



Lincoln



Omaha



Kearney



Medical Center

Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center

Serving the needs of Nebraska's veterinarians and livestock producers and protecting public health.

Built in 1975, the Veterinary Diagnostic Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources is in danger of losing its accreditation because it does not meet modern laboratory standards. Loss of accreditation would have significant consequences for the Nebraska veterinarians and livestock producers who rely on the center for accurate, timely test results and information – which are particularly critical during an animal health emergency.

The American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians conducted an accreditation review of the University's center in late 2011. The review team expressed concern about the center's ongoing deficiencies, and a decision is expected in February or March. To demonstrate progress in addressing the deficiencies and avoid losing accreditation, the University seeks \$5 million from the Legislature as part of its "Building a Healthier Nebraska" initiative to plan and design a new Veterinary Diagnostic Center.

A separate capital request of about \$50 million would be made at a future date to allow for construction of a new center.

The Veterinary Diagnostic Center serves Nebraska by:

- Providing accurate and timely diagnostic services; the center processes 13,000 cases annually.
- Protecting animal and public health through disease surveillance. There are more than 800 diseases that are found in both animals and humans, so a quality diagnostic center is important for the health of the people of Nebraska as well as its livestock and companion animals.
- Developing new diagnostic testing methods.
- Supporting food safety and infectious and biomedical research.
- Training students in the professional program in veterinary medicine.
- Supporting continuing education for Nebraskans.

Current deficiencies at the center include:

- Poor ventilation
- Obsolete building design resulting in increased risk for cross-contamination of contagious pathogens and diagnostic errors
- Overcrowding and limited space for future growth
- Inaccessibility for people with disabilities

Loss of accreditation carries significant risks, including:

- Weaker consumer confidence and the confidence of the animal health industries in Nebraska.
- Reduced competitiveness for the best faculty and staff.
- Decreased ability to respond to disease outbreaks.
- Reduced opportunities for federal grants and contracts.
- Limited ability to perform regulatory diagnostic testing.



Architect's rendering of the proposed new Veterinary Diagnostic Center.

Architects have determined that a new facility is the most cost-effective solution. Furthermore, Nebraska is a leading beef state, and having high-quality facilities is deemed essential by industry leaders who support a new Veterinary Diagnostic Center. These include:

- Ag Builders of Nebraska
- Nebraska Veterinary Association
- Nebraska Cattlemen
- Nebraska Farm Bureau