



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

October 7, 2021

Dear Industry Partner:

We are seeking input from our stakeholders on a proposed fee increase on some of the test procedures performed at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Little Rock. The last fee adjustment was in 2015.

As an agency of the State of Arkansas, the lab receives approximately 40 percent of its funding from general revenue. The remainder comes from special revenue, which consists predominately of test fees. There is an expectation that the lab operates in a businesslike manner to fund acquisition of new instrumentation, equipment, and supplies.

In addition to optimizing revenue from diagnostic testing fees, we pursue and/or cooperate with research projects, expand grant funding, discontinue underutilized test procedures, and employ extra-help staffing when feasible.

The proposed fee increases impact about 1/5 of our total test catalog. Even after the increase, we often remain priced lower than neighboring state veterinary diagnostic laboratories.

In the accompanying chart, current fees are in column A, average fees of other labs are in column B, and our proposed fees are in column C. Here's the method that we used to come up with the proposed increases: (i) pull data from 12 sister labs, (ii) eliminate the highest and lowest values, and (iii) average what was left.

	A	B	C
SER	AVDL	AVG	Proposed
MG/MS Combo	\$1.00	\$2.15	\$1.25
EIA(ELISA/AGID)	\$4.00	\$7.90	\$5.00
AI ELISA	\$0.80	\$2.23	\$1.00
REO	\$1.22	\$2.27	\$1.53
IBD	\$1.22	\$2.17	\$1.53
IBV	\$1.22	\$2.17	\$1.53
NDV	\$1.22	\$2.24	\$1.53
BAC			
Aerobic Culture	\$22.00	\$24.75	\$23.00
Antibiotic Susceptibility (AST)	\$12.50	\$15.21	\$13.50
Salmonella Isolation	\$10.00	\$19.86	\$11.00
Fungal Culture	\$12.00	\$23.61	\$13.00
Gram Stain	\$5.00	\$10.75	\$6.00

CLP			
Complete Chem Profile-Small animal	\$25.50	\$28.75	\$26.50
CBC-small animal	\$13.50	\$20.83	\$14.50
Progesterone	\$16.00	\$21.20	\$17.00
Bile Acid	\$12.50	\$20.75	\$13.50
Liver Panel	\$13.00	\$23.42	\$14.00
HIS/NEC			
H & E first site	\$38.00	\$47.56	\$40.00
Necropsy - Small Animal	\$70.00	\$107.96	\$80.00
VIR			
Trichomonas PCR	\$25.00	\$27.53	\$26.00
Johne's	\$25.00	\$33.90	\$27.00
Canine parvo PCR	\$25.00	\$34.94	\$27.00
Bovine Abortion Panel	\$35.00	\$50.75	\$37.00
Ehrlichia/Anaplasma PCR	\$25.00	\$35.56	\$27.00
Leptospira Realtime PCR	\$25.00	\$35.50	\$27.00
Mareks PCR	\$25.00	\$32.30	\$27.00
Duck Viral Enteritis PCR	\$25.00	\$32.30	\$27.00

We will accept your comments on these changes through November 17, 2021. Laboratory leadership will review the comments and respond appropriately. The proposed fee schedule is tentatively scheduled to go into effect December 1, 2021.

Please direct questions or comments to 501-823-1730 or russ.summers@agriculture.arkansas.gov.

Respectfully,

Russ Summers, Ph.D.
Director, Laboratory Services