



WISCONSIN FARM CENTER

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Herd-Based Diagnostic Program

Veterinary diagnostic support is available to assist farmers (and their local farm-service professionals) to resolve complex herd-health and production concerns.

About the Herd-Based Diagnostic Program

The Herd-Based Diagnostic Program serves Wisconsin dairy herds of all sizes and management types. It addresses production, milk quality, cow loss, and other concerns. There is no charge for the laboratory tests or assistance provided by the Herd-Based Diagnostic Program.

To utilize the program, farmers must complete an application that provides a description of the concerns to be addressed,

contact information for local farm-service professionals, and a basic orientation to the farm.



Upon receipt of the application, the Wisconsin Farm Center veterinarian will respond. Each response is tailored on a comprehensive basis to address the farmer's specific concerns. Farm data is reviewed. Phone or e-mail pre-visit conversations are held with the farmer and all significantly-involved local farm-service professionals. A farm visit is made as soon as possible. At the conclusion of the analysis, a

detailed report is written and sent to the farm and (with permission) to any of the farmer's local professional support. Where follow-up testing is helpful, the program may pay local professionals to collect and submit test samples. All information is collected on a confidential basis.

The basic process can be summarized as this:

- What are the farmer's specific concerns?
- Who has already been significantly involved in attempting to resolve the concerns?
- What concern-focused, standard diagnostic testing has already been done?
- The Herd-Based Diagnostic Program will then, most commonly, "fill in the gaps" by providing whatever concern-specific, standard veterinary diagnostic information not provided by the local efforts.
- The answers often surface when the missing diagnostic blanks are filled.

Nearly 20 years of experience has taught those of us involved in the Herd-Based Diagnostic Program that resolution to complex herd health and production concerns come when farmers have the information they need to make informed business decisions.

Contact us

Requests for veterinary assistance from the Herd-Based Diagnostic Program can be initiated by contacting the Wisconsin Farm Center at:



1-800-942-2474

or

farmcenter@wisconsin.gov