



# AG HEALTH NEWS

August 2008

## Welcome to the renewed Ag Health News!

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### Special Points of Interest:

For more detailed information visit our website  
[www.aghealthlabs.com](http://www.aghealthlabs.com)

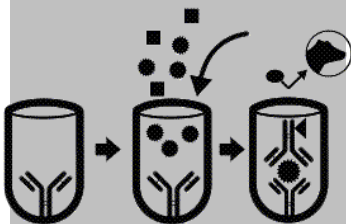
### Feed Analysis:

Updated wet chemistry procedures are receiving excellent marks for accuracy. See page 2 for details.

### Coming in Future Issues:

### Johnes Update:

Canadian News Report Links Johnes Disease to Crohns Disease in People!



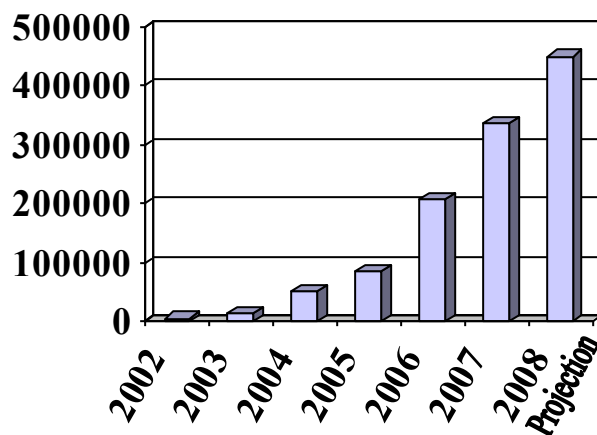
We're glad to be back in the information dissemination mode. There are many new things at Ag Health Labs since we last printed a newsletter. Enclosed is an update on the latest services, reporting methods, and people at Ag Health.

### BioTracking Retreat

Dr. Fred and Crystal attended an exciting retreat sponsored by BioTracking, LLC, the manufacturers of bioPRYN®, blood pregnancy tests. BioPRYN is dramatically growing as the pregnancy test of choice. While Ag Health Labs was the first commercial lab in the United States to run bioPRYN, beginning in August 2002, the rest of the country is catching on and bioPRYN sales have grown exponentially throughout the rest of the country.

If you value identifying open cows early and getting them recycled and rebred quickly bioPRYN is your test!

### bioPRYN® Growth



### Automatically download bioPRYN results into DairyComp305! Can you say "time saver"?!

Ag Health Labs is now reporting results electronically for those clients who prefer it. Results can either be in PDF format for easy viewing or in a CSV file to allow automatic downloading directly into DairyComp. Downloading data requires a few commands and some assistance from your Valley Ag Software technician, but once set up can eliminate the possibility of entry errors when typing in results one cow at a time. Basic commands are available at our website or by calling and requesting them.

## What's New in Wet Chemistry Feed Analysis?

Ag Health decided in 2007 a change was needed in our fiber analysis methods to increase the volume of samples we can process each day and to improve the accuracy and consistency of our lignin analysis. We converted from an Ankom fiber digestion to a filtration method. This allowed us to dramatically increase processing capacity while keeping costs to a minimum.

We have been impressed with the repeatability and accuracy of our new methods, especially regarding lignin analysis. Our new methods are receiving excellent grades from the National Forage Testing Association (NFTA) in 2008 for ADF, NDF, Lignin, Protein and Dry Matter analysis.

Our efficiency on fiber analysis has been greatly improved and we look forward to increasing sample volume each month. We plan to continue to add services in feed analysis starting immediately with rumen undegradable protein and starch. If you have questions or comments please let us know how we can serve you better.

## What is bioPRYN®?

BioPRYN is an ELISA test which detects a protein in blood called Pregnancy Specific Protein B (PSPB). PSPB is produced only by the placenta and thereby only present in pregnant cattle. BioPRYN tests are over 99% accurate at identifying pregnant cows and 95% accurate at identifying open cows. The test can be used in cows greater than 30 days since last bred and greater than 90 days in milk.

For more information about bioPRYN and how it can be incorporated on your ranch or dairy, go to our website at [www.aghealthlabs.com](http://www.aghealthlabs.com) or BioTracking's website at [www.biotracking.com](http://www.biotracking.com).



## Employee Profile



Please welcome the newest Ag Health employee, Gina Grasso. Gina will be primarily focused on milk microbiology and ELISA testing in the lab. Gina earned a Bachelor's of Science in Biology in 1991 from Dayton University, Ohio and has worked in several positions involving scientific research over the past 17 years including employment with the Bureau of Land Management, Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Washington University. Please introduce yourself during your next visit so she gets to know the wonderful clients she will be working with.