KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Expansion of the Large Animal Research Center (LARC)

Problem/Issue Statement

K-State's existing Large Animal Research Center (19,000sf, Biosecurity Level-2) is an important resource for studying infectious diseases of livestock. K-State faculty have licensing agreements for vaccines and medications resulting from work performed in the LARC and Biosecurity Research Institute (BRI). K-State's expertise in emerging livestock diseases and the BRI were important factors in the selection of Manhattan to locate the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF).

SARS-CoV-2 and African swine fever are economically-relevant diseases impacting markets in excess of $1B across the globe. In 2001, the United Kingdom depopulated 6M cattle at a cost of $6.9B to eradicate Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) – a mission-critical pathogen for NBAF. LARC does not accommodate adult cattle or swine. The housing capacity is insufficient to support the needs of current faculty, let alone future NBAF researchers and corporate partners. LARC must be expanded to accommodate adult livestock and provide capacity for external collaborators to study the most significant pathogens of our time.

Request Description

A global reputation for discovery and commercialization will enhance opportunities for Kansas to attract federal grants, corporate partners, and workforce talent. We propose an expanded BSL-2Ag Large Animal Research Facility to accommodate animal housing needs for pharmaceutical and biologic safety studies. In some cases, animals will transition to BSL-3/4 in the BRI or NBAF for challenge studies. A 35,000 square feet expansion for $25M is planned.

Request Goals and Expected Outcomes

The expansion will result in increased capacity for corporate collaborators and support emerging businesses relocating to Kansas proximate to NBAF. The proposed LARC expansion would expedite research with ASF, FMD and other critical pathogens at both BRI and NBAF. This resource is an essential pillar of the suite of biosecurity and biodefense resources being developed at K-State, which will enable us to serve as the preeminent US resource to facilitate private-public collaboration for pathogens of worldwide significance.

Appropriations Subcommittee

Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Homeland Security

Request Type

Funding Request ☒

Bill Language Request ☐