The Department of Animal Sciences in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is world renowned for excellence in research and graduate training in companion and food animal nutrition and production sciences. Illinois M.S. and Ph.D. graduates are aggressively recruited and heavily represented in the companion animal, livestock, and feed industries. Illinois's success in animal nutrition and feed ingredient research has relied upon the support of the ACES Feed Mill and Service Unit since 1927. This facility has enabled world-class scientific inquiry and innovation in human and animal nutritional requirements, dietary formulations, and feed fabrication. Nearly 100 years old, the current feed mill's mechanical systems are outdated and can no longer be retrofitted to support the development and testing of new technologies and products. The current ACES Feed Mill must be replaced with a facility to support the university's legacy of distinction through the next decades of emerging feed technology and innovation. Construction of a new Feed Technology Center will enhance our land-grant teaching, research, and extension missions.

**OPPORTUNITY:**

The design and construction of a new Feed Technology Center is an essential component of the south campus infrastructure and is critical for Illinois to retain its reputation of preeminence and leadership in nutritional and animal sciences. Research and education at the Feed Technology Center, located in the heart of Illinois where agricultural commodities are produced, will test innovative technologies, design new products, and provide hands-on training for highly skilled graduate students and industry personnel. The Feed Technology Center will offer opportunities to the brightest minds, propelling them to solve practical problems using state-of-the-art processing technologies and capitalizing on feed manufacturing efficiencies.

Synergies among existing and newly formed multi-departmental, multi-disciplinary teams will expand with the Feed Technology Center. Engineers and scientists in the animal, crop, nutritional, and food sciences, will participate in research and hands-on training programs that further prepare Illinois graduate students for leadership roles in feed manufacturing and animal production industries. This continued pipeline of premier students of the program will further enhance sponsored research collaborations, directly engage industry partners, provide opportunities for economic development, expand student recruiting, and retain top faculty members. The efficient production of high quality, nutritious protein is crucial in finding solutions to the world's greatest challenge; feeding our expanding global population. The Feed Technology Center is a critical component of our progress forward.
RESOURCES REQUIRED:

The Feed Technology complex will feature functionally interdependent tasks that require the following integrated components, associated staff, and specialized capacities; (1) Feed Processing Facility (Feed Mill); (2) Pilot Feed Mill; (3) Feed Ingredient Warehouse; (4) Shop, Equipment, Seed, and Chemical Storage Units; and (5) Farm Services Office.

The comprehensive operations of the new Feed Technology Complex include production and storage of grain and forages, storage of specialized diet ingredients, precise diet formulation, milling, ingredient processing, pre-mixing, mixing, pelleting, extrusion, expansion, crumbling, bagging and delivery of research animal diets; fuel, chemical, and seed storage; operations for comprehensive nutrient management; and equipment maintenance in support of the university’s research and education animal production systems.

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