

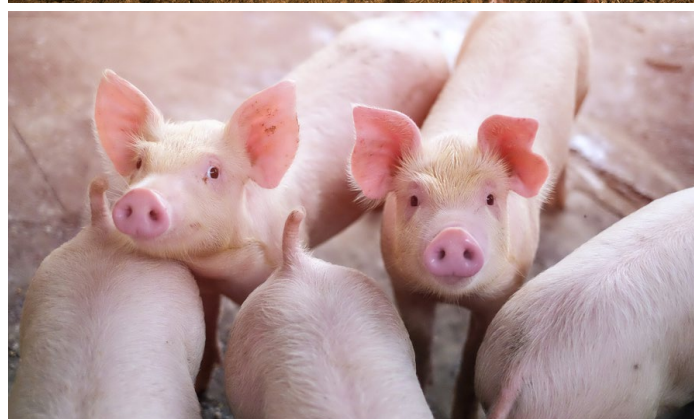
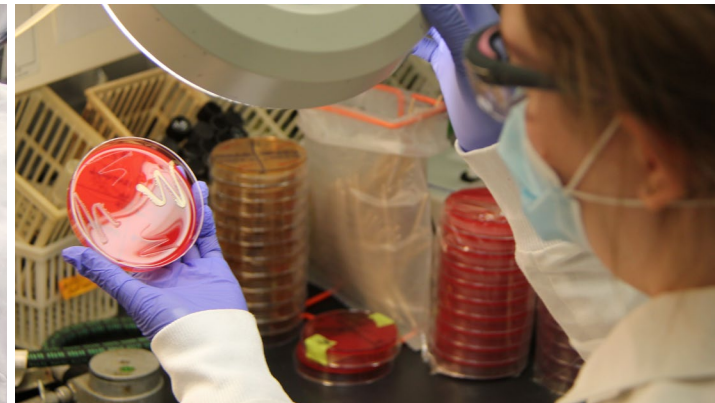
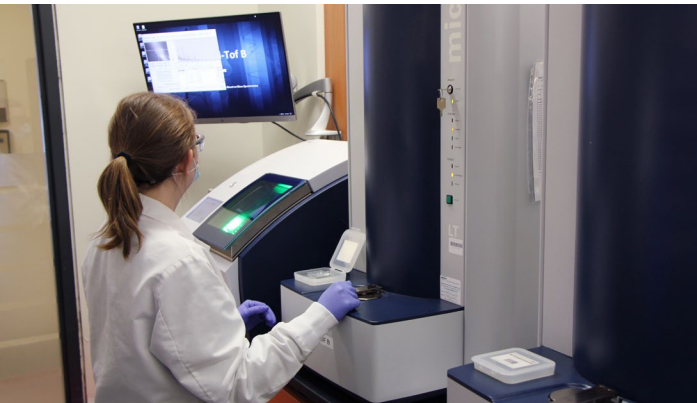


IMPROVE LIFE.

Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance Impact Case Study



Animal Health Laboratory



A laboratory leader: Keeping Ontario's animals safe

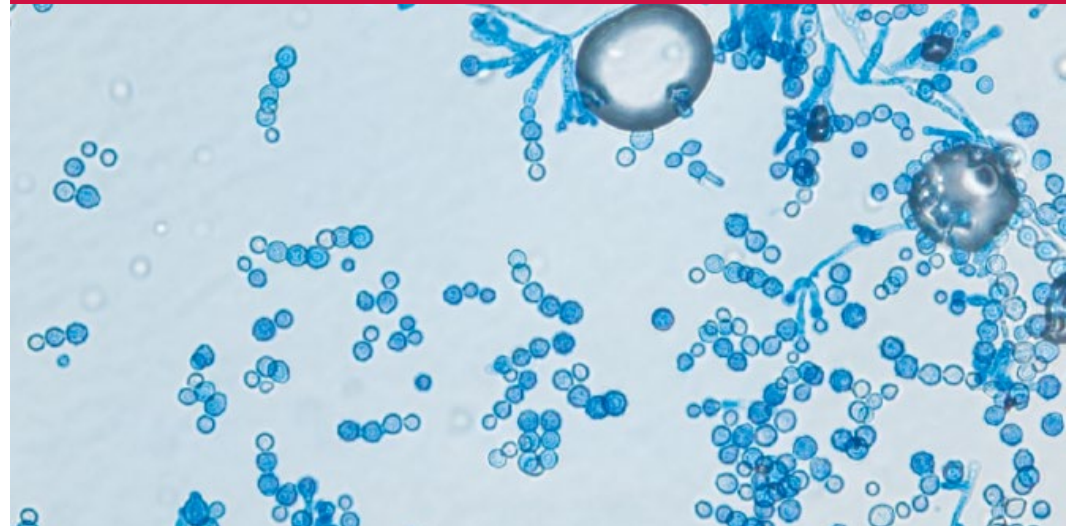
Through the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) invests in laboratory testing and emergency planning to make Ontario's food system one of the safest in the world. U of G's Laboratory Services Division, comprised of the Animal Health Laboratory (AHL) and Agriculture and Food Laboratory (AFL), provides comprehensive, reliable, accredited testing services to help build transparency and public confidence in the agri-food sector.

The Animal Health Laboratory works with partners to determine the health of livestock, poultry, horses and pets through a wide array of tests, and in turn provides disease surveillance data for the province of Ontario.

With new lab tests continually developed and validated, AHL stands on guard, ready to respond to emergencies and keep Ontario open for business.

AHL at a glance

- National leader in animal health testing, providing world-class laboratory services
- Works with veterinarians, government and university partners across Canada
- Accredited by international standards
- Fully computerized veterinary diagnostic lab employs analysts with post-graduate training and specialty board certification
- Monitors trends in existing diseases and sends real-time alerts to OMAFRA to ensure rapid and efficient response to health threats in the livestock and poultry industries
- Enables policy makers to have information readily available to assess risks, evaluate control strategies, identify research needs, and facilitate planning



Unique position in Canada

Uniquely positioned as a laboratory leader, AHL greatly benefits the agri-food and rural sector in Ontario. With funding from OMAFRA, through the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance, AHL uses new, cutting-edge technologies to continuously improve the services they offer. Proceeds from fee-for-service revenue is reinvested into the lab's various sections, providing innovative testing services to clients from multiple sectors.

Inputs

\$5.7M

from OMAFRA

\$8.6M

from testing services

Virology Lab Roche Flow—1 of only 5 instruments in Canada—enables AHL's capacity for high-volume export and surge testing in the event of a foreign animal disease outbreak.

125 staff

11 laboratory sections

- Bacteriology
- Client Services (Specimen Reception)
- Clinical Pathology
- Histotechnology
- Guelph Anatomic Pathology
- Kemptville Anatomic Pathology
- Molecular Biology
- Parasitology
- Surveillance
- Toxicology
- Virology



Multiple accreditations

- American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) —full accreditation, all species
- Standards Council of Canada (SCC) to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard for accredited techniques
- Orthopedic Foundation for Animals Inc. (OFA)—fT42s, TgAA, cTSH



By the numbers (2020/21)



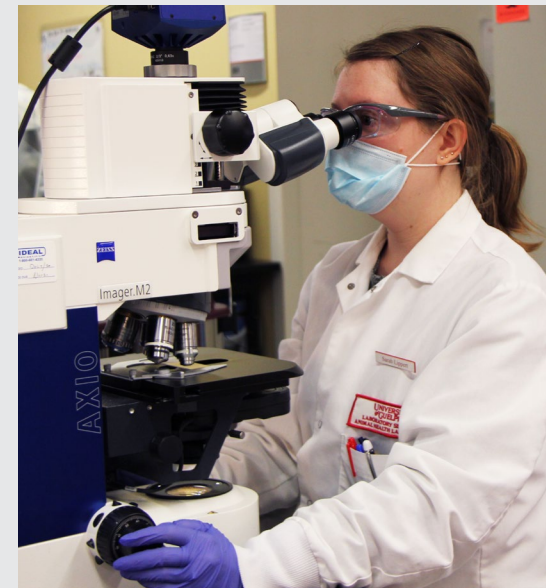
AHL performed **770,377** procedures
to complete **77,584** submitted cases

