

Laboratory Diagnostician for Spanish Fork Branch Lab

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Requester Information

Legislator: Owens, Derrin R.

Creation Date: 2024-01-22

Submission Date: 2024-01-22

Section 1: Request Details

Description:

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food is requesting \$154,000 in ongoing funding for salary and benefits for a laboratory diagnostician at the Spanish Fork Branch Laboratory (SFBL) of the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. The veterinary diagnostician will assist the laboratory director with post-mortem examinations, serve as the NAHLN coordinator for SFBL, and conduct other duties as needed. This position will replace the Utah state poultry extension specialist who was located at SFBL until his retirement.

Legislative designee contact information:

- Name: Dr. Amanda Price
- Organization: Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
- Position: Assistant State Veterinarian

Section 2: Funding Information

How will the appropriation be used?

	One-time	Ongoing
Personnel Services	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$154,000.00
In-State Travel	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Out-of-state Travel	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies and Equipment	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Technology Purchases	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Infrastructure/Capital Investments	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Other Charges/Pass Thru	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Expenditure Total		
One-time 2024	One-time 2025	Ongoing 2025
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$154,000.00

Funding Sources:

General Fund

- Amount Requested 2024 (One-time) \$0.00

- Amount Requested 2025 (One-time) \$0.00
- Amount Requested 2025 (Ongoing) \$154,000.00

Revenue Total

One-time 2024
\$0.00

One-time 2025
\$0.00

Ongoing 2025
\$154,000.00

Should unused funding be returned to the state at the end of the fiscal year?

Yes

Is this project scalable if the Legislature does not fund the full requested amount?

No

Section 3: Agency Information

Subjects:

Infrastructure and Mobility
Land and Environment

Agency:

570 / Agriculture

Type of entity to receive pass-through funding

- State Government
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Section 4: Performance Outcome Measurement

Who would benefit from this request (who is the target audience)?

Veterinarians and animal owners in central and southern Utah, as well as food processors who rely on diagnostic sampling, will benefit most from this request.

What is this project or program intended to accomplish?

This diagnostician will provide laboratory services at SFBL, which will reduce turnaround times for laboratory accessions, especially during disease outbreaks. Faster results help reduce the spread of disease and associated costs of disease control, as well as improving treatment outcomes for producers, reducing feed and treatment costs. SFBL is also seeking to expand to add molecular diagnostics (PCR) testing for routine disease testing like trichomoniasis as well as testing during an outbreak like avian influenza or african swine fever, and the diagnostician would serve as the section head for molecular diagnostics.

How will the Legislature know whether the project or program achieved its intended purpose?

UDAF will track the number and type of assays performed at SFBL as well as average turnaround times (time from submission of samples to test results) for assays performed. The Department already tracks turnaround times for several assays at the Logan laboratory under current contracts.

Section 5: Other Supporting Documents

Intent Language

Previous State Funding