

# WORLD CLASS

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

## VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY



### WORKLOAD, BIOSAFETY, AND BIOCONTAINMENT NEEDS DEMAND NEW FACILITY

The Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (ISU VDL), located on the campus of ISU's College of Veterinary Medicine, processes over **75,000 case submissions** and conducts approximately 1.5 million diagnostic tests annually. **The caseload has doubled in the last five years.**

The ISU VDL offers comprehensive diagnostics with **fast and reliable results**. Those results come with prompt expert interpretation and consultation. The lab's consistent excellence in providing same-day test results and being a reliable source of information for the public are reasons why it is one of the preeminent veterinary diagnostic labs in the world.

ISU VDL is the only one of its kind in Iowa, and one of only 11 fully accredited Tier 1 labs in the U.S. National Animal Health Laboratory Network. As such, the ISU VDL plays a key role in national surveillance and animal health programs for domestic, emerging, and foreign animal diseases.



**! VDL FACES CHALLENGES**

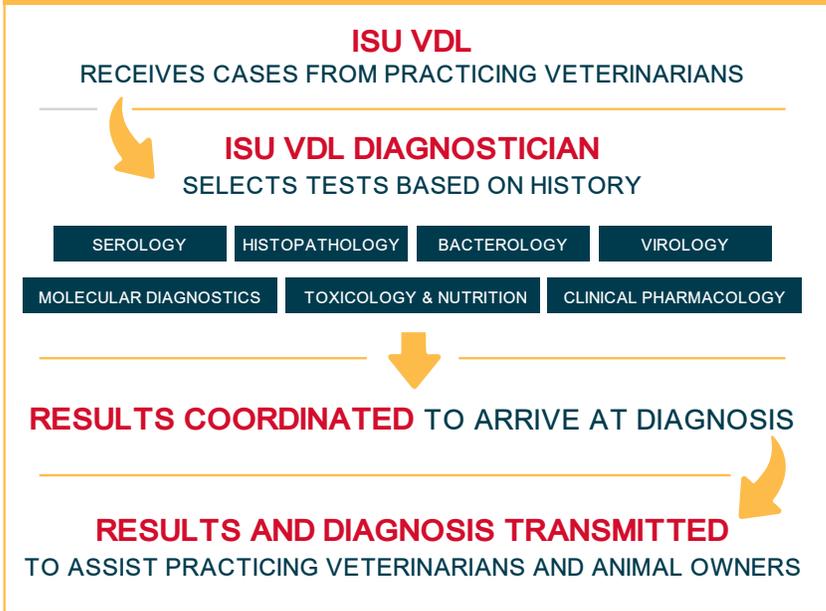
- ✓ COMPROMISED BIOSAFETY AND BIOCONTAINMENT
- ✓ SEVERE OVERCROWDING
- ✓ OUTDATED PLUMBING, ELECTRICAL, HVAC SYSTEMS

### A NEW LAB WOULD:

- 1** ✓ Provide a safe environment to conduct testing
- 2** ☠ Assure disease pathogens do not escape from the lab
- 3** 🪑 Meet present space needs and provide desperately needed surge capacity
- 4** ⚙ Allow for development and implementation of new and emerging technologies
- 5** 📈 Support competitiveness and growth of Iowa's export-centric agricultural economy

## INVEST IN A PROVEN LEADER

### MODEL OF SERVICE, TEACHING, AND RESEARCH



Built in the 1970s, the ISU VDL facility is insufficient for conducting essential work serving the food animal, pet, and wildlife industries in Iowa and beyond. Infrastructure from over 40 years ago is woefully inadequate to facilitate the distinguished staff and work being done at the lab.

#### The major challenges include:

- Compromised biosafety and biocontainment due to layout, airflow, and crowding
- Overcrowding with little to no room to accommodate the newest technologies to keep ahead of emerging diseases
- Outdated plumbing, electrical, and HVAC systems

When built, the ISU VDL had 11 faculty and 20 technical staff members. Today, there are **25 faculty and more than 115 technical staff**. The value of the learning environment for future veterinarians and researchers cannot be overstated. In the present facility, limitations are placed on people, equipment, and progress.

A new facility would not only meet present needs, but position the lab to accommodate future growth. This infrastructure investment will greatly enhance the diagnostic service and discovery capabilities within the state and serve to support animal health, food safety, public health, and the competitiveness Iowa's animal agricultural industries for the current and future generations of Iowans.

Estimated cost for the new Veterinary Diagnostic Lab is \$124 million with \$100 million (\$20 million per year for five years) requested from state appropriation, \$20 million raised in private funds, and \$4 million from Iowa State University.

As proposed, VDL's net assignable space will increase from 60,000 square feet (current) to 83,000 square feet, and 27,500 square feet of the present facility will be repurposed to meet critical research and teaching needs at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT ON IOWA

Annually, Iowa's livestock production and processing sectors contribute \$32.58 billion to the state's economy (Schulz, Swenson, Hayes, Holtkamp 2017).

### DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT

Iowa livestock production	\$14.62 billion
Iowa livestock processing and products	\$17.96 billion
<b>Total Impact</b>	<b>\$32.58 billion</b>

The \$124 million cost of a new VDL equals about 0.38 percent of the annual direct economic value of Iowa's livestock production and processing sectors.

A contribution to the size of the Iowa livestock sector by the VDL of 0.38 percent would, from a statewide perspective, **pay for a new lab within just one year!** A 1 percent increase (or decrease) has a \$325 million dollar annual impact on Iowa's economy.

### VDL PLAYS KEY ROLE IN ADDRESSING:

#### 1 Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea

When *Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv)* swept through the U.S. pork industry, the VDL was again at the forefront of the efforts to curb the devastating consequences of this challenge.

#### 2 High Path Avian Influenza

When *High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI)* rocked the poultry industry, the VDL was essential in the process to identify and develop solutions.

#### 3 Chronic Wasting Disease

The VDL supports efforts to protect Iowa's deer and elk from the debilitating effects of *Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)*.

 **75,000**  
ANNUAL SUBMISSIONS

 **RELIABLE**  
FAST RESULTS

**LARGEST FOOD ANIMAL CASELOAD** IN NORTH AMERICA



### CONTACT

Dr. Pat Halbur: 515-294-6970 | pghalbur@iastate.edu  
Dr. Rodger Main: 515-294-6945 | rmain@iastate.edu  
Dr. Lisa Nolan: 515-294-9860 | lk Nolan@iastate.edu