

September 2022

Attention Veterinarians RE: *Theileria orientalis* and Tick Testing

The Tennessee State Veterinarian's office is collaborating with Virginia Tech Animal Laboratory Services to provide free screening for *Theileria orientalis* in healthy-appearing cattle in Tennessee. The goal of the project is to monitor the movement and establishment of populations of the Asian Longhorn tick across Tennessee counties and also identify the prevalence of *Theileria orientalis*, the emerging protozoal disease of cattle commonly vectored by this tick. **This project is for surveillance in clinically healthy cattle only.**

Please contact the State Veterinarian's office for sample collection kits and the appropriate submission form. The State Veterinarian's office can also provide guidance on packaging and submitting samples. Whole blood EDTA samples must be kept refrigerated or on ice packs during transport. Please call 615-837-5120 for information.

For overnight shipping, send blood and tick samples along with the appropriate submission form to the address below on ice packs via UPS or FedEx (not USPS).

Tennessee Department of Agriculture Animal Health Division  
Attn: State Veterinarian  
436 Hogan Rd  
Nashville, TN 37220

**Samples from clinically sick cattle to be tested for *Theileria orientalis* must be submitted directly by the attending veterinarian to one of the following laboratories: Virginia Tech Animal Diagnostic Lab, Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, or Breathitt Veterinary Center.** Kord Animal Health Diagnostic Lab does **not** offer *Theileria orientalis* testing.

Contact the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Division with questions about how to submit samples tick and blood samples as part of this surveillance project at 615-837-5120 or by emailing: [Animal.Health@tn.gov](mailto:Animal.Health@tn.gov).

Questions about current diagnostic testing services and sample submissions from clinically sick animals should be directed to the Kord Diagnostic Laboratory at 615-837-5125 or by emailing: [Kord.Lab@tn.gov](mailto:Kord.Lab@tn.gov).