

Diagnostic discussions

1. Upcoming survey of western beef practitioners regarding laboratory usage

i. Objective: to identify current reasons for usage, and barriers to uptake

ii. Draft questions suggested:

- Are there specific regional concerns?
- Are there reasons for preferring current laboratory?
- Extent of use of chute-side/in-house testing?

2. Survey of western laboratorians

i. Objective: to initiate a two-way dialogue between practitioners and diagnosticians.



3. Use of 'weak positives' for surveillance purposes

Question: *should 'grey area' findings for PCR or serology be presented in case counts, for WeCAHN surveillance purposes?*

Consensus: *coordinator will present only 'true' positives for reporting and time trend analysis. Grey zone findings will continue to be captured, and presented if they show a significant time trend.*

4. Level of aggregation of presentation

Generally outcomes are aggregated by the unique laboratory identifier number/case identification. However, the meaning of this identifier varies across participating laboratories:

- One laboratory uses CaseNumber to represent the unique 'patient' i.e. farm/operation.
- Two laboratories use the CaseNumber to identify a unique sample.

Therefore, case counts cannot be meaningfully combined across laboratories.

5. Metrics for presentation

i. Potential measures:

- Total samples assayed for given outcome.
- Samples categorised 'positive' Positives
- Proportion of samples positive?

ii. Consensus: while all will be captured, where possible, 'positive' cases and proportion positive will be reported for purposes of meetings and reports.

6. Time trend analysis

i. Potential measures:

- Trend over time
- Identification of clusters in time or pace or both

ii. Consensus:

- Trend over time will be the primary trend studied for quarterly meetings .
- Cluster analysis may be initiated:
 - based on discussions with practitioners or diagnosticians.
 - by analyst as deemed appropriate in compiling quarterly datasets.

6. Emerging syndromes: are presented at the WeCAHN website (www.wecahn.ca)

i. *Strep. Plurianimalium*: a potentially zoonotic emerging pathogen associated with septicemia and abortion in a variety of animal species.

ii. Bovine congestive heart failure: increasingly observed in feeder cattle, especially with Angus genetics.

