

# New Construction on the College of Veterinary Medicine Campus

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Construction is in full swing for the College of Veterinary Medicine's newest facility, the Livestock Infectious Disease Isolation Facility for Research, which will be completed by the Spring of 1999. Observant students and staff may have already noticed the progressing dirt work just east of the Veterinary Medical Research Institute (VMRI). The \$6.27 million, 27,000 sq. ft. building is a needed addition to the current VMRI research facilities. The facility will be utilized by CVM scientists to expand and develop projects dealing with food safety issues such as Salmonellosis and *E. coli* infections, as well as livestock infectious diseases, such as Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS).

The biocontainment level 2 (BL-2) building will give researchers a tremendous advantage over the current VMRI facility, particularly in terms of available space. The thirteen large animal isolation rooms will allow scientists to work with large groups of adult swine, farrowing swine, cattle, or poultry which are necessary for vaccine development and drug testing. Current VMRI facilities only provide enough space to work on small lab animals in a BL-2 situation. Overall, the facility will enable researchers to conduct experiments in a very modern

laboratory setting which meets the American Association for Lab Animal Care (AALAC) standards for animal health care. According to Dr. Prem Paul, the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, receiving AALAC certification is not only beneficial to the well-being of the research animals, but will also make ISU much more competitive in the search for research dollars.

The same \$9.27 million state legislation appropriation package that funded the BL-2 facility will pay for the construction of the \$3 million BL-3 Ag Food Animal Biocontainment Facility at the National Animal Disease Center (NADC). This building will be an addition to the recently completed BL-3 Ag Necropsy-Incinerator facility. As a BL-3 building, ISU and government researchers will be able to pursue projects dealing with infectious pathogens such as *Brucella* species, *Mycobacterium* species, Avian Influenza Virus strains, and other emerging virulent agents. When completed, the entire facility will be the only BL-3 food animal biocontainment facility in the U.S. Dr. Paul states, "These buildings will allow scientists at ISU and NADC to continue our tradition as state, national, and world leaders in livestock health research."♦



This illustration depicts the new Livestock Infectious Disease Isolation Facility for Research currently under construction on the College of Veterinary Medicine campus. The 27,000 square foot building, located immediately east of the Veterinary Medical Research Institute, will have thirteen large animal isolation rooms at biocontainment level 2.

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