

Project Title	2006 Agency Priority Ranking	Agency Project Request for State Funds (\$ by Session)				Governor's Recommendations 2006	Governor's Planning Estimate	
		2006	2008	2010	Total		2008	2010
Joint Biosafety Laboratory Facilities	1	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$0
Municipal Reforestation	2	20,000	0	0	20,000	0	0	0
Total Project Requests		\$21,500	\$0	\$0	\$21,500	\$0	\$0	\$0

Joint Biosafety Laboratory Facilities

2006 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$1,500,000

AGENCY PROJECT PRIORITY: 1 of 2

PROJECT LOCATION:

Project At A Glance

- ◆ \$1,500,000 to improve functionality of laboratory space in the new joint Department of Agriculture (MDA) /Department of Health (MDH) Laboratory. These funds will be used to finish the space in compliance with USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) requirements in order to better identify and contain infectious biological agents during research into large animal species. Projects include, but are not limited to, purchase and installation of effluent sterilization equipment, autoclave sterilization capacity, and installation of various safety and containment equipment needed in the laboratory space
- ◆ The Departments of Agriculture and Health will partner to give Minnesota the capacity to test for and contain certain highly infectious animal diseases.

Project Description

While the new Agriculture/Public Health laboratory was designed as a state of the art facility, it has only BSL 3 capacity, not the more stringent BSL 3-Ag capacity. Minnesota needs to have this capacity in order to protect Minnesota citizens from infectious diseases of zoonotic origin and Minnesota farmers from the economic and trade catastrophe that could accompany the outbreak of certain plant and animal diseases. Currently, the capability to safely test for certain highly infectious human, animal and plant disease agents is limited in Minnesota due to a lack of BSL 3-Ag facilities. The recently constructed Agriculture/Public Health laboratories were designed to accommodate BSL 3-Ag facilities. Due to increased building construction costs and a lack of anticipated Federal funds, the BSL 3-Ag facilities are left

unfinished and do not meet the containment requirements of their intended uses.

Laboratory areas dedicated to the study of plant, animal and zoonotic disease agents create a large volume of highly infectious aerosols. Additional safeguards will be required to prevent their release into the environment. To bring the planned BSL 3 containment area up to the United States Department of Agriculture's BSL-3-Ag requirements would require the addition of a filtration system for supply and exhaust air, sewage sterilization and decontamination systems, entry through an airlock, and a fumigation chamber or interlocked double-door autoclave. Personnel would be required to shower and change clothing before exiting the lab, and facility integrity testing (pressure decay test) would also be required. These additions to the planned BSL 3 area would cost an additional \$1,500,000.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets (Facilities Notes)

Existing staff would be used to operate the BSL 3-Ag facilities and other supplies and expenses would be absorbed within existing budgets.

Previous Appropriations for this Project

In 2002, \$60 million was appropriated to construct the joint laboratory facility for the departments of agriculture and health.

Other Considerations

Much work needs to be done at the National Center for Food Protection and Defense (NCFPD) to develop methodologies for detecting certain infectious disease agents in food and environmental matrices that would not normally contain, or be exposed to, these agents—except through acts of terrorism. The original bonding project was designed to include this future capacity into its intent. In addition, the Department of Health would likely use this space in the event of a large-scale avian influenza outbreak in humans. BSL-3 Ag space is required for working with zoonotic agents such as avian influenza virus.

Joint Biosafety Laboratory Facilities

Project Contact Person

William R. Krueger, Director
Laboratory Services Division
Department of Agriculture
90 West Plato Boulevard
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107
Phone: (651) 296-1572
Email: William.Krueger@state.mn.us

Governor's Recommendations (To be completed by the Department of Finance at a later date)

Municipal Reforestation

2006 STATE APPROPRIATION REQUEST: \$20,000,000

AGENCY PROJECT PRIORITY: 2 of 2

PROJECT LOCATION:

Project At A Glance

- ◆ Provides \$20 million in grants to local governments to address statewide municipal shade tree sanitation and reforestation programs
- ◆ Helps mitigate the impacts of Dutch Elm disease and Oak Wilt and the potential impacts the Emerald Ash Borer and natural disasters
- ◆ Removes infested or diseased trees on public land in order to plant new trees and protect the healthy trees.
- ◆ Improves a long-term asset that increases in value over time: Urban public forests return millions of dollars to Minnesota's economy in the form of recreational opportunities that support the tourism industry and ecological values that sustain our quality of life.
- ◆ Addresses the long-term sustainability of Minnesota's forests, which should be considered a capital investment rather than a yearly operating expense

Project Description

This project provides grants to municipalities with approved pest control programs to partially support municipal sanitation and reforestation programs to replace trees lost to pests, disease or natural disasters on public lands.

Sanitation includes identification, inspection, and disruption of a common root system, girdling, trimming, removal and disposal of dead or infested wood of shade trees on public property in the pest control area.

Municipal reforestation means the replacement of shade trees removed from public property and the planting of a tree as part of a municipal pest control program.

Capital investments in reforestation would provide funding for the planting and site preparation components. The planting component would consist of purchasing the necessary seedlings to meet reforestation objectives and contracting or hiring labor to plant the trees. The site preparation component would involve using both mechanical and chemical means to reduce competition and prepare suitable planting beds.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets (Facilities Notes)

The Department of Agriculture operating budget does not currently have sufficient funds allocated to support the implementation of the shade tree municipal grant program. Funding for one grant administrator and some support would be needed to implement the program.

Previous Appropriations for this Project

From 1977 through 1982, the Minnesota Municipal Shade Tree Program received general fund appropriations to address Dutch elm disease on a statewide basis. Additional funds were available from the federal government and other sources. Total annual amounts granted ranged from \$29.7 million in 1977 to \$9.2 million in 1982.

Other Considerations

There has been an increase in the incidence of Dutch Elm disease in recent years and some expect this trend to continue.

Efforts to eradicate the Emerald Ash Borer in Michigan in recent years have cost an estimated \$40 million and some 7 million Ash trees have been lost. If this pest invades Minnesota, its effects could be profound.

Municipal Reforestation**Project Contact Person**

Terry McDill, Supervisor
Invasive Species Unit
Department of Agriculture
90 West Plato Boulevard
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107
Phone: (651) 296-8448
Fax: (651) 296-7386
Email: terry.mcdill@state.mn.us

Governor's Recommendations (To be completed by the Department of Finance at a later date)