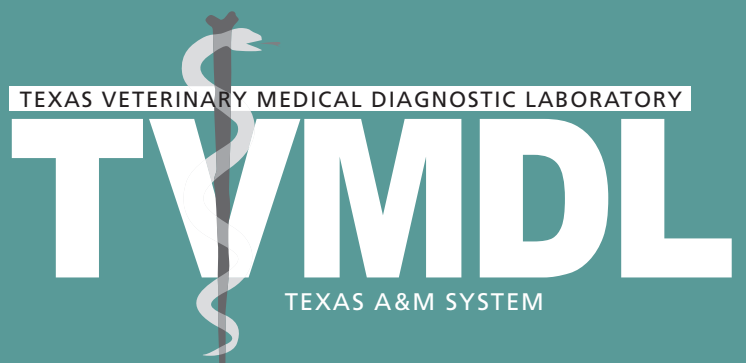
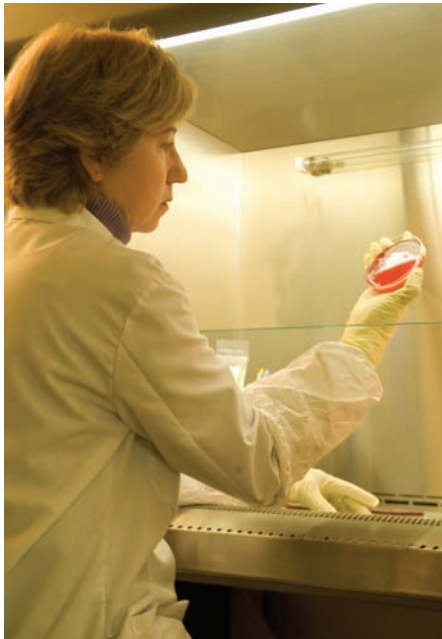


# Protecting Animal and Human Health through Diagnostics



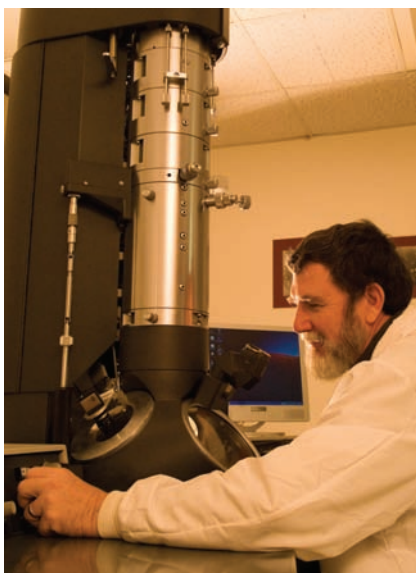
# Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory



Texas legislators created the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) during the regular session of the 60th Legislature, in 1967. TVMDL was established to perform diagnostic testing for the livestock and poultry industries, with a focus on identifying disease and facilitating commerce in livestock. Over the years, TVMDL's mission has expanded under new legislative direction to include pari-mutuel drug testing for the Texas Racing Commission; companion animal testing to enhance the detection of zoonotic diseases, which are transmissible from animals to humans; and to oversee the Salmonella Pullorum-Typhoid Program, Texas's complementary program to the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP).



An agency of the Texas A&M University System, TVMDL is composed of two full-service laboratories, in College Station and Amarillo, and two poultry laboratories, in Center and Gonzales. TVMDL's primary clients are Texas animal owners and veterinarians; and state and federal agencies, including the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). With its strategically located laboratories, TVMDL is uniquely positioned to serve the animal industries of Texas.



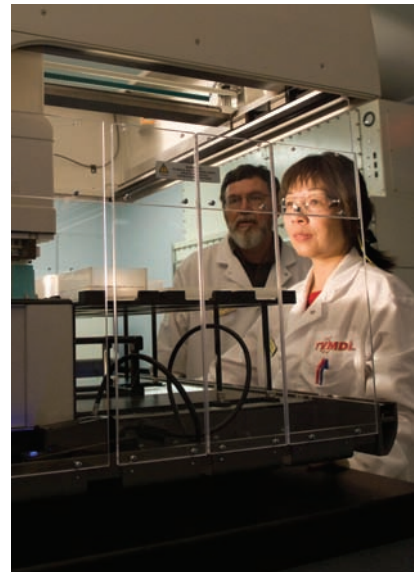
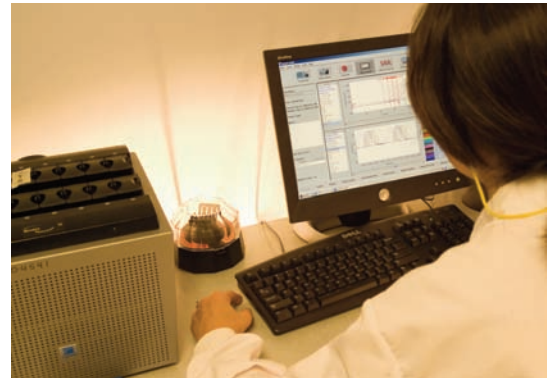
From its inception to the present, the TVMDL System remains centered on the following objectives: identifying diseases in sick or postmortem animals; facilitating livestock commerce; serving as an animal disease surveillance system for endemic, newly emerging, and high-consequence diseases; and providing support and guidance to public health programs aimed at the control of zoonotic diseases.

