

USAgNet Search



+ BACK TO HOME

+ ABOUT US

+ WEBSITE DESIGN

+ ADVERTISING INFO

+ CONTACT US

EMAIL US  
NEWS TIPS!*Tim Nolan Arena!*  
MARION, WISCONSIN

## Kentucky Ag News Headlines

### Improvements to enhance UK's Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center

Kentucky Ag Connection - 09/15/2008

State and local government officials, including Gov. Steve Beshear, joined representatives from the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture Friday to break ground on a \$28.5 million expansion and renovation of UK's Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center.

"The investment in this facility is key to supporting animal agriculture, a vital part of Kentucky's economy. The state's world-class horse and cattle industries, as well as robust and growing poultry and small ruminant industries, require vigilance in disease surveillance and diagnosis," Beshear said. "I'm pleased the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board funds were available to make this important project a reality."

The Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center is a full-service animal health diagnostic facility. Its faculty and staff handle one of the largest case loads in the nation, seeing 60,000 clinical cases and performing 5,000 necropsies (animal autopsies) on average every year. The laboratory also protects public health by diagnosing many zoonotic diseases that can potentially cross over into the public sector.

In the 2005 legislative session, the University of Kentucky received \$8.5 million in general fund dollars for the planning, digester design and purchase, and the design of the pre-treatment facility. In the 2009-2010 budget, a \$20 million bond was authorized with the debt service provided from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund. The bond proceeds will be used to make improvements to the facility including the addition of much needed space for necropsy laboratories and administrative offices. The construction is scheduled to be complete by 2010, nearly doubling the size of the 38,000 square foot building.

"Enhancement of these facilities is absolutely essential if the college is to be able to fulfill its state-mandated missions for safeguarding animal health," said Scott Smith, dean of the UK College of Agriculture. "Our faculty and staff are to be applauded for managing one of the nation's heaviest veterinarian diagnostic workloads in crowded and outdated quarters. But now they will have the capacity to make a major step forward."

Improvements to the facility include the addition of wings for necropsy laboratories and administration, freeing up much of the existing building to increase overall laboratory space. These expansions will nearly double the size of the existing 38,000-square-foot facility. In addition, the current facility will undergo a total renovation.

The center will also switch to alkaline digestion as its main form of tissue disposal, which is more cost-effective and environmentally friendly than other methods. These and other technological improvements to the facility will allow it to meet current biosafety requirements. Construction is expected to be complete by 2010.

**Genuine  
AG-BAG  
Plastic**

Click Here for  
Your Local Dealer

800-247-5557

**GEHLING**  
BOX 250  
Preston, MN 55966  
AUCTION, Inc.

NAA  
Auctioneer

The planning for the project began in 2003 under the leadership of Nancy Cox, UK associate dean for research and director of the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station, and

Lenn Harrison, the center's former director. Stakeholders began looking at other diagnostic laboratories across the country and made plans for improvements. The university received \$8.5 million for the project from the 2005 state legislative session and an additional \$20 million from the 2008 legislature.

"We have a lot of people to thank, including our stakeholders and legislators, because this has been a needs-driven process," Cox said. "It was a very conscious and careful effort to place importance on animal enterprises in the state of Kentucky."

Craig Carter, the center's director, said the improvements will enable the center to be better equipped to respond in the event of an emergency or disease outbreak.

"These renovations and additions will also help us to better mitigate potentially devastating outbreaks like Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome and in dealing with a potential agroterrorist event," he said.

Cox said that while the project has taken several years to come to fruition, the center has been moving forward.

"We haven't been standing still. We've been improving our personnel and technologies," she said.

At the conclusion of the ground breaking ceremonies Beshear, along with Commissioner of Agriculture Richie Farmer, signed a proclamation declaring Sept. 21 to 27 Farm Safety and Health Week in Kentucky.

"I urge all Kentuckians to be aware of the risks involved with farming and the importance of keeping our farmers safe," said Gov. Beshear. "We need to continue to focus on agriculture's vibrant future, making the health and safety of our farmers and farm workers among our highest priorities."

"Safety on the farm is everyone's responsibility," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. "One careless moment can end a life or change it forever. I urge all Kentuckians who work on the farm to take that extra step that will keep them and their loved ones safe."

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Farm and Home Safety Program goes to every county to give safety information and to stage mock rescues from tractor, ATV and lawn mower accidents using local emergency personnel. The program uses a one-of-a-kind rollover tractor simulator to demonstrate the use of a rollover protection structure (ROPS). It also uses a miniature wagon and grain bin in its demonstrations.

Farming-related fatalities in Kentucky have declined from 50 in 1995 to 18 in 2006, the last year for which statistics are available. The Kentucky Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation Program reported that Kentucky had 14 farming-related deaths in 2007.

[Louisville](#)

Brown Mackie College Louisville - Get Info on Veterinary Programs.  
[www.BrownMackie.edu](http://www.BrownMackie.edu)

[Agricultural Education](#)

Learn more about distance learning classes offered at Texas Tech.  
[www.de.ttu.edu](http://www.de.ttu.edu)

[Kentucky Attorneys](#)

Criminal Defense, Injury, Workers' Comp, Neglect. Free Consultation!  
[www.myglobalprofile.com/roushstliz](http://www.myglobalprofile.com/roushstliz)

Ads by Google