



## International Visitors

OADDL encourages collaborative partnerships with scientists and veterinarians from all over the US and from around the world. In this issue we highlight two recent visits to OADDL by international Scientists.

Dr. Virginia Venturina, Professor and Chair of Pathobiology department, Central Luzon State University, Philippines visited OADDL in early August. Dr. Venturina is the Project Leader for the Development of Diagnostic and Management Protocols for Intramammary Infections in Goats, National Dairy Goat S & T Program of the Philippines. At OADDL, Dr. Venturina received training in advanced diagnostic methods, which can be implemented in the Philippines, for detecting mastitis pathogens. We wish Dr. Venturina all the best in setting up the new diagnostic laboratory and look forward to collaborating on future projects. Dr. Venturina's visit was organized by Dr. Roger Merkel,



**Veterinarians from Azerbaijan shown with Assistant Director/Quality Manager Emily Cooper (center).**



**OADDL Director, Dr. Keith Bailey with Dr. Virginia Venturina.**

Langston University, OK.

In mid-August, OADDL hosted Directors of multiple State veterinary diagnostic laboratories from Azerbaijan as part of the U.S. State Department International Visitor

Leadership Program. The visit was organized by Tulsa Global Alliance (TGA), a nonprofit organization that bridges cultures and links people and institutions worldwide.

– Dr. A. Ramachandran

## Director's Note

In this edition of e-News we are rolling out a new feature that we plan to utilize in future issues. Specifically, we want to highlight diseases of veterinary significance and their distribution in Oklahoma based on testing at OADDL. Bovine trichomoniasis was selected as the first disease since we are quickly approaching time to test bulls prior to breeding season. As you will see in the map, we continue to diagnose cases of this significant reproductive disease in Oklahoma cattle. Additional information on bovine trichomoniasis can be found at the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension website (<http://osufacts.okstate.edu>).

We also honor the distinguished career of Dr. Eileen Johnson, who retired from OSU in early September.

Dr. Yoko Nagamori has been selected as our next Clinical Parasitologist and will have huge shoes to fill. In our Staff Spotlight, you will meet two of our newest team members.

At OADDL, we actively engage in outreach programs to advance veterinary medicine. In this edition, we highlight some of our recent efforts involving international veterinarians and our collaborations with Langston University.

We are extremely proud to meet the diagnostic needs of our clients on a daily basis. Your feedback and input are always appreciated. Please contact us at (405) 744-6623 or <http://cvhs.okstate.edu/oaddl>.

– Dr. Keith L. Bailey

## BIOSECURITY GUIDE for Poultry and Bird Owners



**LOOK**  
for Signs.



**REPORT**  
Sick Birds.



**PRACTICE**  
Backyard Biosecurity.

**For more information, click the picture above.**

## Dr. Eileen M. Johnson Retires

Dr. Eileen M. Johnson received her DVM as well as a Masters and PhD in Parasitology from Oklahoma State University. Following completion of her PhD, Dr. Johnson moved to California and served as a diagnostic parasitologist and research associate for the University of California at Davis and the California Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System. While in California, Dr. Johnson was instrumental in identifying trematodes as the vectors for the agent of Potomac Horse Fever. Following a successful tenure in California, she returned “home” to Oklahoma State and has served as a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Veterinary

Pathobiology. In addition to providing diagnostic parasitology service, she has trained scores of veterinary students to have competent parasitology skills heading into practice. From the research and investigation standpoint, Dr. Johnson has been active adding to the scientific literature, particularly related to American canine hepatozoonosis. Indeed, Dr. Johnson has an international reputation of excellence as a diagnostic parasitologist and teacher. In addition to her scientific accomplishments, Dr. Johnson is an artist, creating beautiful pieces of pottery and teaching others to do the same as a pottery instructor. Dr. Johnson is a most respected colleague and will be

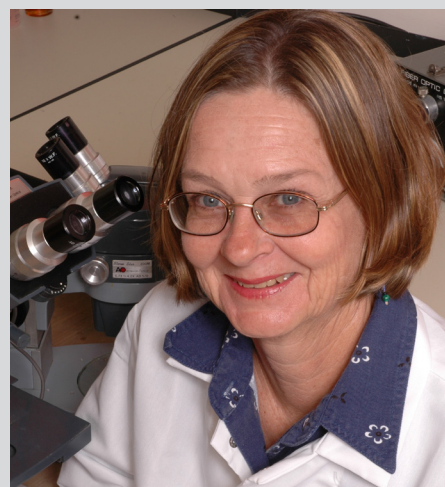


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GARY LAWSON / OSU MARKETING

greatly missed by the CHVS community.

## Screening Beef Cattle for Johne's Disease

OADDL offers a screening panel for Johne's disease, Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV) and Bovine Leukemia Virus (BLV) to assist breeders and producers with retention of breeding stock and selection of new animals.

Johne's disease is caused by *Mycobacterium avium* ssp. *paratuberculosis*, a bacterium that cattle may harbor for years prior to clinical illness. The Johne's enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) detects antibody to this bacterial organism.

