network

- What is the mission?

To promote human and animal health
by

collaborating with veterinary diagnostic laboratories
to provide scientific information,
to build laboratory capacity and
to train scientists

investigating CVM regulated products
(animal feeds/animal drugs)



Vet-LRN

Veterinary Laboratory Response Network

How:

Develop infrastructure through
Communications network,
Cooperative agreement/Grants/Contracts,
Training/Proficiency exercises

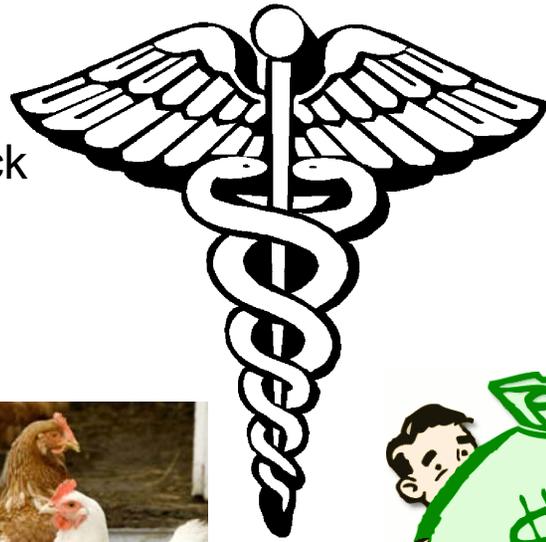


Vet-LRN

Veterinary Laboratory Response Network

- And **WHY** do we need it?

Animal is sick



Vet bills

Lab work



Was it the food?





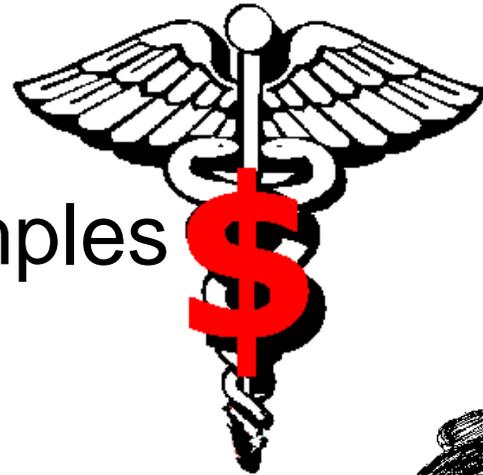
What does CVM want?

- Veterinary Records
- Collect Feed/Drug samples
- More Tests?

Necropsy?

Histopathology?

Who Pays?



Need a system to help investigate potential pet/livestock food related disease

- CVM is developing a new network similar to the FERN system (**smaller**)



What is FERN?

- **Food Emergency Response Network**
- Established in the early 2000's
- Goal:
Integrate the nations food-testing laboratories for the detection of threat agents at the local, state and federal levels
- Detect:
biological, chemical and radiological agents.

Integrated National Laboratory Infrastructure

Detection – and identification of biological, chemical, and radiological threat agents

Prevention – federal/state surveillance sampling programs

Preparedness – strengthening lab capabilities/capacities

Response – surge capacity

Recovery – provide assurance to the consumer

Food Laboratories are Mission-Critical Resources

Food Laboratories:

- Environmental
- Veterinary Diagnostic
- Agricultural
- Clinical
- Federal



Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories are Mission-Critical Resources for CVM

- For recognizing potential problems
- For initial and confirmatory diagnosis
- For outreach to diagnosticians and
consumers

WHAT ABOUT OTHER LABORATORY NETWORKS?

Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks (ICLN)

State

Commerce

Interior

EPA

Energy



Homeland Security

Agriculture

HHS

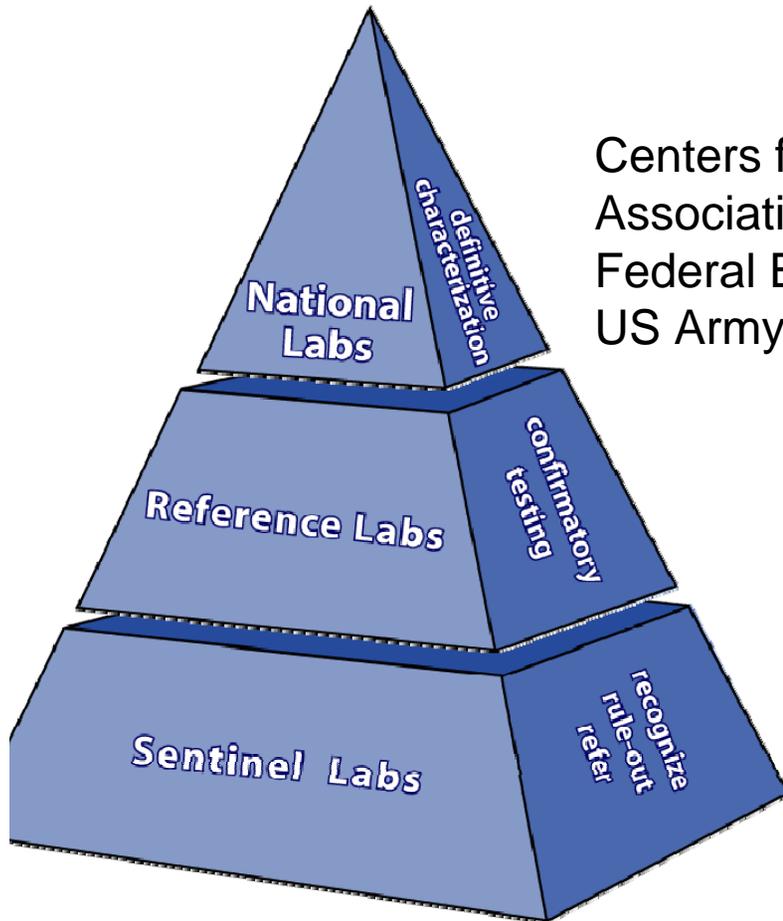
Justice

Defense

ESPECIALLY THESE?

- LRN
- NAHLN

LRN



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),
Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL),
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI),
US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases
(USAMRIID)

MISSION:

The LRN and its partners will maintain an integrated national and international network of laboratories that can respond quickly to acts of chemical or biological terrorism, emerging infectious diseases and other public health threats and emergencies.

Focus has been on infectious diseases
and primarily human health issues

ZOONOTIC diseases

National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN)

APHIS

CSREES

(USDA's Coop. State Research, Education, and Extension Service)

AAVLD

(American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians).

Network is comprised of laboratories that **focus on:**

- ❖ different diseases,
- ❖ promote the use of common testing methods and software platforms,
- ❖ share information in the event of an animal disease or pest outbreak

From http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/nahln/about_nahln.shtml

NAHLN

Mission NAHLN will:

- Provide accessible, timely, accurate, and consistent animal disease laboratory services nationwide;
- Provide laboratory data to meet epidemiological and disease reporting needs;
- Maintain the capacity and capability to provide laboratory services in support of responses to foreign animal disease outbreaks or other adverse animal health events; and
- Focus on diseases of livestock (exotic, zoonotic, and emerging diseases), while including diseases of nonlivestock species.

Where does Vet-LRN fit in?



- We don't need to re-invent the wheel
- Small program
 - 2 People in Office of Research,
 - 1 Person in Office of Surveillance and Compliance
 - 1 Contractor





Vet-LRN

Work with other networks but Vet-LRN needs to be at CVM

1 Program Director

- Writes RFA's

- Interacts with the labs on CVM projects

- Receives data from the projects

- Writes reports

1 Support Scientist

- Assists in these projects

- Conducts in-house investigations
microbiology/chemistry



Vet-LRN

1 Liaison with OSC

- Monitors incoming complaints
- Interacts with emergency response groups
- Assists in response study coordination

1 Contract chemist

- Responsible for setting up new laboratory equipment dedicated to Vet-LRN
- Developing validation and proficiency protocols
- Conducting in-house testing

These are all tasks that cannot be done by outside networks



Sources for Info

Phone: FDA-Consumer Complaint System

Electronic:

Reportable Food Registry (Industry only)

Safety Reporting System (Consumer/scientists)

Food Shield (Pet Net) (Vets-state-officials)





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Veterinary Laboratory Response Network

How do we decide what we need to investigate?

Discussions with Office of Surveillance and Compliance

Discussions with consumer complaint coordinators

Discussions with veterinary laboratories

Discussions with clinicians

Coordinate with other FDA groups Animal Feed Safety System, EOPS, ORA



**Working with FERN
Laboratories –FY 10/11**

Login

Password

[ONLINE ACCOUNT REQUEST](#)

[FERN Account Request Document](#)

FERN FAQ

[FERN FAQ](#)

HOTLINKS

[Food Defense](#)

[Emergency Response](#)

FERN IN ACTION

The Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) integrates the nation's food-testing laboratories at the local, state, and federal levels into a network that is able to respond to emergencies involving biological, chemical, or radiological contamination of food. The FERN structure is organized to ensure federal and state inter-agency participation and cooperation in the formation, development, and operation of the network.

FERN REGIONS & LABORATORIES



To integrate the nation's food testing laboratories at the local, state, and federal levels into a network that is able to respond to emergencies involving biological, chemical, or radiological contamination of food

Current Projects - Chemistry

- Optimize MS-LC melamine and cyanuric acid method in pig muscle, liver, kidney and urine. (internal standard)
- Goal – increase proficiency and capacity
- 3 FERN USDA laboratories
 - Arizona State Public Health Laboratory
 - New Hampshire Public Health Laboratory
 - Washington State Public Health Laboratory

Current Projects- Micro

- Evaluate pet feeds for bacterial pathogens
 - Salmonella
 - Listeria
 - E. coli 0157H7
 - generic E. Coli
- Goal – increase proficiency and capacity
- 6 FERN FDA laboratories
 - FL Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services
 - MI Dept of Agriculture
 - MN Dept of Agriculture
 - NC Dept of Agriculture
 - OH Dept of Agriculture
 - WA Dept of Agriculture

FY 11-12

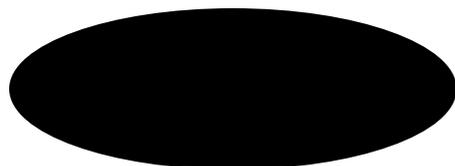
Will develop funding mechanisms for
veterinary laboratory collaborative projects

RFA

October 2010

February 2011

May 2011



All Depends on \$



We are in a development phase
at the moment!



