

# RESTORE BASE FUNDING

## FY 2018 & 2019 Exceptional Item

The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVM DL) works to protect animal and human health through diagnostic testing of animal specimens from Texas, across the United States, and around the world.

### Impact on Service and Competitiveness

The proposed reduction will require a loss of over 8% of our technical workforce. This loss will result in a **decrease of services and diagnostic test offerings**, and will increase turnaround time for the tests we perform, which will affect both our clients' businesses and TVMDL's ability to compete with other diagnostic laboratories. Technical staff at TVMDL conduct income-producing testing, so there will likely be a corresponding **loss of income due to this reduction**.

TVM DL works daily with veterinarians to help determine the best course of treatment and deliver a better experience to their clients. Utilization of TVMDL helps veterinarians gain access to the latest equipment and the most advanced technology without having to invest in equipment and expertise within their clinic. This cut will negatively impact our ability to serve as timely, affordable subject-matter experts for Texas' veterinarians.

### Impact on Surveillance

Routine diagnostic testing performed at TVMDL serves as the backbone of a statewide, regional, and global animal and zoonotic (transmissible from animals to humans) disease surveillance system. Agencies like Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) utilize TVMDL to monitor animal populations for the prevalence of diseases in wild fowl, deer and swine.

A 4% reduction will impact our ability to adequately perform disease surveillance. Reductions in the amount of surveillance performed will mean **delays in identifying disease outbreaks, both in animals and humans**, and therefore have negative impacts on the competitiveness and economic viability of Texas animal agriculture.

### Impact on Livestock Industry

Although it is difficult to place a dollar figure on these activities, **studies have shown a cost: benefit ratio of 1:10 for veterinary laboratories such as TVMDL**. The economic well-being of Texas' animal industries is enhanced by the health and productivity of its animals and the involvement of veterinary diagnostic laboratories carries substantial economic benefits. Progressive and proactive animal health management provides a crucial method to manage risk in livestock and poultry operations.



**Requested Amount  
 (Biennial)  
\$425,754**

### Objective

TVM DL seeks to restore the 4% reduction to the agency's biennial budget to ensure our ability to serve Texas clients and protect the state's \$18B livestock and poultry industry.



**TVM DL was the first to identify Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)** in captive deer in Texas in July 2015. Since then, TVMDL has conducted over 30,000 tests for CWD for both TPWD and private submitters, representing a 100% increase in our annual testing volume for CWD. This testing supports TPWD's management rules for hunter harvested and permitted deer.

**TVM DL routinely tests 475,000 samples annually** in support of food animal industries.



## Value of the Industry Protected by TVMDL

At four locations with just 160 FTEs, TVMDL offers over 600 unique assays and performs over 700,000 tests annually to protect the livestock, poultry and animal product economies of Texas' \$100B food and fiber sector. TVMDL also provides services to companion animals, wildlife and zoo animals, as well as livestock show and racing animals to ensure exhibitors meet show and race regulations.



**THE AG INDUSTRY**  
contributes more than  
**\$ 17 billion**  
from cattle,  
milk, poultry  
and eggs alone



**1 in 7**  
Texan jobs are agriculture-related

**TEXAS IS #1** in cattle,  
sheep & goat  
production

**TEXAS IS #1** in overall value of  
livestock, poultry  
and their products

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## What is Texas A&M AgriLife?

It's a family of agencies that brings world-class research, education and service to Texans as a part of the Texas A&M University System.