



Commonwealth of Kentucky
Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy

For Immediate Release

**Contact: Sandra Gardner
(502) 564-4627 x. 223**

Breathitt Veterinary Center Awarded Grant
Agricultural Development Board Invests \$300,000 for Feasibility Study

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 20, 2009) -The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, chaired by Gov. Steve Beshear, approved Murray State University for a **\$300,000** state Agricultural Development Fund grant to analyze the effects of replacing or renovating the Breathitt Veterinary Center in Hopkinsville.

"I am committed to creating opportunities that will make Kentucky's agricultural community stronger," said Gov. Beshear. "Projects funded by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, such as this one, play an integral role in achieving this goal."

The mission of the Breathitt Veterinary Center is to provide rapid, accurate diagnostic data that enables veterinarians to make appropriate treatment decisions.

"This is a very important project and I am glad to see the board authorize the funding," stated Sen. Joey Pendleton (D-Hopkinsville). "Since the recent outbreak of avian influenza virus, we can see that the facility is not large enough for testing of this magnitude. The Breathitt Veterinary Center is very important to the entire Commonwealth."

The funds awarded will support a feasibility study to consider the construction of a new facility versus renovation of the existing facility to allow the Center to meet its mission in a safe, secure environment.

"The role of the diagnostic center is very significant in Western Kentucky, as it relates to our cattle industry," said Sen. Ken Winters (R-Murray).

This project was one of eight proposals approved at the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board's April business meeting.

For more information about the Murray State University Breathitt Veterinary Center, contact Dr. Randy J. Dunn at (270) 809-3763 or visit breathitt.murraystate.edu.

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Governor Steve Beshear and the Kentucky Legislature continue to make great strides toward lessening Kentucky's dependence on tobacco production while revitalizing the farm economy by investing 50 percent of Kentucky's Master Settlement Agreement into the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund.

To date, Kentucky has invested more than \$280 million to an array of county, regional and state projects designed to increase net farm income and create sustainable new farm-based business enterprises. This project represents one of more than 3,415 projects that have been funded through the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund, since the inception of the program in January 2001.