In 2004, the USDA selected TVMDL to be a part of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN), a group of state and regional laboratories designed to provide a nationwide surge testing, response, and recovery capacity in the

event of an animal disease outbreak. TVMDL is one of 12 core laboratories that receive infrastructure support as part of this network. Accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, TVMDL is committed to providing state-of-the-art, quality diagnostic services concentrated on maximum testing accuracy, timeliness, and cost-effectiveness. Attaining these goals not only provides immediate benefits to the animal owner but also ensures the success of a disease surveillance system that provides an early detection system for zoonotic diseases.

TVMDL is one of seven laboratories in the United States chosen to perform testing and surveillance for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, commonly known as mad cow disease. TVMDL also participates in other federally sponsored surveillance initiatives, including monitoring for avian influenza (bird flu), classical swine fever (hog cholera), and chronic wasting disease in deer. In the event of an animal and/or zoonotic disease emergency, TVMDL is prepared to respond with highly qualified staff members who have been trained and certified by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The College Station facility is equipped with a Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) laboratory that is capable of safely working with and containing high-consequence animal disease agents.

While maintaining our traditional service to the food animal industries and companion animal owners of Texas, TVMDL is dedicated to developing new diagnostic tools, incorporating state-of-the-art technology, increasing efficiency, and continuing to provide our clients with professional expertise to help them solve difficult cases. Our success can be attributed to our dedicated and skilled professional, technical, and administrative staff and to the professional relationships we have developed with practicing veterinarians, industry leaders, and the general public.

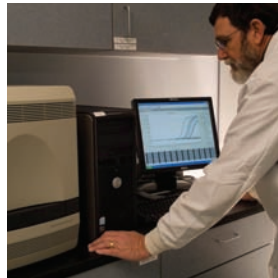


# Protecting Animal and Human Health through Diagnostics

Some scientific studies have shown a cost-benefit ratio of 1:10 for veterinary laboratories such as TVMDL, but it is difficult to place a dollar figure on these activities. Yet without TVMDL's services, Texas would experience both a fiscal and health crisis.

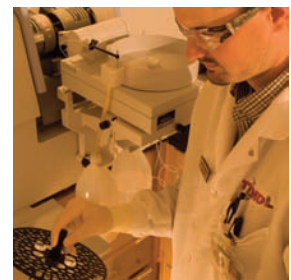
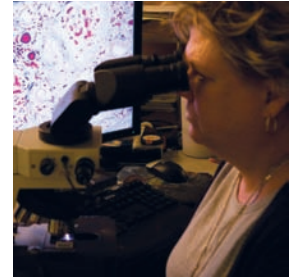
## Protect the Health of Livestock, Companion Animals, and the Public

- TVMDL acts as the backbone of a statewide, regional, and global animal and zoonotic (transmissible from animals to humans) disease surveillance system that protects the state's \$11.4 billion livestock industry as well as the companion animal and public health sectors. During the 2008 fiscal year, TVMDL analyzed more than 220,000 diagnostic cases from areas throughout Texas, neighboring states, and around the world.
- TVMDL diagnosticians are on the forefront of zoonotic disease diagnosis and the protection of public health. In 2008, our staff performed over 250,000 tests on specimens with a potential public health impact.
- As part of a state-federal surveillance program, TVMDL detected one isolated case of BSE (mad cow disease) in Texas. A prompt diagnosis prevented the spread of this agent via contaminated animal feed.



## Provide Excellence in Diagnostic Services

- TVMDL was among the first laboratories in the United States to alert the veterinary community and federal agencies to aflatoxin and, more recently, melamine poisonings in companion animal feed. Hundreds of pets were sickened or died as a result of these poisonings, and the entire animal food inspection process was reevaluated.
- In 2005, TVMDL diagnosed and documented cases of an intestinal parasite that causes decreased egg production in layer chickens. The direct savings to the industry was valued at \$472,000. More important, the ensuing prevention program has prevented losses that could have reached millions of dollars.
- TVMDL's diagnostic toxicology department helped diagnose a case of lobelia (a toxic plant) poisoning in South Texas, preventing many cattle and exotic wildlife losses. In early 2008, lobelia poisoning was a severe problem, resulting in the loss of more than 100 head of cattle on a single ranch.



## Manage the Texas Salmonella Pullorum-Typhoid Program

- TVMDL's management and implementation of the Texas Salmonella Pullorum-Typhoid Program enables Texas to maintain its status



as a U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean State. This status allows freedom to move poultry products without 100% testing prior to shipment.

## Facilitate Livestock Commerce

- In 2007, TVMDL performed 708,300 tests in support of the movement of livestock and their products from Texas.

- In 2007, the total dollar value of Texas livestock exports was estimated at \$1.2 billion. Testing performed at TVMDL enables Texas livestock products to be readily marketed, both nationally and internationally.



