

WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2025

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LABORATORY INFORMATION

*Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOAH Reference Laboratory:	Vesicular stomatitis
*Address of laboratory:	"National Veterinary Services Laboratories USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services 1920 Dayton Ave Ames, IA 50010 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Office: 515.337.7301"
*Tel:	+15153377551
*E-mail address:	NVSL.DVL.Heads@usda.gov
Website:	www.aphis.usda.gov/nvsl
*Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):	Dr. Suelee Robbe-Austerman, Director, National Veterinary Services Laboratories
*Name (including Title and Position) of WOAH Reference Expert:	Dr. Rachel Tell, Veterinary Medical Officer, National Veterinary Services Laboratories
*Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply:	Governmental

TOR1: DIAGNOSTIC METHODS

1. Did your laboratory perform diagnostic tests for the specified disease/topic for purposes such as disease diagnosis, screening of animals for export, surveillance, etc.? (Not for quality control, proficiency testing or staff training)

Yes

Diagnostic Test	Indicated in WOAH Manual (Yes/No)	Total number of test performed last year	
		Nationally	Internationally
Indirect diagnostic tests			
Competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (cELISA; VS Indiana and VS New Jersey viruses)	Yes	1034	292
Complement fixation (VS Indiana and VS New Jersey viruses)	Yes	462	142
Virus Neutralization (VS Indiana and VS New Jersey viruses)	Yes	490	134
Direct diagnostic tests			
Virus isolation	Yes	146	0
Real-time RT-PCR	Yes	146	0
Sequencing	No	14	0

TOR2: REFERENCE MATERIAL

2. Did your laboratory produce or supply imported standard reference reagents officially recognised by WOAH?

No

3. Did your laboratory supply standard reference reagents (nonWOAH-approved) and/or other diagnostic reagents to WOAH Members?

Yes

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Type of reagent available	Related diagnostic test	Produced/ provide	Amount supplied nationally (ml, mg)	Amount supplied internationally (ml, mg)	No. of recipient WOA Member Countries	Country of recipients
Antigen	CF	provided	13 ml	0	1	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Reference Virus	VN	provided	5.4 ml	1.2 ml	1	COLOMBIA,
Recombinant antigen	cELISA	provided	0	0	1	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Polyclonal ascites	cELISA	provided	0	0	1	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
CF Test Panel	CF	both	200 ml	0	1	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
cELISA Test Panel	cELISA	provided	0	0	1	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
VN Test Panel	VN	provided	10 ml	0	1	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
PCR Test Panel	PCR	both	210 ml	0	1	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
PCR Positive Control	PCR	both	0.35 ml	0	1	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Antiserum	several	provided	120 ml	2 ml	2	COLOMBIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

No

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOA Members?

TOR3: NEW PROCEDURES

6. Did your laboratory develop new diagnostic methods for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

7. Did your laboratory validate diagnostic methods according to WOA Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

8. Did your laboratory develop new vaccines for the designated pathogen or disease?

9. Did your laboratory validate vaccines according to WOA Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

10. Did your laboratory carry out diagnostic testing for other WOA Members?

No

11. Did your laboratory provide expert advice in technical consultancies on the request of an WOA Member?

No

TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

12. Did your laboratory participate in international scientific studies in collaboration with WOA Members other than the own?

No

13. In exercising your activities, have you identified any regulatory research needs* relevant for WOA?

No

TOR6: EPIZOOLOGICAL DATA

14. Did your Laboratory collect epidemiological data relevant to international disease control?

Yes

If the answer is yes, please provide details of the data collected:

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"USDA Vesicular Stomatitis: NVSL works with another unit within USDA for distribution of analyzed data.

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/cattle-disease-information/vesicular-stomatitis-info>"

15. Did your laboratory disseminate epidemiological data that had been processed and analysed?

Yes

If the answer is yes, please provide details of the data collected:

"USDA Vesicular Stomatitis: NVSL works with another unit within USDA for distribution of analyzed data.

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/cattle-disease-information/vesicular-stomatitis-info>"

16. What method of dissemination of information is most often used by your laboratory? (Indicate in the appropriate box the number by category and list the details in the box)

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals:

b) International conferences:

c) National conferences:

During 2025, some testing and many activities continue to be impacted by the ongoing H5 2.3.4.4b HPAI outbreak affecting wild birds, wildlife, poultry, and dairy herds, as well as a prolonged lapse in federal funding.

d) Other (Provide website address or link to appropriate information):

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/cattle/vesicular-stomatitis>

TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

17. Did your laboratory provide scientific and technical training to laboratory personnel from other WOA Members?

No

TOR8: QUALITY ASSURANCE

18. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System?

Yes

Quality management system adopted	Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)	
ISO 17025 Biological Testing; American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)	ISO 17025 Biological Testing	A2LA Scope for diagnostic testing 2526-01 (1).pdf

19. Is your quality management system accredited?

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Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
Virus Neutralization	ISO 17025 Biological Testing American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)
Complement Fixation	ISO 17025 Biological Testing American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)
Competitive Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (cELISA)	ISO 17025 Biological Testing American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)
Virus Isolation	ISO 17025 Biological Testing American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)

20. Does your laboratory maintain a "biorisk management system" for the pathogen and the disease concerned?

Yes

Biosafety, Security and Incident Response Plan and Biological Risk Assessments: NVSL-MAN-0018 and NVSL-WI-1207

TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

21. Did your laboratory organise scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOAHP?

No

22. Did your laboratory participate in scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOAHP?

No

TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOAHP REFERENCE LABORATORIES

23. Did your laboratory exchange information with other WOAHP Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease?

No

24. Are you a member of a network of WOAHP Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen?

No

25. Did you organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with WOAHP Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

Yes

Purpose of the proficiency test:	Role of your Reference Laboratory (organiser/ participant)	No. participating Laboratories	Participating WOAHP Ref. Labs/ organising WOAHP Ref Lab
Detection and identification of virus and antibody	Participant	unknown	National Veterinary Services Laboratories / PANAFSTOSA

26. Did your laboratory collaborate with other WOAHP Reference Laboratories for the same disease on scientific research projects for the diagnosis or control of the pathogen of interest?

No

TOR11: OTHER INTERLABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING

27. Did your laboratory organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with laboratories other than WOAHP Reference Laboratories for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

Yes

Purpose for inter-laboratory test comparisons ¹	Role of your reference laboratory (organizer/participant)	No. participating laboratories	Name of the test	WOAHP Member Countries
Administered by NVSL and required to conduct official testing in the U.S.; shipped internationally by request	Administered by NVSL and required to conduct official testing in the U.S.	8	CF test and real-time PCR	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

28. Did your laboratory place expert consultants at the disposal of WOAHP?

No

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

Yes

The 2025-26 VSV outbreak began on October 31, 2025, when the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa, confirmed the first VSV-positive premises in Cochise County, Arizona.

Since the start of the outbreak, 9 VSV-affected premises have been identified in 1 state, Arizona. All 9 premises have had only equine species clinically affected in five counties (Cochise, Gila, Maricopa, Pinal and Santa Cruz Counties). There were other susceptible species also present on affected premises (cattle on 4 premises, goats on 1 premises) in Cochise, Gila, Maricopa, and Santa Cruz Counties, but they were not clinically affected.

During 2025, some testing and many activities continue to be impacted by the ongoing H5 2.3.4.4b HPAI outbreak affecting wild birds, wildlife, poultry, and dairy herds, as well as a prolonged lapse in federal funding. Additionally, our laboratory transitioned to a new laboratory information management system toward the end of 2025.