Animal Health research funding through the Iowa Livestock Health Advisory Council has not kept pace with Iowa’s growing $17-billion animal-agriculture industry.

*Source: USDA Economic Research Service Farm Income and Wealth Statistics
ILHAC is a cooperative effort between Iowa livestock industry stakeholders, the State of Iowa and the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

ILHAC was created in 1977 to strengthen Iowa’s animal-agriculture industry and was funded with an initial appropriation of $200,000. Since then, ILHAC funding has decreased 14% to $172,844 while the value of Iowa animal agriculture has increased significantly (400%) from $4 billion to $17 billion.

Only 1 in 5 proposals submitted to ILHAC are funded due to diminishing funding levels.

ILHAC is funded through Education Appropriations. This line item provides critically needed “seed money” resulting in an additional $10 million in externally funded research dollars to the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine over the past decade for high-impact, producer-prioritized research, including emerging livestock diseases.

ILHAC funds are applied to research projects that advance knowledge of animal health, food safety and animal well-being in Iowa livestock.

Recently funded projects include studying ways to better prevent and control PED and PRRS in pigs; E.coli and Clostridium spp in poultry; and lameness, respiratory disease, and pinkeye in beef and dairy cattle.

Increasing Iowa Livestock Health Advisory Council funding by $4,667 is necessary to continue current and begin new health, well-being and food safety research benefitting Iowans and the state’s livestock industry.

vetmed.iastate.edu/research/ilhac