

**Joint Legislative Hearing  
Environmental Conservation, Energy, & Agriculture**

Albany, NY  
Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**TESTIMONY: The New York State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory**  
Dr. François Elvinger, Executive Director  
Professor, Associate Dean for Diagnostic Operations  
College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University

The New York State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, funded in the Department of Agriculture and Markets Aid to Localities Budget:

- performs forensic necropsies and testifies in court to support investigation and prosecution of crimes on animals in our **Veterinary Forensic Pathology Program**.
- tests for Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) and provides diagnostic advice and services to large egg producers as well as to back yard egg and poultry producers that supply our farmers markets and supermarkets in our **Avian Disease Program**.
- advises dairy farmers on milking hygiene and mastitis treatment options, including the Antibiotic Usage Reduction Program, which reduces treatment costs, maintains animal welfare AND fights the emergence of antimicrobial resistance in **Quality Milk Production Services**.
- eradicated raccoon rabies from Long Island and is working on eliminating it from all of NY through our **Wildlife Rabies Program**. The program unfortunately was slowed down by this year's funding cut.
- has Biosafety Level 3 suites in place for African Swine Fever which has killed half the hogs in China, but also for foot and mouth disease that threatens our dairy farms and thus the backbone of our state's animal agriculture economy.

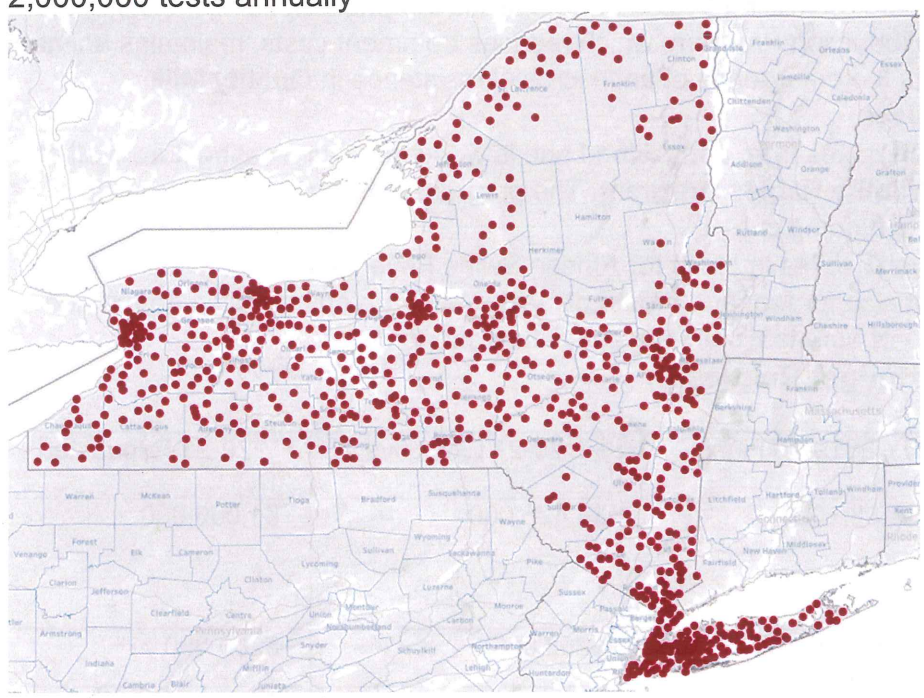
**Figure 1: 2020-21 Budget Requests**

<b>Agricultural Programs</b>	<b>FY 2019-20 Final</b>	<b>FY 20-21 Executive</b>	<b>FY 20-21 Requested ADD</b>
NYS Veterinary Diagnostic Lab Programs at Cornell— Animal Health Surveillance & Control Programs	\$4,839,000	\$4,425,000	+\$1,000,000
Avian Disease Program	\$252,000	\$252,000	+\$260,000
Cattle Health Assurance	\$360,000	\$360,000	+\$0
Johnes Disease	\$480,000	\$480,000	+\$0
Quality Milk Production	\$1,174,000	\$1,174,000	+\$920,000
Wildlife Rabies	\$350,000	\$50,000	+\$560,000
<i>Salmonella</i> Dublin	\$200,000	\$0	+\$0
Veterinary Forensic Pathology	\$0	\$0	+\$460,000

Strategic Genetic Sequencing for Antimicrobial Resistance and Influenza Viruses (bird flu and other flu viruses)	\$0	\$0	+\$200,000
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Senator Liz Krueger, Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein, chairpersons and members of these committees, please rest assured that NYSVDL diagnosticians are committed to detecting disease and working with veterinarians, stakeholders in wildlife health, and owners of the many companion animals in the state. We work to prevent disease outbreaks. The foot and mouth disease outbreak in the U.K. caused \$6 billion of damage. China has just lost half their population of hogs to African Swine Fever. We are working to prevent this from happening here.

**Figure 2: 2019 New York State Accessions and Client Accounts**  
 1,990 Client Accounts  
 2,000,000 tests annually



We are proud of our program and our partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Markets to protect the health of New Yorkers.