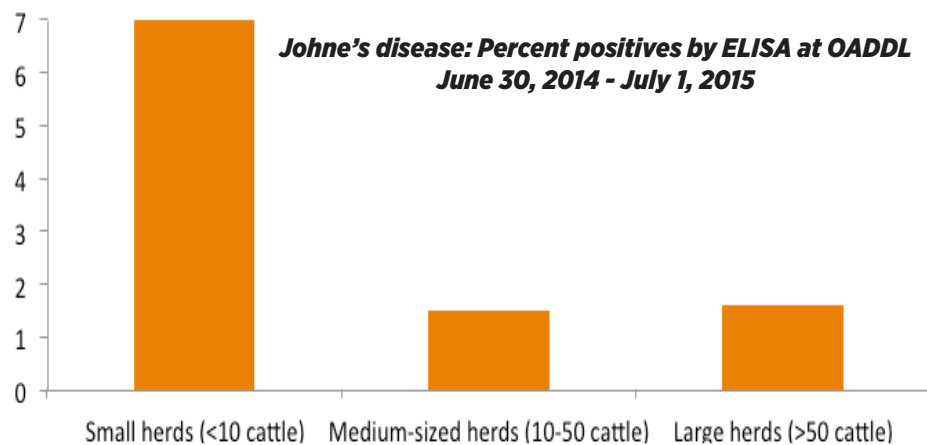
### Testing

While the ELISA is most useful for detecting Johne's disease in clinically-affected cattle, it can also be utilized as a screening test for herds with unknown disease status. Active infections can be confirmed by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing of feces (both individual and pooled) in our Johne's certified molecular diagnostic laboratory.

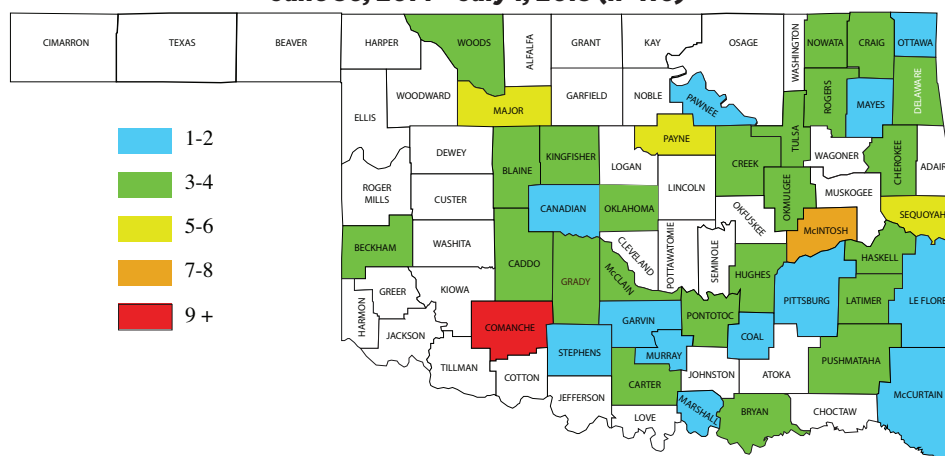
### Reducing losses

Prompt removal of affected animals is important to reduce morbidity and economic losses.

— Dr. G. Rezabek & J. Jones



**Distribution of Johne's positive cases, (ELISA and PCR)  
June 30, 2014 - July 1, 2015 (n=110)**





## OADDL welcomes new pathologist, Dr. Brad Njaa

Dr. Brad Njaa grew up in the prairies of Saskatchewan, Canada, and spent time in urban and rural regions. He received much of his training at the University of Saskatchewan, first as an undergraduate student in physiology and then as a veterinary student at The Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM). Five years in mixed animal practice allowed him to reflect on passions within the profession and even in mixed practice, he enjoyed special sense disease, primarily ocular problems, and trying to find out why animals died or did not respond to treatment. He returned to the Department of Pathology at WCVM for a combined anatomic and clinical pathology residency in 1996. His research project during his residency involved validating skin biopsy samples for BVD IHC testing. Since completing his program in 1999, he

has worked in several states, including the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in West Lafayette, IN, Cornell University and Oklahoma State University. He initially joined the OSU family in 2007 in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology. After a brief hiatus at IDEXX Laboratories Inc. from 2013-2015, he is back as an associate professor in the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (OADDL). His research interests continue to focus on the pathology of special senses (otic and ophthalmic) but also include, respiratory disease, reproductive disease, diseases of exotic species, and infectious diseases. He is always on the look out for interesting cases that he can publish or share with the pathology residents. In his spare time, Brad enjoys cycling and hiking with his family.



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## Getting to Know Us

Dr. Rupika DeSilva grew up in Sri Lanka. She earned a degree in veterinary medicine from the University of Peradeniya and started her career as a veterinarian in a mixed animal practice. Four years later, Rupi left Sri Lanka to Kansas State University where she earned a Master's degree in veterinary pathobiology. After working in biotechnology industry and academia in St. Louis, MO, Washington, DC and Sydney, Australia, Rupi and her family arrived in Stillwater in 2001. Some of you may know Rupi from her days in OADDL as a resident in anatomic pathology. Rupi and her husband are parents to two children, a dog and a cat. She likes to spend all her spare time with her family and pets.




## Ideas/Suggestions for Future Content

We want to hear from you. Send us your ideas and suggestions to [oaddl@okstate.edu](mailto:oaddl@okstate.edu).

## Contact Us

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[www.cvh.s.okstate.edu/oaddl](http://www.cvh.s.okstate.edu/oaddl)

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**Come and see us at Fall Conference!  
November 19-20, 2015.**

*For more information, click [here](#).*

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