

PRAIRIE DIAGNOSTIC PERSPECTIVE



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Introducing Prairie Diagnostic Perspective

Dear Clients of PDS,

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new newsletter, Prairie Diagnostic Perspective. At PDS, our commitment to meeting your needs and driving innovation in veterinary diagnostics is at the heart of everything we do. We are looking forward to delivering these quarterly newsletters to you. And here's what you can expect from Prairie Diagnostic Perspective:

- **Diagnostic Tips:** Gain practical advice to help you navigate common diagnostic challenges and improve patient outcomes.
- **Diagnostic Cases:** Explore real-world diagnostic cases that showcase our team's expertise, including interesting cases, challenging scenarios, and emerging diseases.
- **New Tests, Technology, and Process Improvements:** Learn about the latest diagnostic tests, new equipment and technology acquisitions, and enhancements to existing tests that offer additional benefits to you.
- **Research Highlights:** Discover summaries of our latest research findings, inspired by real-life diagnostic challenges, and their impact on animal health.
- **Other lab Updates:** Stay informed about changes within our laboratory, including staff updates, adjustments to service hours and more.

We are dedicated to providing you with the highest level of service and the most advanced diagnostic solutions. Through Prairie Diagnostic Perspective, we hope to keep you informed and engaged with the latest developments that can enhance your practice and improve patient care. Thank you for your continued trust and partnership with Prairie Diagnostic Services.

Warm regards,
Yanyun Huang
CEO

NEW – Seasonal reference intervals for equine endogenous ACTH!

By: Lilani Munasinghe, Clinical Pathologist, PDS



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Equine Stock photos by Vecteezy

Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction (PPID); considered as a contributing factor for many disorders in older horses is diagnosed by testing baseline ACTH concentrations. It is known that there is an overlap in ACTH concentrations in normal and PPID horses mostly due to seasonal variation, geographical region, weather conditions and the time of day. Currently we are using refined, seasonally adjusted

recommendations of Equine Endocrinology Group for interpretation of equine endogenous ACTH. However, together with Large Animal Clinical group at WCVU, we have now successfully established seasonal reference intervals for equine endogenous ACTH for Western Canadian horses and will be using these regional reference intervals for interpretations.

Important Shipping Guidelines for Samples as Winter Approaches

With winter fast approaching, it's crucial to adjust how samples are shipped to PDS to minimize the risk of freezing.

Tips to help decrease the risk of freezing:

- **Formalin Fixed Tissue:** Fix in 10% formalin for 24 hours, then transfer to 70% alcohol (e.g., isopropyl) if shipping in very cold weather.
- **Use a Room-Temperature Ice Pack:** Helps prevent freezing in transit.
- **Label Packages:** Mark "Protect from freezing" on the outside.
- **Avoid Friday Shipping:** Don't ship temperature-sensitive samples on Fridays or before long weekends.

**PROTECT
FROM
FREEZING**

Samples to Protect from Freezing:

- **Trichomonas Pouches:** Use a warm pack in the container.
- **Whole Blood:** Includes EDTA, heparin, sodium citrate, and red top tubes.
- **Formalin-Fixed Tissues:** Ship in 70% alcohol in winter.
- **Feces for Parasitology:** Avoid freeze-thaw cycles.
- **Gel Swabs:** Gel will liquify when thawed.

For test-specific guidelines, see the PDS Test and Services Guide. Contact PDS at dso@usask.ca or 306-966-7316 with questions.

Bovine Reproductive Failure Research: Free Testing on Bovine Abortion Submissions

We are excited to inform you about a new research project at PDS aimed at developing a genomic-based method to detect 17 pathogens associated with bovine reproductive failure. This innovative method, named BovReproSeq, has been developed with funding from the Saskatchewan Agricultural Development Fund (Read more) and is now ready to be applied in diagnostic investigations.

Further supported by the Beef Cattle Research Council, we are comparing the performance of BovReproSeq with a panel of routine diagnostic tests. As part of this research, we will select up to 100 bovine abortion submissions for which the following panel of tests will be performed at no charge to you:

Additional Testing Includes:

- Bacterial Culture and Susceptibility
- Coxiella PCR
- Ureaplasma diversum PCR
- Campylobacter spp. PCR
- IBR PCR
- BVD PCR
- Mineral Panel 1
- Vitamin A and E

Tests Not Included:

- Necropsy and histopathology
- Tests not listed above

Eligibility: Eligible cases will be selected by our pathologists from whole fetuses with placenta submitted, or from portion submissions that adhere to PDS's bovine abortion sample collection guidelines, refer to the Fetus Submission Form available on the PDS website (pdsinc.ca). Up to 100 cases will be selected.

Turnaround Time: Additional test results will be reported according to standard diagnostic testing timelines.

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to reach out to us at pdsinfo@usask.ca. Kindly include "BovRepro Project" in the subject line of your email.

New Chemistry Panel

Clinical Pathology is now offering the Fasted Canine Standard/Triglyceride Panel. This panel is similar to the Canine Standard Panel with the following change, the Triglyceride test replaces the GLDH test. Dogs must be fasting for 12 hours for this panel.



Guidelines for Shipping Suspect Risk Group 3 (RG3) Samples

To safely ship Suspect Risk Group 3 (RG3) agents, which pose serious health risks, please follow these steps:

- Indicate "RG3" on the submission form.
- Securely package samples to prevent leakage (e.g., double bagging).
- Include the submission form in an envelope or plastic bag. Attach form to outside of the package.
- Notify PDS by emailing • dso@usask.ca or calling 306-966-7316.

Surveillance Programs for Saskatchewan Producers

[Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Q Fever Surveillance Program](#)

[Saskatchewan Small Holder Swine Health Surveillance Program Submission Form](#)

[Saskatchewan Small Flock Poultry Surveillance Program](#)

[Submission Form](#)