Seeking stakeholder input

THIS MEETING – GOALS

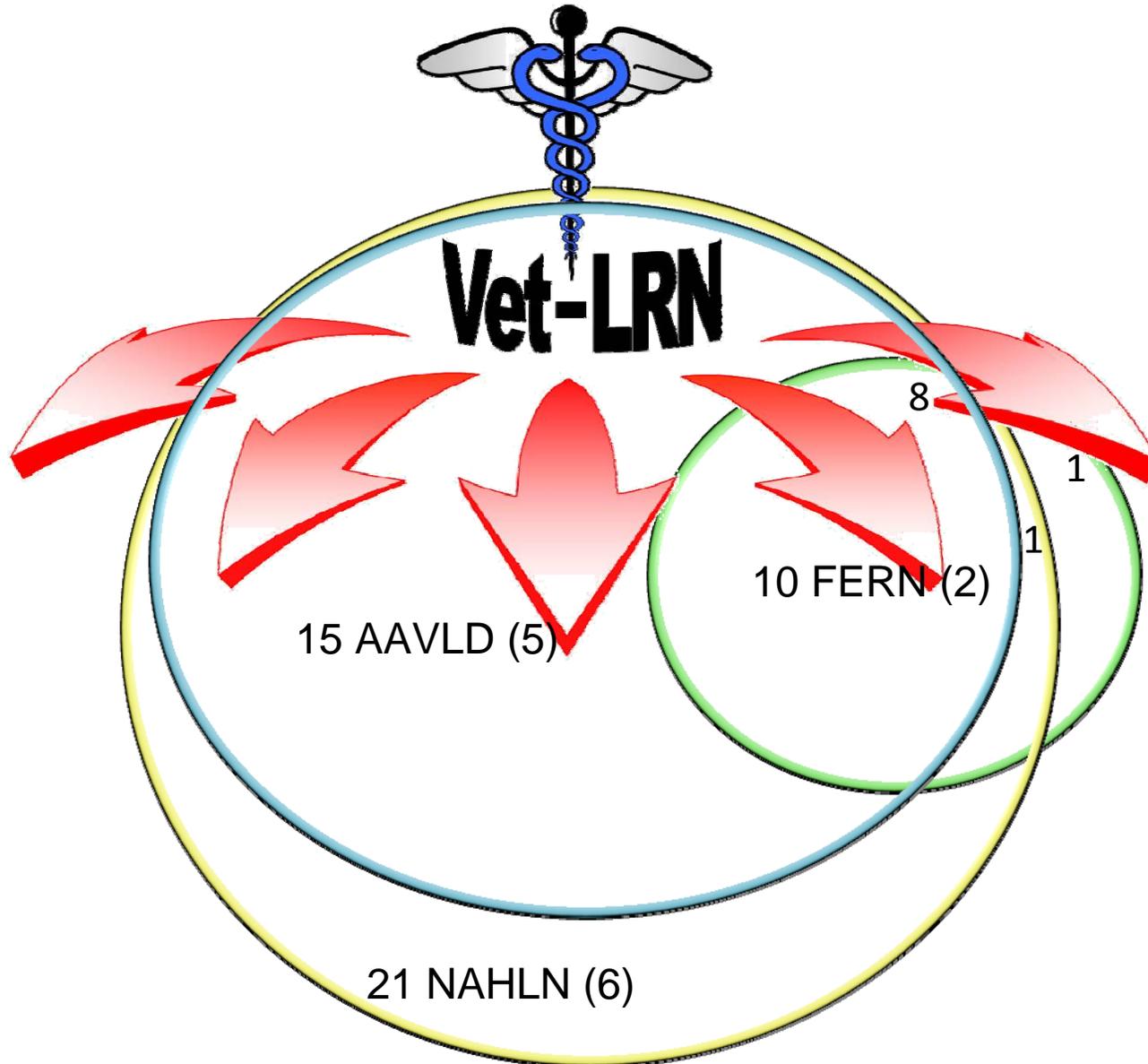
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories

- Develop contacts with CVM

- Describe capabilities

- Describe needs

Who is at the stakeholder meeting?



What do we want from the labs?

- Involvement – at what level?
 - Volunteer member
 - Cooperative laboratory with funding
- Connections with other networks
 - Information exchange
 - Harmonizing overlapping methods
 - Filling in data gaps
- Increasing capacity and surge capabilities

What can we do for the labs?

- Funding to conduct projects
- Information
 - Confidentiality agreement – allows sharing of non public information needed to sustain efforts to promote animal health
- Contacts when potential food/drug issues arise.
- Help with methods/harmonization



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