

Single Source Exemption: Contract C200737
Term: 4/1/10- 3/31/11 with the option of four renewals
Cost: \$57,500

The Department of Agriculture & Markets would like to enter into a single source agreement with Cornell University, for Animal Health Testing for the term 4/1/10 to 3/31/11 with the option 4 renewals.

Program Background

This Department receives an annual grant from the United States Department of Agriculture for these activities, a portion of which is specifically earmarked by USDA for our contract with Cornell University for Brucellosis testing.

Brucellosis is a zoonotic disease, one that can spread from animals to humans. The human disease is called undulant fever and causes a spectrum of illness, including arthritis, sterility and sometimes death. In cattle the disease causes abortions and used to be a major threat to farm productivity. Thanks to control efforts this disease is now rare in US cattle and surveillance efforts, such as this one, must continue to keep it that way.

Brucellosis can only be detected by monitoring test results of milk samples and by the rapid screening of blood samples drawn at the time of slaughter, in addition to routine blood testing of herds.

In 1977, USDA awarded the first grant to the Department to fund a new program at Cornell's Diagnostic Laboratory in response to continuing outbreaks of brucellosis in the state. The program included a comprehensive eradication, control and surveillance program aimed at eliminating the occurrence of brucellosis. At that time, 35 dairy herds were quarantined due to active brucellosis infections.

As a result of the Department's brucellosis testing program at Cornell, New York has been free of brucellosis since 1982. This goal was accomplished at great cost to the state's dairy farmers and to the Treasury, since the Department is required to reimburse farmers for cattle destroyed after testing positive for brucellosis. The potential threat of reintroduction of brucellosis is of great concern and is the basis of the Department's continuing monitoring and control program. Without the required testing, New York would lose its accredited Brucellosis Certified Free status and face embargo on the export of livestock and livestock products to other states and Canada. The resulting disruption of trade would result in severe economic losses to the state's dairy and beef farmers.

Selection Rationale

USDA requires that all Brucellosis testing be done at approved National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratories. The animal Diagnostic Center at Cornell University is the only facility within New York State which has this designation

and that is able to perform this testing. There are no out of state laboratories which could do this volume of testing in a timely manner and also provide timely assistance with test result interpretation.

Justification of Costs

We determined the reasonableness of cost by comparison to past contracts however, USDA-APHIS made the final budget determination in their cooperative agreement with the Department.