10%+
in revenue over 2019/20 to \$8.6 million

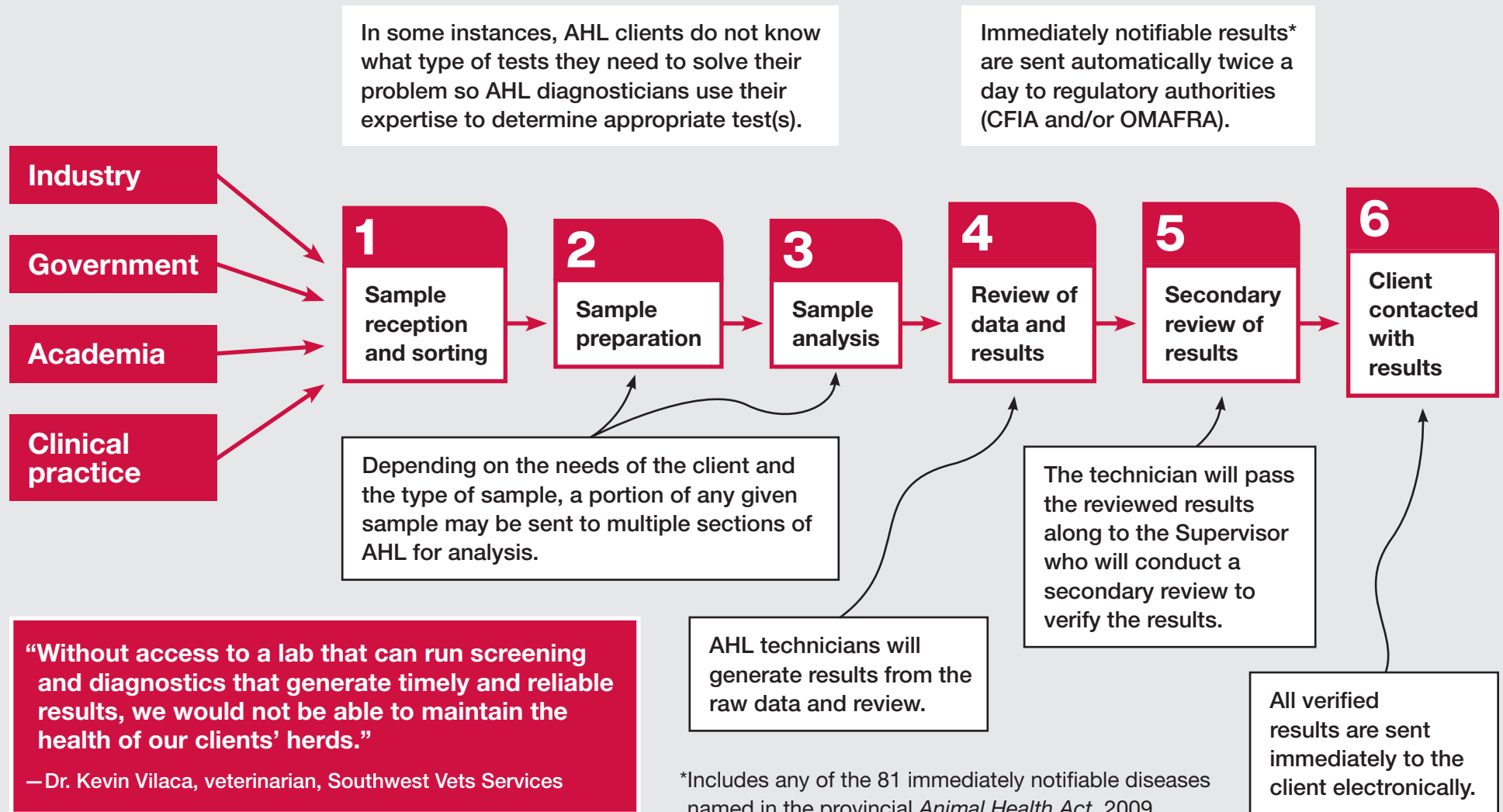
98.5%
compliance with published turnaround times

