

## Funding – who and what

- The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) created the Animal Health Strategic Investment (AHSI) in the amount of **\$7.5 million spanning 5 years** (2008-2013)
- This new initiative is a welcome addition to the already strong OMAFRA-U of Guelph Agreement.
- The aims of this funding are to advance testing methodologies for new and emerging diseases, increase baseline animal health surveillance, and improve emergency preparedness.
- The funds have been used to:
  - support 53 research & development projects
  - purchase advanced high-throughput laboratory equipment to improve efficiency,
  - provide technical manpower to develop and validate new tests.



## Improved facilities



- Opened in October 2010, the new Pathobiology - Animal Health Laboratory building was funded by federal and provincial governments.
- Our enhanced bio-security will protect our workers and the environment, while our new open-lab concept will improve our productivity.

## AHSI-funded research and education

- AHSI-funded projects are supporting the research programs of 16 **graduate students**, contributing to our pool of future laboratorians.
- 13 **new tests** are under development to deal with new and emerging pathogens.
- **Surveillance studies** and epidemiologic investigations will improve our understanding of animal health and disease.
- **Emergency preparedness** of poultry veterinarians has been enhanced through participation in a simulated disease outbreak - exercises are being planned for the swine and ruminant sectors.

## Keeping you safe

- AHSI funding will allow the AHL to play an even larger role in the “One Health” environment, in which animal health, human health, and ecosystem health are closely intertwined.
- Faster turnaround times on tests, e.g., high-throughput robotic ELISA testing, will allow faster feedback to veterinarians and producers.
- Improved tests for zoonotic agents (transmissible from animals to man), such as *Chlamydophila* (cause of psittacosis or ornithosis in humans) will improve support of human health.
- Enhanced animal health surveillance and data management will support improved animal health and welfare.
- Emergency preparedness drills will help protect animal health, producers, and consumers.



## Acknowledgement