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To: **ISU VDL Clientele**
From: Rodger Main, ISU VDL Director of Operations
Katie Woodard, ISU VDL Client Outreach & Education
Date: November 11, 2014
Subject: **New Tools to Improve Consistency and Connectivity of Your Diagnostic Records**

The ISU VDL has been working through a series of efforts to develop more user-friendly and robust systems for enhancing the accuracy and consistency of farm site (premises level) data needed **to elevate VDL records into the digital era**. The ISU VDL has developed improved **web** and **paper-based** submission tools that provide VDL clientele a mechanism for consistently incorporating the correct premises level identifiers (including the premises identification number or PIN) into their VDL records.

Benefits of consistently incorporating correct premises-level information:

- Provides submitters clarity as to the actual site of origin
- Useful when referencing current and/or past case information
- Enhances ability to query, sort, and/or archive diagnostic information electronically
- Improves completeness, consistency, and quality of diagnostic records
- Cornerstone for making VDL records fit for use in any number of web-based animal health information management database applications:
 - Veterinary clinic or production system diagnostic data management tools
 - Longitudinal (farm-site or group in-process) health monitoring
 - Spatiotemporal health monitoring applications
 - Veterinary Clinic or Production System Specific
 - Area-Regional (Producer driven efforts involving multiple entities)
 - Program Disease (Surveillance, Preparedness, Continuity of Business, Response)

What are the New Developments at ISU VDL?

Pre-Population and a much improved **Web-Submission Tool**

- **Pre-Population** of ISU VDL's Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)
 - Submitters can now "**pre-populate**" ISU VDL's LIMS with the correct owner and farm site (premises) identifiers of the farm sites (premises) served by their veterinary practice or production system.
 - **Pre-Population** enables the VDL to automatically pull in the correct and inclusive set of farm site (premises) level identifiers into your diagnostic case records **when a PIN barcode is included on the VDL submission form**.
 - **Pre-Population** of ISU VDL's LIMS enables submitters to use the new **VDL Web-Submission Tool** described below.
- A new **Web-Submission Tool** has been developed that mirrors ISU VDL's updated submission forms and will become available for use on **November 11, 2014**. Web-submitters will be able to view and select the appropriate owner and corresponding farm sites from drop-down menus that are referencing the list of owners and sites that have been **pre-populated** into ISU VDL LIMS. Web-submitters (VDL Clients) **will only be able to view and select the pre-populated** owners and sites they have provided and/or have otherwise been permissioned to view. Once the appropriate owner and farm site are selected, the full-complement of farm site (premises) level identifiers (including the PIN) are automatically pulled into the electronically generated VDL submission form and diagnostic case record.

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What does it take to enhance the consistency and connectivity of your VDL records?

It's as easy as 1 (**Pre-Populate**), 2 (**Submit**), 3 (**Receive**).

Step 1: Pre-Populate ISU VDL's LIMS with the owner and farm site (premises) specific information served by your veterinary practice or production system.

- Download **ISU VDL's pre-population spreadsheet** from the ISU VDL website.
(<http://vetmed.iastate.edu/sites/default/files/vdl/forms/LIMS-Pre-Populate-Option.pdf>)
 - Populate **pre-population spreadsheet** and e-mail back to the ISU VDL (isuvdl@iastate.edu)

Note: Pre-Population of ISU VDL LIMS (Step 1) is required to enable full functionality described in Step 2.

Step 2: Submit using **VDL Web-Submission** tool **OR** include **PIN barcode** on paper submission forms.

- For **paper-based** VDL submissions (2 options for including PIN barcodes on VDL Submission Forms):

Option 1: Generate a paper-based VDL submission form that is auto-populated with the correct and complete set of premises level identifiers including a PIN barcode printed directly onto the submission form via accessing a web-based application in which VDL client selects the appropriate owner and site from the information the VDL client has **pre-populated** into ISU VDL's LIMS. This drop-down menu driven tool is accessed via logging onto **ISU VDL's Web Reporting and Submission Application** and looking under "**Tool**". ISU VDL's updated **ISU VDL's Web Reporting and Submission Application** (<http://vdpambi.vdl.iastate.edu/portal>) will go live on November 11, 2014.

Option 2: Request PIN barcode label (stickers) from the VDL. (Dr. Katie Woodard, kwoodard@iastate.edu, 515-294-1950). Upon request, the VDL will have PIN barcode labels (1 sheet of labels per site that will include the **name of the farm site and PIN barcode on the label**) produced and mailed back to the requesting veterinary clinic or production system. These PIN barcode labels will be produced and mailed from an off-site printing service center to avoid any potential biosecurity concerns.

Please note: Not all barcode labels (stickers) are the same or effective. If you would prefer to print your own PIN barcode labels (stickers), please consult the VDL prior to doing so.

Step 3: Receive VDL records consistently identified and linked to correct site of origin.

We trust that you will find these new tools helpful, easy to use, and that they will simplify the submission process as well as enhance the quality, value, completeness and connectivity of your diagnostic records. Please contact the ISU VDL (Dr. Katie Woodard, kwoodard@iastate.edu, 515-294-1950) for any questions and/or assistance in getting your farm sites (premises) **pre-populated** into ISU VDL LIMS, setting up to use the new **VDL Web-Submission Tool**, and to order **PIN barcode labels**.

Please note that "**pre-populating**" ISU VDL's LIMS with the owner and farm site (premises) information from your veterinary practice and/or production system **provides the foundation of information needed to enable the consistent and automated recall** of the correct premises level identifiers via VDL clientele selecting the appropriate owner and site from drop-down menus when using the new web-submission tool **or** by including a PIN barcode on the VDL submission form.

We look forward to your assistance, feedback, and understanding as we work collectively together in launching **Version 1.0** of these new web-based diagnostic information management tools at the ISU VDL. Transcending VDL data into the digital era is expected to be a journey of continuous improvement and enable many new opportunities well into the future. All of ISU VDL's submissions forms will become available in the web-submission format in the weeks and months ahead.

Please see ISU VDL web-site to view orientation video clip outlining features of ISU VDL's new web submission tool and a new web-based application that can be used to print PIN barcodes and auto populate premises level information onto paper-based submissions. Again, **pre-population** of ISU VDL LIMS is necessary to enable the functionality of these new tools.

Link to ISU VDL web-site web submission video: <http://vetmed.iastate.edu/node/11382>

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