National Bio and Agro-defense groundbreaking held in Manhattan

On May 28, 2015, the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) held a groundbreaking ceremony for the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility’s (NBAF) main laboratory. A crowd of over 300 attended the ceremony. Among the attendees were several representatives of local, state and federal governments together with over two dozen Kansas legislators. The ceremony was held on the site in Manhattan adjacent to the campus of Kansas State University.

NBAF will be the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s foremost animal disease research facility. The biosafety level-3 and biosafety level-4 laboratory will include research of emerging, high-consequence livestock disease that threaten animal and human health and the nation’s food supply.

The ceremony included remarks from several government leaders: Governor Sam Brownback; Rep. Kevin Yoder; Rep. Lynn Jenkins; Rep. Tim Huelskamp; Senator Jerry Moran; Senator Pat Roberts; Tim Vilsack, secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and Jeh Johnson, secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Kirk Schulz, Kansas State University president, also presented remarks at the ceremony. In his remarks, President Schulz touched on the the history of bringing NBAF to Manhattan.

Also at the ceremony, the DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) announced the award of a contract for the final phase of construction of the NBAF being constructed in Manhattan, KS.

The state of Kansas is providing $307 million, and the city of Manhattan is providing $5 million toward the total acquisition cost inclusive of planning, design, construction and commissioning of the $1.25 billion facility. The award is the beginning of the third and final phase of construction of the NBAF.

Site preparation was completed in 2012 with funding provided by the state of Kansas. The NBAF central utility plant (CUP) is expected to be completed in October of this year. The $80 million CUP, which houses the boilers, chillers, emergency diesel generators and other support elements for the main laboratory facility, was funded with $40 million in federal appropriations and $40 million in gift funding from the state of Kansas.

Construction is expected to be completed in 2020 with full operational capability achieved by 2022.

While in Manhattan, DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson visited K-State’s campus to deliver a Landon Lecture. His presentation can be viewed [HERE](#).
University celebrates commencement and commissioning ceremonies

Nearly 3,400 K-State students celebrated the completion of their degrees at commencement ceremonies on May 9 at K-State Salina and May 15-16 on the university’s campus in Manhattan.

The class of 2015 is the 148th to graduate from Kansas State University since the first class graduated in 1867.

The university awarded more than 2,600 bachelor’s degrees; 734 master’s degrees; 124 doctoral degrees; 108 Doctor of Veterinary medicine degrees; and more than 30 associate degrees. More than 260 students earned their degree through distance education.

In addition to the commencement ceremonies, over 30 K-State ROTC cadets were commissioned. U.S. Army General Martin Dempsey, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, served as commissioning speaker and administered the oath of office to the new officers.

Kansas State also honored Nancy Kassebaum Baker, a native Kansan and former U.S. Senator for nearly two decades, with an honorary doctorate from the university during the Graduate School’s commencement ceremony. She served as the event speaker.

“Nancy Kassebaum Baker’s nearly two decades of leadership as a U.S. senator are evidence of her dedication to service and diplomacy,” said Kirk Schulz,

K-State celebrates grand opening of new Bulk Solids Innovation Center

After breaking ground on the project less than a year ago, the Kansas State University Bulk Solids Innovation Center celebrated its grand opening on May 14, 2015.

The two-story, 13,000-square-foot facility is the only one of its kind in North America and will be used to study the science and understanding of bulk solids materials handling - loose, dry commodities like sugar, minerals, pigments and recycled plastics that account for more than 80 percent of items transported around the world. The innovation center houses six laboratories for university and industry-sponsored research; training and education, conference and lecture rooms; a material properties test lab; and a full-scale bulk solids test bay.

K-State is the key tenant in the center, while two local companies, Coperion K-Tron Salina and Vortex Valves, supplement the facility by serving as anchor occupants. University-level courses associated with bulk solids as well as professional development courses for industry professionals will be taught onsite, and students will assist with research projects as outside companies partner with the center to conduct product testing. In addition, it complements the College of Agriculture’s Bulk Solids and Particle Technology Lab and program housed on the Manhattan campus.

The innovation center is a project of Kansas State University with partners the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, Salina Economic Development Corporation, U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration the state of Kansas and the city of Salina.
university president. "We want to honor her
distinguished career."

The awarding of the honorary doctorate follows the
approval by the Kansas Board of Regents. It is one of
the highest honors the university can give.

DID YOU KNOW?

K-State's Hale Library was named fourth most
amazing collegiate library in the United States by
College Rank.

K-State Governmental Relations Staff
Sue Peterson, Director of Governmental Relations
Kristin Holt, Assistant to the Director
Ben Brown, Legislative Assistant
Asher Gilland, Legislative Assistant

Contact Information
Office of Governmental Relations
110 Anderson Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506-0112
785-532-6227
www.ksu.edu/govrelations