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The National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility Belongs in Kansas on the Merits

Kansas Has a Unique Understanding of the NBAF Mission

We know the safety and security of our national food supply is central to our nation's public health and the stability of the economy.

- Nearly 20 percent of Kansans are employed in agriculture, so we care deeply and personally about protecting our nation's agriculture.
- Kansas is located in the center of the country and is home to numerous private agricultural assets, research facilities, specialists, and academic institutions.
- Because of its agricultural heritage and expertise, Kansas fully understands why the NBAF **must be built** for the nation. We cannot delay in identifying new ways to prevent and treat diseases in order to protect the American food supply and agriculture economy.

Kansas Is the World's Leader in Animal Health Research and Development

Our state and region do this kind of research better than anyone in the world.

- Kansas State University has internationally recognized expertise in zoonotic diseases, infectious diseases, and livestock medicine. This expertise led to the creation of the Biosecurity Research Institute and the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center at K-State.
- Manhattan is part of the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor, which is home to more than 120 animal health companies — including 37 global leaders — that employ 13,000 animal-health specialists.
- The NBAF would benefit from the expertise within the biosciences corridor that includes the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute, Midwest Research Institute, the Stowers Institute for Medical Research, and the University of Kansas Medical Center.
- The region has an exceptional student population and highly trained work force. Five universities with strong animal-science or veterinary medical research programs are located within a 300-mile radius.

Kansas Offers an Unbeatable Site and the Perfect Neighbor

Because Kansas offers the perfect site in close proximity to other research and commercialization assets, our scientific infrastructure and expertise can be applied immediately — giving the nation a running head start on the critical NBAF mission.

- The Biosecurity Research Institute (BRI) would be the NBAF's neighbor and would accelerate NBAF research that is key to ensuring the safety of our national food supply.
- The BRI's focus is on infectious foreign-animal diseases requiring high-level BSL-3 and BSL-3 Ag containment.
- The BRI provides the capabilities to deal immediately with significant numbers of large farm animals for the effective research, development, testing, and evaluation of threat agent countermeasures. The BRI's ability to handle animals in a high-level biocontainment environment provides DHS with a unique national asset to move quickly towards the BSL-4 requirements of the NBAF.
- No other state in the U.S. has a comparable state-of-the-art facility with the BRI's capabilities and homeland-security mission emphasis. In addition, none of the competitors can match the BRI's food-animal expertise.
- The presence of the BRI ensures the availability, sustainability, and capabilities of scientists who are acknowledged leaders in medical, veterinary, and agricultural research.

Kansas Is Prepared

Kansas is considered the gold standard in preparedness for responding to naturally occurring or intentional foreign animal disease threats. We don't have the luxury *not* to be prepared.

- Kansas takes a proactive approach, recognized as a national model, to protect the safety and economic vitality of the state's livestock industry, as well as public health.
- Kansas has implemented and practiced a foreign animal disease emergency plan and is constantly improving upon that plan through cooperative emergency planning and exercises with Kansas counties, agencies, producer groups, and private entities.
- Kansas' preparedness plan recognizes that the best way to prevent a foreign animal disease outbreak, and the only way to contain one, is to create working partnerships among local farmers, truckers, feedlot owners, and other critical members of the food-supply chain. This plan is in place.

Kansas Demonstrates Unified Public- and Private-Sector Support

Federal, state, and local officials are working in close collaboration with representatives from the public and private sectors, demonstrating Kansas' broad, deep, and unified support for the NBAF.

- The state has an impressive NBAF Task Force with high-level public and private representatives.
- The state has a high-level governmental working group to respond quickly to the needs of the Department of Homeland Security throughout the site selection process.
- People and organizations across Kansas are united in favor of this project — including local communities, academic centers, research institutes, private business leaders, and key agriculture producer groups.

Kansas Is the Best Home for the NBAF — On the Merits

Kansas provides the quickest and most cost-effective pathway to success in protecting the American food supply and agriculture economy.

- Kansas has a unique understanding of the NBAF mission.
- Kansas is the world's leader in animal health research and development, with a unique concentration of both academic and industrial assets.
- Kansas offers an unbeatable site and the perfect neighbor in the BRI.
- Kansas is prepared to conduct this critical research safely and securely.
- Kansas demonstrates unified public- and private-sector support.