24
new tests developed or improved by AHL scientists

94.8%
client satisfaction with AHL services



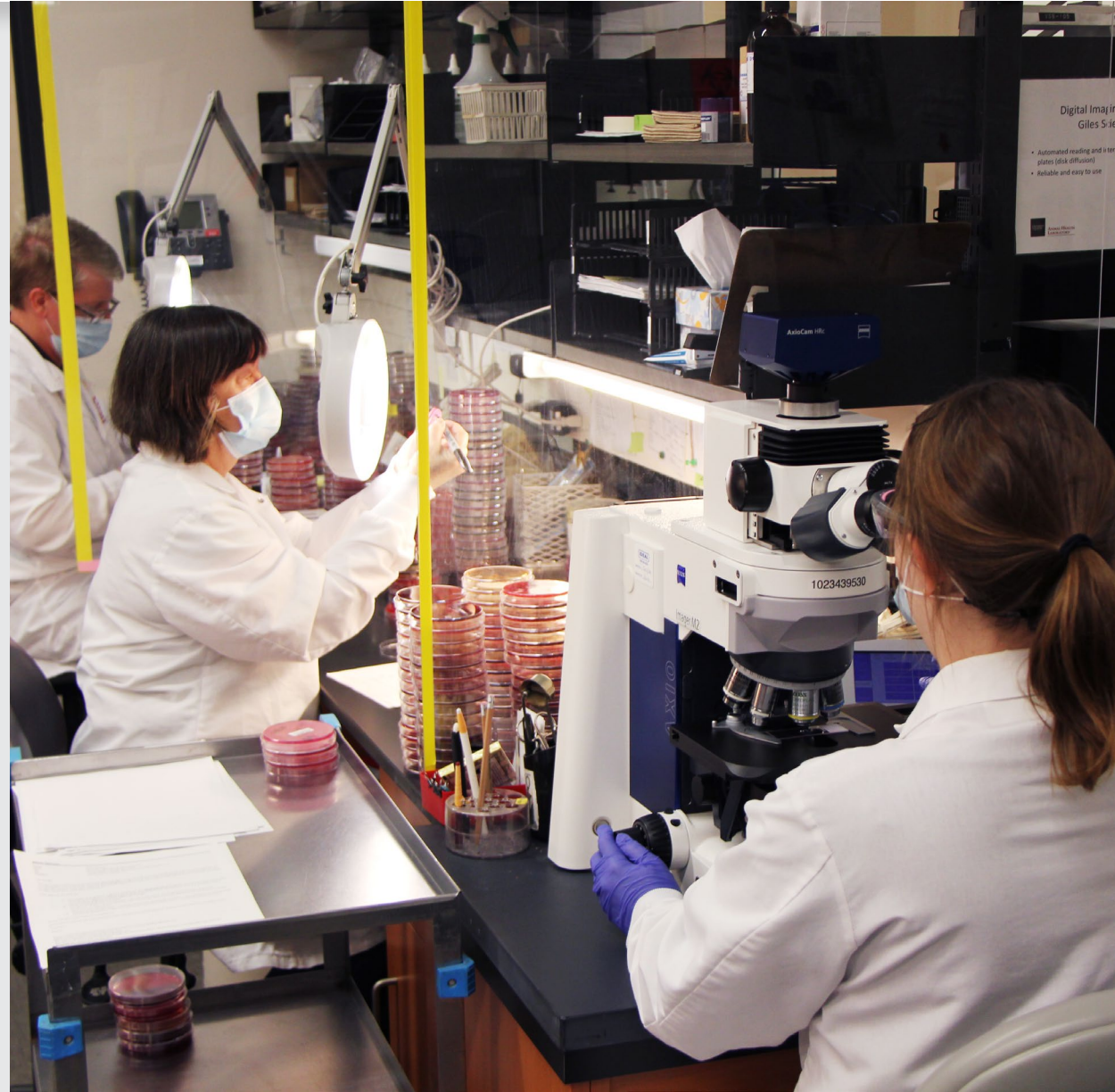
AHL sample flow chart



Making an impact

The following two examples showcase how the Animal Health Laboratory is making an impact in Ontario's agri-food sector and rural communities.

