



University of Idaho

Idaho (WI) Veterinary Medical  
Education Program/  
Caine Veterinary Teaching Center

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

**2012 - 2016**

# **Idaho (WI) Veterinary Medical Education Program/Caine Veterinary Teaching Center**

## **STRATEGIC PLAN 2012-2016**

### **VISION STATEMENT:**

Improved health and productivity of Idaho's food-producing livestock

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

Transfer science-based medical information and technology concerning animal well-being, zoonotic diseases, food safety, and related environmental issues – through education, research, public service, and outreach – to veterinary students, veterinarians, animal owners, and the public, thereby effecting positive change in the livelihood of the people of Idaho and the region.

### **Authority and Scope:**

The original Tri-State Veterinary Education Program (WOI Regional Program – Washington State University, Oregon State University, and University of Idaho) was authorized in 1973 by the Idaho Legislature. The Caine Veterinary Teaching Center (Caine Center) at Caldwell, an off-campus unit of the University of Idaho's Department of Veterinary Science, was opened in 1977 as a part of Idaho's contribution to the WOI Regional Program in Veterinary Medicine. Oregon dropped out of the cooperative program in 2005; thus, the Program now involves only the University of Idaho and Washington State University, and is known as the WI Program.

The Caine Center serves primarily as a food animal referral hospital/teaching center where veterinary students from Washington State University/College of Veterinary Medicine (WSU/CVM) participate in one- to four-week elective food animal production medicine rotations during their senior year of veterinary school.

The WI Program allows Idaho resident students access to a veterinary medical education through a cooperative agreement with WSU, whereby students are excused from paying out-of-state tuition, and has undergone change since its inception. Originally providing access for 15 new Idaho resident students per year in the 4-year program (funding for 60 students annually), the program now provides access for 11 Idaho resident students per year (funding for 44 students annually). The Caine Center program now resides in the Department of Animal and Veterinary Science (AVS), in UI's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs).

The present WI Program is an American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)-accredited veterinary medical program. Faculty members are specialized in virology, bacteriology, epidemiology, medicine, and surgery and hold joint appointments between the UI College of Agricultural and Life Sciences in the AVS Department (research) and WI Regional Veterinary Medicine Program (teaching/service/outreach). The Veterinary Pathology discipline was lost in 2005 when our second board-certified veterinary pathologist retired and was not replaced.

The Caine Center's service and diagnostic program is integral to the food animal production medicine teaching program, offering individual animal diagnosis and treatment plus disease outbreak investigation services to the veterinarians and livestock producers in Idaho. Live animals referred from practicing veterinarians are used as hospital teaching cases, and are examined and treated by the students who are on rotation at that time. Students have access to onsite, in-house laboratories to process the samples they collect and analyze the results. Practicing veterinarians throughout the state who need diagnostic help with disease problems also often send samples directly to the Caine Center's laboratories for analysis.

The establishment of the original "WOI Program" motivated the development of a cooperative graduate program with WSU, allowing cross-listing of the WSU Veterinary Science graduate courses. Thus, UI students are able to enroll for coursework leading to the UI Master's degree and to the WSU PhD degree programs through the University of Idaho. The cooperative graduate program has also enhanced research cooperation between WSU and UI faculty members.

Responsibility for the Caine Center programs, daily operations, supervision and leadership for the faculty and staff lies with a Teaching Program Coordinator who functions as a Unit Administrator under the administrative supervision of the Head of the AVS Department.

### Teaching:

A teaching-oriented faculty with a practical approach to clinical problem-solving provides 1- to 4-week block(s) of time devoted to general food animal medicine, dairy production medicine, reproduction/biotechnology, cow/calf management, feedlot medicine, sheep/lambing management, small ruminant clinical medicine and special topics blocks designed for individual student needs.

Disease agents, fluid therapy, appropriate drug use, nutrition, diagnostic sampling, and necropsy are emphasized in clinical skills and individual animal medicine instruction. Production animal medicine stresses recordkeeping and interpretation, investigational skills, animal well-being, and stress reduction for beef cattle, dairy cattle, and small ruminants (primarily sheep and goats).

Caine Center faculty members provide summer internship opportunities for the AVS Department undergraduate program, especially designed for the pre-veterinary students. A 6-week summer dairy/beef veterinary experiential learning program – Northwest Bovine Veterinary Experience Program (NW-BVEP) – was started three years ago for a limited number of first- and second-year WSU/CVM veterinary students. One WI Program faculty member stationed at Moscow serves as an advisor for pre-veterinary students, teaches an undergraduate veterinary science course, and teaches in the second- and third-year instructional programs at the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine.

The Caine Center and AVS faculty also make use of the Caine Center facilities to offer continuing education programs for veterinarians and livestock producers, and the faculty themselves are involved in statewide producer educational programs.

#### Research:

Nationally- and internationally- acclaimed research conducted at the Caine Center includes that done on cryptosporidiosis, anaplasmosis, neonatal calf diseases, fluid therapy, reproductive diseases of cattle and sheep, genetic control of ovine foot rot, EID (electronic identification) of beef cattle, Johne's disease in cattle, sheep and goats, and scrapie in sheep. A long-standing collaboration with the Idaho Department of Fish & Game on wildlife/domestic disease interaction has resulted in elucidation of the Pasteurellaceae group of organisms causing death in bighorn sheep. The faculty has secured significant outside funding to conduct their research, and they have published numerous scientific papers. The research is dedicated primarily to that relevant to regional disease problems.

