



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Washington, DC
20250

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) values its developing partnership with the Tribal Nations. We strive to keep Tribes informed of actions that could have an impact on Tribal members and resources. This letter is to inform you and other Tribal leaders of the pending action concerning the building of a system meant to improve the laboratory reporting of certain test results.

APHIS will build an information technology system supporting the Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) of National List of Reportable Animal Diseases (NLRAD) test results. As part of this process, we will seek input from Tribal and State Animal Health Officials via an online survey about how such a system could improve their current laboratory reporting experience. We will use the feedback to guide the building of the NLRAD ELR system.

APHIS invites you to participate in a *Tribal Consultation Webinar for the NLRAD ELR* on **December 6, 2021, from 2:00-3:00 pm EST**. We will introduce the NLRAD system and the planned development of the ELR structure and provide you an opportunity to express issues, concerns, or any other feedback. Meeting details are below.

Current Status of the NLRAD System

Although the United States is a member of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), there is currently no single federally reportable animal disease list in the United States. Conversations began in the mid-1990s with State Animal Health Officials and veterinary diagnostic laboratories to address this situation, and in 2006, the U.S. Animal Health Association identified the need for NLRAD. APHIS worked with a variety of stakeholders to develop NLRAD Standards and a proposed rule. The intent is to have a system that is uniform, collaborative, accurate, and timely.

Summary of Proposed Changes

The NLRAD standards will require information to be collected for two categories: 1) notifiable diseases and conditions; and 2) monitored diseases. The notifiable diseases and conditions category contains three sub-categories of diseases: emergency incidents (such as foreign animal disease investigations, (e.g., Rift Valley fever, virulent Newcastle disease, African swine fever), emerging disease incidents (e.g., SARS-CoV-2/Covid-19 virus), and regulated disease incidents (e.g., spring viremia of carp, equine infectious anemia, pullorum disease). Monitored diseases generally are those that are endemic (present) in the United States (e.g., bovine viral diarrhea, tularemia, enzootic abortion of ewes).

APHIS is starting a project in which laboratories report test findings electronically to satisfy the NLRAD system standards. We will use your feedback on the requirements to guide our building of the NLRAD ELR

Tribal Leader

Page 2

system. In addition to feedback gathered during the December 6 webinar, we will make an online survey available soon.

Meeting Details

You may register for the webinar by clicking on the following link:

Registration link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HRYT6FM>

Once registered, you will receive a personal link to the webinar and automatic reminders prior to the webinar.

Meeting ID: 160 353 8355

Name of Meeting: *U.S. National List of Reportable Animal Diseases*

Web join URL:

<https://coreshield.zoomgov.com/join/1603538355?pwd=MIVMVGZwR3dlTXA0SGRqeTBpdEx5UT09>

Zoom join URL:

<https://coreshield.zoomgov.com/j/1603538355?pwd=MIVMVGZwR3dlTXA0SGRqeTBpdEx5UT09>

Meeting password: XuCb2emrQ

Dial-in information:

+1 669-254-5252 US

+1 646-828-7666 US

For questions related to Tribal concerns, contact Dr. Terry Clark, National Tribal Liaison at (301) 440-4388 or by e-mail at Terry.W.Clark@usda.gov. For information related to NLRAD and NLRAD standards, contact Dr. Jane Rooney at (970) 494-7397 or via e-mail at Jane.A.Rooney@usda.gov. For information related to the NLRAD ELR project, contact Dr. Leah Estberg at (970) 494-7594 or by e-mail at Leah.Estberg@usda.gov. We look forward to continued collaboration with the Tribal Nations and to discussing the planned NLRAD ELR system.

Sincerely,



Rosemary B. Sifford, DVM
Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer