

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY08	FY09	FY10	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total						

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: SB 26 appropriates \$650,000 to New Mexico state university (NMSU) for the FY 2009 fiscal year to support the southwest center for animal health, food safety and bio-security. The center was formed to be the focal point for animal health, food safety and bio-security research and extension programs at NMSU. The center consolidates the collective efforts of existing programmatic activities to better support the interaction between research sponsors and NMSU faculty and staff. The center's goal is to increase NMSU's competitiveness in obtaining funding for research, enhance interdisciplinary ongoing food safety programs, and foster collaborative partnerships with federal and state agencies and the food industry/ private sector.

The center's mission *is to contribute through research and outreach to the safety and security of agriculture in New Mexico and to significantly strengthen NMSU's ability to anticipate and respond to emerging agriculture threats, both nationally and globally, and to advance knowledge for practical application by the agriculture industry.*

The center is starting with the combined technical, financial, and personnel resources from the following key programmatic activities at NMSU and will grow by leveraging the combined capabilities with opportunities of the private sector, federal and state agencies, and universities:

Animal Health

- Evaluation of biochemical, physiological and behavioral mechanisms of parasites influencing animal health production and transmission of pathogenic agents to animals.
- The center coordinates with the New Mexico department of agriculture veterinary diagnostic laboratory. This relationship provides actual case data that can assist in research projects. The lab will be able to provide additional opportunities for student experiences as funding develops.
- Major areas of research have included: 1) characterization of insecticide resistance, 2) documentation of biochemical, physiological, and behavioral mechanisms influencing the evolution of resistance, 3) population dynamics of arthropods influencing livestock production management strategies, and 4) vector-borne diseases: vector blood-feeding behavior as it relates to transmission of pathogenic agents to animals.

Food Safety

- Applied research for the food and drug administration (FDA) includes test and evaluation of rapid microbial detection methods of food pathogens and detection of chemicals in foods. This program is well recognized for improvements to FDA laboratory methods and for its role in the investigation into illness outbreaks from lettuce and spinach in 2006 and 2007.
- Development or improvement of methods, techniques, or processes to maintain or

improve quality or functionality, stabilize or preserve foods, or prepare foods for further processing.

- Understanding and minimizing food quality losses during preservation, storage, distribution, and marketing to enhance the quantity and quality of foods delivered to consumers, minimize food costs, and enhance profitability for food producers and marketers.
- Developing training programs for agriculture producers.
- Developing methods to control and detect for pathogenic food borne microorganisms and parasites in raw, minimally processed, or inadequately processed and preserved foods.

Bio-Security

- National training programs have been developed and approved by the department of homeland security to increase the awareness and response capabilities to agro-terrorism and natural disasters.
- Supply chain integrity, import examination, and product surety program.
- Agriculture emergency management plan.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS The state of New Mexico and NMSU have a unique opportunity to leverage this appropriation into a more efficient, and centralized program which can better serve the needs of the state and nation in the animal health, food safety and biosecurity arena.

Proposed budget

Salaries and fringe - \$250,000

Facility - \$150,000

Industry training - \$100,000

Food processing product development technologies - \$150,000

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

N/A

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Laboratory and programmatic consolidation will lead to efficiency and increased opportunity for interdisciplinary research and development.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

SB 25 – Duplicate bill in concept

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

NMSU will not be able to quickly and efficiently address future needs in the area of animal health, food safety, and biosecurity. Administrative units will not be able to leverage their unique assets into a consolidated focus area to address research and training in the food defense arena.

AMENDMENTS

N/A