## Respond to High-Consequence Disease Events

- Prompt diagnosis, early notification, and subsequent response by TVMDL played a critical part in containment and eradication of the 2004 highly pathogenic bird flu outbreak in Gonzales County,

Texas. Within 24 hours of the samples arriving at TVMDL, a preliminary diagnosis was made and efforts to control and eradicate the disease were under way. Early diagnosis and high-volume testing during the response saved the poultry industry from millions of dollars in losses. A similar outbreak in Virginia cost the state approximately \$60 million.

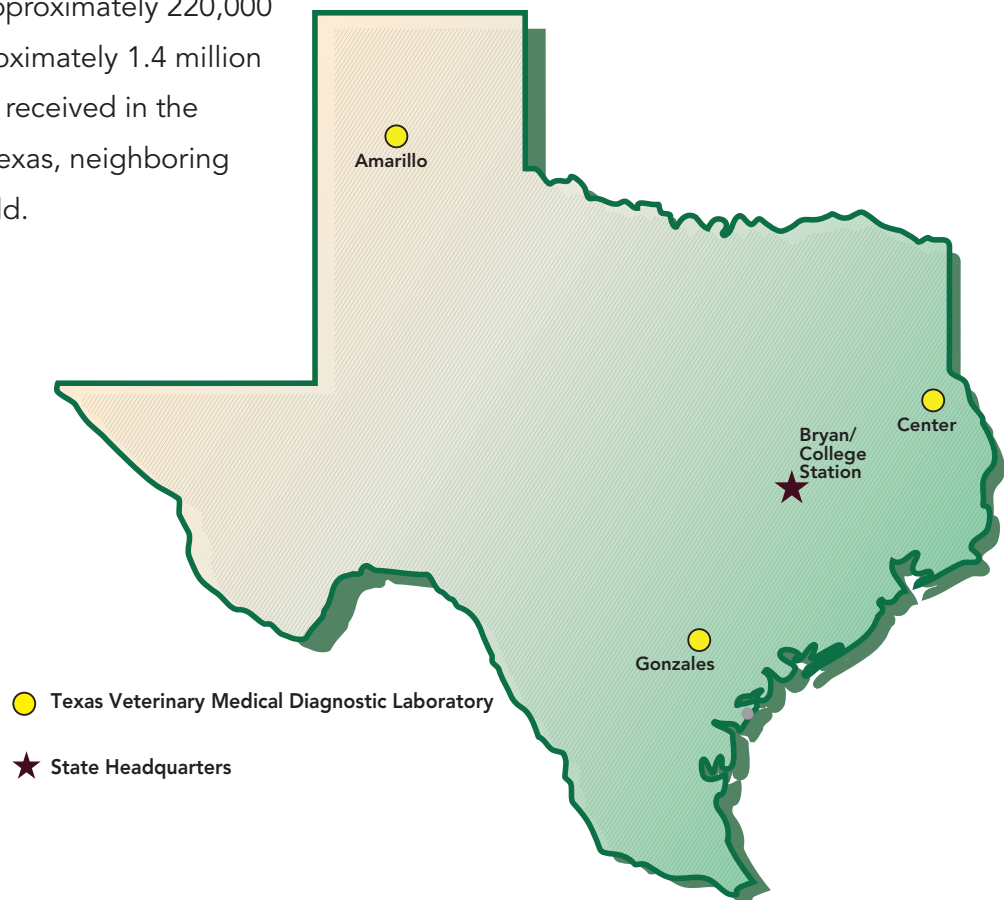
- TVMDL has developed a high-volume testing capacity that will be a critical part of responding to a high-consequence disease.

TVMDL has the only agricultural high-containment laboratory in Texas, and is capable of performing surge testing in this facility.



# Serving the State of Texas

TVMDL's state-of-the-art testing capabilities and staff expertise are critical assets that make it a premier veterinary diagnostic laboratory system. TVMDL receives approximately 220,000 submissions and runs approximately 1.4 million tests per year. Submissions received in the laboratory originate from Texas, neighboring states, and around the world.



**College Station Laboratory**  
**Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory**  
P.O. Drawer 3040  
College Station, TX 77841-3040  
p: (979) 845-3414 or  
(888) 646-5623  
f: (979) 845-1794  
Courier address:  
1 Sippel Road  
College Station, TX 77843

**Amarillo Laboratory**  
**Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory**  
P.O. Box 3200  
Amarillo, TX 79116-3200  
p: (806) 353-7478 or  
(888) 646-5624  
f: (806) 359-0636  
Courier address:  
6610 Amarillo Blvd. West  
Amarillo, TX 79106

**Center Poultry Laboratory**  
**TVMDL Poultry Diagnostic Laboratory**  
635 Malone Drive  
Center, TX 75935  
p: (936) 598-4451  
f: (936) 598-2741

**Gonzales Poultry Laboratory**  
**TVMDL Poultry Diagnostic Laboratory**  
P.O. Box 84  
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Gonzales, TX 78629



<http://tvmdlweb.tamu.edu>