



## FACT SHEET

# Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative (FADI) National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN)

The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) is a coordinated network and partnership of Federal, State and university-associated laboratories supported by two agencies within the USDA, the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), along with the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians. This partnership ensures that resources, testing, monitoring, and data can be shared, and procedures can be rapidly implemented anywhere in the nation, in response to a biological threat to the nation's food animals. Since the inception of this network in 2002, the number of participating laboratories has grown from 12 to 60, and surveillance programs have been developed for approximately 14 high priority food animal diseases.

## IMPORTANT FACTS

- FADI consists of three diagnostic networks: 1) National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN), 2) Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN), and 3) National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN).
- NAHLN was developed in response to the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002, and the Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-9 of 2004.
- Currently, NAHLN is authorized by the 2018 Farm Bill, Animal Disease Prevention and Management Program.
- Total FADI program funding for NAHLN in 2022 is \$4.266 million.

## MISSION

NAHLN laboratories provide animal health diagnostic testing, methods research and development, and expertise for education and extension to detect biological threats to the nation's animal agriculture, thus protecting animal health, public health, and the nation's food supply.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of NAHLN is to provide early detection, rapid response and appropriate recovery from an adverse animal health event. Activities supporting disease identification and surveillance focus around identification of high-consequence pathogens including those that are transboundary/foreign animal diseases, endemic to the US or newly emerging diseases.

## LABORATORY ELIGIBILITY

- Each NAHLN laboratory funded by NIFA undergoes an annual non-competitive merit review
- Eligibility for a Level 1, 2, or 3 designation is established by the NAHLN Coordinating Council, with level of funding support based on testing capabilities and maintenance and enhancement activities for the network. Level 1 laboratories receive the highest amount of funding.

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NIFA invests in and advances agricultural research, education, and extension and seeks to make transformative discoveries that solve societal challenges.

## REVIEW AND PROCESS OF APPLICATIONS

- Review of applications for NIFA funding support occurs annually by NIFA and APHIS.
- The NAHLN Coordinating Council approves and allocates funding amounts each year.

## CURRENT NAHLN LABORATORIES

There are currently 32 Level 1 laboratories in 23 states, 22 Level 2 laboratories in 20 states, and 5 Level 3 laboratories. There is also one NAHLN Federal laboratory at the USGS National Wildlife Health Center.

## FADI/NAHLN PROGRAM CONTACTS

Kathe Bjork, (816) 591-7415, [kathe.e.bjork@usda.gov](mailto:kathe.e.bjork@usda.gov)

## OTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the U.S. National Animal Health Laboratory Network, visit the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service [website](#).