



National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN)

FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION: 7 U.S.C. 3318, Sect. 1472

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$9.9 million

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST FOR FY 2013: \$5.9 million

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

ACCOUNT: NIFA through the Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative, APHIS Animal Health Monitoring and Surveillance Programs and Veterinary Diagnostic Programs in USDA budgets.

TYPE OF FUNDING REQUESTED: Programmatic

JUSTIFICATION:

The nation needs to protect its agriculture industry, food supply and public health. The National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) infrastructure provides critical roles in rapidly detecting and responding to foreign and domestic disease outbreaks and animal health emergencies that threatens our nation's food supply and public health. The NAHLN is a coordinated State/Federal diagnostic lab network for rapid recognition, identification, and response to routine and/or emerging disease and emergencies. The state of readiness and surge capacity of state and university diagnostic labs, including analytical toxicology labs, is highly dependent on federal funding to provide this national level of surveillance and response. NAHLN enhances the nation's early detection of, response to, and recovery from animal health emergencies, including bioterrorist events, newly emerging diseases, and foreign animal disease agents that threaten the Nation's food supply and public health.

DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:

In 2002, the APHIS and NIFA initiated the network by entering into cooperative agreements with 12 State and university veterinary diagnostic labs to assist with testing and surveillance.

Tests include standardized screening methods for the currently targeted diseases in the NAHLN (avian influenza, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, chronic wasting disease, classical swine fever, exotic Newcastle disease, foot and mouth disease, pseudorabies virus, scrapie, and vesicular stomatitis virus). NAHLN labs perform screening assays and forward any suspect or positive samples to the appropriate section of the NVSL (the national reference laboratory) for confirmatory testing.