- 1** Partner of choice for Ontario's livestock trades
- 2** Emergency preparedness for African swine fever





Supporting the export industry

Partner of choice for Ontario's livestock trades



AHL is integral to Ontario's multi-million dollar livestock export industry—as well as Canada's poultry exports—by providing rapid and reliable confirmatory tests required by import countries. To ensure the livestock industry meets the rigorous requirements of import countries, AHL remains at the forefront of refining tests for more rapid service to the sectors while maintaining the integrity and reliability of the results.

AHL's reinvestment approach ensures the purchase of up-to-date lab instruments and equipment, enabling multiple tests to be performed at once. With the ability to test a wide variety of non-human animals—including falcons exported to Saudi Arabia—AHL provides the comprehensive, quality testing program required for successful export industries.

“There are a lot of labs out there, but you need a certain level of confidence in the lab, which is what we have with AHL.”

—Dr. Kevin Vilaca, veterinarian, Southwest Vets Services

Metrics and impact



2020 ONTARIO
ANIMAL EXPORTS¹

\$102.3M

live cattle

\$105M

live pigs

\$306.3M

total live animals

¹OMAFRA International Trade Statistics
2020



Verifies negative status
for disease in flocks and
herds eligible for the export
market



Cutting-edge technology

Utilizes up-to-date technology that optimizes
efficiency and surge capacity

Unique in Ontario

Only Ontario lab with
capacity for export
testing

Innovative

Develops new tests
related to export
requirements

“Due to their accreditation status, we utilize AHL in order to satisfy the
requirements of domestic and international testing programs.”

—Christa Arsenault, DVM, Canadian Swine Health Intelligence Network (CSHIN) manager



Disease monitoring and surveillance

Emergency preparedness for African swine fever



AHL plays a leadership role in disease monitoring and surveillance to support Ontario livestock producers and consumers.

For example, African swine fever (ASF) is a highly transmissible viral disease that affects hogs and poses a major threat to the commercial pork industry. AHL provides a local option for testing in Ontario and has the ability to detect that potential first positive case quickly and increase testing capacity rapidly to help monitor the spread of the disease. If ASF were detected in Ontario, it would have devastating economic implications for the pork industry, such as border closures and major animal health and welfare implications, including morbidity and mortality.



AHL supports the current provincial and national ASF disease-free status with quick, confirmatory testing of samples from animals that may present with symptoms similar to those of ASF. It is critical for Ontario and Canada to maintain this disease-free status to ensure a safe, healthy and profitable commercial pork industry.

2

Metrics and impact



2020 ONTARIO PORK
INDUSTRY METRICS¹

5.6M

hogs

1,142

producers

15K+

full-time-equivalent
jobs

\$2.7B

economic output

¹ 2020 statistics ontariopork.ca



Ontario leader

Only Ontario lab
providing testing for
African swine fever

Collaborative

Establishes and maintains collaborative
relationships with veterinarians and the
Canadian Swine Health Intelligence
Network

High capacity

High-volume test capacity for urgent
situations

“The data and information that AHL
provides into this network [Canadian
Swine Health Intelligence Network] is
extremely valuable to monitor endemic
swine disease as well as to monitor for
new and emerging swine pathogens.”

—Christa Arsenault, DVM, Canadian Swine Health
Intelligence Network (CSHIN) Manager

Comprehensive monitoring and surveillance

Monitors the industry through screening and
diagnostic tests to ensure a disease-free sector



“A quick turnaround time for test results we
can be confident in is critical to disease
monitoring and surveillance and AHL provides
that assurance and are ready to go beyond
regular work hours to address our urgent
needs, which is critical to the success of the
industry.”

—Dr. Kevin Vilaca, veterinarian, Southwest Vets Services

The Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance is a collaboration between the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the University of Guelph.

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