

Submitter: Steve Puntteney

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water

Measure: HB3247

I am an Oregon rancher and an Oregon State University Animal Science Ph.D. We work very closely with our veterinarian and often send samples into the OSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Sometimes, we use the laboratory to check the nutritional status of individual animals. Lately though, we had a case of abortions in our herd and needed to find the cause. Fetal tissue and blood samples were sent into the lab to determine causation. We needed to rule out various infectious agents that are known to occur within the State of Oregon and also causes occurring outside of the state, such as Brucellosis. We found that cows showed exposure to Leptospirosis grippotyphosis, and hypothesize that this zoonotic bacteria is carried by elk that winter on our ranch. OVDL has followed up with us and plan sampling for the bacteria in the environment where elk are congregating this coming spring. Without OVDL, it would have been very difficult to determine the cause of the abortions. With this information, we are able to address the problem through adjustments to our vaccination program.

Prior to becoming a full-time rancher, I was researcher developing natural alternatives to antibiotics for the livestock industry. In the development of technologies to stimulate the immune system of animals to better respond to vaccinations, we utilized the OVDL to determine antibody titer response to various vaccination programs. The information provided by OVDL was used to determine if we could successfully improve the response of animals to vaccinations and reduce the use of antibiotics in food production.

OVDL provides a critical tool set to veterinary practitioners to improve food safety, protect the health of both companion and food animals, and associated businesses. The critical and valuable information that OVDL provides warrants our continued financial support. Having access to updated diagnostic equipment, competent personnel, and continuing education is paramount to OVDL's success. Please support HB 3247. Thank you.