

**COMMITTEE MINUTES for  
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE**

Date: *February 1, 2017*

Location: *RM 305*

Convened: *10:10 AM*

Adjourned: *11:00 AM*

Attendance Roll Call:

Present: Senators Shipley-CH, Brown-VC, Hart-RM, Kinney,  
Rozenboom; Representatives Mommsen-CH, Zumbach-VC, Ourth-RM, Bacon,  
Hein, Isenhardt, Paustian, Prichard, Steckman

Absent:

Excused:

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee was called to order by Senator Shipley in room 305. Roll was taken silently with all legislators present.

Senator Shipley introduced the speakers:

Dr. Lisa Nolan, Dean of the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Pat Halbur, Professor and Chair of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal  
Medicine Department and Executive Director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab.

Dr. Rodger Main, Professor and Director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab

Dr. Lisa Nolan opened her discussion with an expression of thanks towards the support that has helped make the Iowa State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory the number one in the country.

Dr. Halbur opened his discussion stating that in 2005, the veterinary lab was in crisis, and the resources from the committee helped save the lab. He shared a handout that showed typical cases that the vet lab deals with daily. He shared that the lab receives cases from vets that are working with producers. The lab receives samples and uses the latest technology to work as quickly as possible to work towards answers and put together teams to go out and help. The case load for the lab has double in the last five years, with roughly 75,000-80,000 cases a year, with all of these cases being learning opportunities for students in the veterinary school. He shared that the direct appropriation helps keep prices low for producers and keeps the lab ready for the next crisis.

Dr. Main opened his discussion with recognition of thanks. He discussed the importance of trade, case material, and the recent crisis of PDD that the lab helped solve. In 2015 during the outbreak of the Avian Influenza, the lab worked closely with producers and state and federal veterinaries. He shared that it is not all about testing and diagnostics, the research programs carried out by the lab are very essential as well. He thanked the committee for the opportunity to speak.

Dr. Halbur spoke again about the 2015 accreditation of the lab, in which the results were that the lab was staffed with good people, and it was a good program, yet the facility's condition was of much concern. The facility needs safety for employees in their workspace. They need to be able to ensure that the diseases stay there and are not taken home. The overcrowded facility caused concern. The projected cost of a new facility would be \$124 million. He briefly discussed the economic impact of the facility. He expressed thanks for the direct appropriations. Discussion followed by Representative Prichard, Senator Hart, Representative Mommsen, Representative Isenhardt, Senator Kinney, and Senator Rozenboom. Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

With no further questions, Representative Isenhardt moved to arise.

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Senator Tom Shipley

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Cassie Bond, Committee Secretary