Safeguarding Animal Health

National Veterinary Services Laboratories
Avian Influenza Activities Report – FY 2009

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Safeguarding Animal Health
National Reference Laboratory

- Foreign poultry disease testing
- Confirmation of all AI infections
  - Virus identification, characterization, sequencing
  - Antibody subtyping
- Live bird market surveillance
- Import/export testing
National Reference Laboratory

• Reagent production
  – Reference reagents (in-house, research use)
  – AGID antigen, enhancement serum
    • Domestic – 14,000 units (1.6 million tests)
    • International – 383 units (46,000 tests)

• Validation of official diagnostic assays, including new pandemic H1N1 assays
National Reference Laboratory

• Provide annual proficiency tests to National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN)
  – AI: 243 diagnosticians (55 labs)
• Characterization of H2N3 viruses from poultry and pigs
  – HA and NA genes similar but internal genes consistent with contemporary avian and swine viruses, respectively
International Reference Laboratory

• Provide diagnostic assistance to OIE member countries
  – Dominican Republic
  – Chile
    • Wild bird isolate subtyping
    • H1N1 detection in turkeys
International Reference Laboratory

• Developing a North American Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAAHLN)
  – Mexico
  – Canada
  – United States

• Harmonization of AI diagnostic testing
Twining Project - Brazil

• Training of Brazilian scientists at the NVSL
• In-country training seminar/review at Lanagro-SP
Wild Bird Surveillance for HPAI H5N1 – FY 2008

- >80,000 samples tested; all 50 states
- Screening by rRT-PCR at NAHLN labs
- Presumptive H5 positives submitted to NVSL for confirmation, virus isolation, virus characterization
- No HPAI H5N1 detected
Thank You for Your Attention!

USDA National Centers for Animal Health (NCAH)
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