#### Service/Outreach/Extension:

Caine Center faculty members also have responsibility for outreach activities, although none of them have official Extension appointments. Their regular activities of daily/regular interaction and consultation with livestock producers, commodity groups, veterinarians, UI Extension specialists, and others on a variety of topics including production medicine, disease control or prevention, and reproductive problems are all service-oriented. Several faculty members contribute material on a regular basis to lay publications and industry newsletters, and many have been active in their state and national professional associations.

Comprehensive diagnostic services, disease investigations, and clinical studies – provided on a fee-for-service basis, and in conjunction with the veterinary teaching program – have significantly benefited many producers through the control of a number of economically devastating diseases.

## Teaching and Learning

### Goal 1. Quality.

**Objective: Continue to provide and improve a quality, highly-rated and effective teaching program with an innovative and practical approach to clinical problem-solving.**

#### Strategies:

- Seek out new teaching opportunities utilizing large food- animal production facilities that allow students actual hands-on experience not available in a formal educational facility, i.e. calving, lambing, kidding, milk sampling, surgery, etc.
- Utilize expertise of specialists in AVS and other departments to further expose students to basic specialized learning experiences.
- Incorporate local veterinary practitioners and agency specialists as part of the interdisciplinary instructional team.
- Expand partnerships with industry, state and local government agencies, and private foundations to encourage the funding of unique learning opportunities such as internships, preceptorships and residencies.

#### Performance Measures:

- Number of students in senior blocks
- Student evaluations
- Number of hours spent by students on producers' properties gaining hands-on experience
- Number of guest lecturers per block
- Contact hours with outside veterinarians

#### Benchmark:

- Having students for at least 80% of the scheduled blocks
- Having at least 35% of the WSU/CVM Senior Class rotate through the Caine Center

- Each student averaging at least 12 hours of direct hands-on experience on clients farms per 2-week block
- At least one guest lecturer per 2-week block
- An average of 4 hours of contact time per student with practicing veterinarians per 2-week block

## **Scholarly and Creative Activity**

### **Goal 1. Quality.**

**Objective: To provide the atmosphere, environment, encouragement, and time for faculty members to cultivate and nurture their scholarly and creative abilities.**

#### **Strategies:**

- Ensure that each faculty member has adequate time to pursue their research interests.
- Mentor new faculty and make sure they progress in an organized fashion towards reaching tenure and maximize their contribution to the Caine Program and the University of Idaho.
- Continue to nurture interaction between the AVS Dept/Moscow faculty, the Caine Center, and the WSU Veterinary School to promote collaboration on research projects, particularly for the newer faculty.
- Encourage faculty to seek out and apply for grants and contracts from all sources including federal and state government agencies, industry, private organizations and foundations.

#### **Performance Measures:**

- Time faculty members have to do research
- Amount of external funding
- Published papers in peer-reviewed journals and abstracts that meet CALS performance goals for each faculty member

#### **Benchmark:**

- Each faculty should dedicate at least 40 hours per month to research.

- Each faculty member should submit the required number of grants based on their research appointment and expectations.
- Each faculty member should meet expectations or better on their annual review (2 papers/year based on 100% research appointment).

## **Outreach and Service –**

### **Goal 1. Quality**

**Objective: Endeavor to expand diagnostic laboratory and field services for the veterinarians and livestock producers in Idaho and the region.**

#### **Strategies for Objective:**

- Encourage the participation of faculty and staff in Extension activities whenever possible, and as funding allows.
- Encourage the participation of all faculty members in field disease investigations.
- Continue to monitor quality control in all laboratories. Pursue any questions or complaints concerning results until the situation is resolved.
- Encourage continuing education of laboratory staff in their given specialty.
- Partner with other University departments or units and state agencies to enhance service, improve quality, and expand diagnostic testing for zoonotic and communicable diseases of importance to Idaho and the Northwest region. Specifically, advocate for the hiring of a Veterinary Pathologist to be shared with the Idaho Department of Agriculture Animal Health Laboratory.
- Continuously update clinical and laboratory instrumentation as budgets allow, thereby enhancing diagnostic laboratory testing procedures and services for veterinarians and livestock producers in the region.
- Implement and keep updated a fee-for-service structure that provides adequate budgetary support for additional laboratory personnel – over and above those supported by the State – and is based on costs of diagnostics, other available funding, and industry needs.
- Maintain support personnel adequate to ensure that increased volume of activity can be efficiently serviced.

### Performance Measures:

- Field investigations conducted; number of animals/herds served.
- Laboratory diagnostic and live animal case accessions.
- Number of laboratory personnel that participate in continuing education.
- Number of hours of continuing education accumulated by laboratory personnel.
- New techniques or equipment incorporated into laboratories protocols.

### Benchmarks:

- Each faculty member to give at least one Extension producer presentation or demonstration (oral or written) per year.
- Each faculty member should conduct at least 6 field investigations per year.
- Laboratories diagnostic accessions should increase each year by at least 3%, in normal economic times.
- Live animal case accessions should remain steady, or increase in normal economic times.
- Adequate laboratory diagnostic caseload to support 3.0 FTE's, in normal economic times.

### **External Factors:**

1) Caseload – live animal cases and diagnostic cases, sufficient for instructional goals and objectives and to support in-house laboratories are variable; subject to need and economic demand.

2) Loss of essential personnel. Due to budget reductions (hold-backs, rescissions, and furloughs); it is difficult to hire and retain sufficient, qualified individuals to keep up with demands of the program. Positions have been restructured and funding sources modified to the extent possible. There is also very limited means to recognize and reward outstanding performance.

3) Veterinary Pathology. This position has been vacant since the retirement of the second of our two veterinary pathologists in 2006. This specialty is in high demand in veterinary medicine. We are outsourcing for minimal diagnostic services, but are unable to incorporate this extremely important specialty in the veterinary teaching program at this time.