

**DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK**  
Diagnostic Laboratory Division

**DEPARTMENT DIVISION PROGRAM CONTACTS**

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**WHAT THE DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, PROGRAM DOES**

The Diagnostic Laboratory performs a multifaceted and central role both in consumer health protection and in the state's general defense against animal diseases. The Diagnostic Laboratory provides technical support for the diagnosis and control of reportable and emerging animal diseases for the Animal Health Division and evaluates dairy products for the Meat Milk and Egg Division to assure public safety and product compliance. In addition, a wide range of diagnostic and regulatory tests for numerous species of animals are provided to livestock producers, veterinarians, public health officials, wildlife agencies, and companion animal owners. These test results allow for: disease diagnosis and control or treatment; disease surveillance; and enhances marketability of Montana animals and animal products for interstate and international movement.

**Statutory Authority For Department, Division, Program Title 81, Chapter 2, part 1 (b) and (c), MCA**

**HOW SERVICES ARE PROVIDED**

The Diagnostic Laboratory is located in Bozeman on the MSU campus in the Marsh Laboratory. A list of services and tests available is published as a Fee Schedule and distributed to all veterinarians in the state of Montana and to any person or organization requesting a copy. In addition, the Fee Schedule is available on the Diagnostic Laboratory website. Submissions are hand delivered or mailed to the laboratory by veterinarians, animal owners and state and federal officials. The laboratory staff consists of three Board Certified or PhD veterinary pathologists, 13 technicians with degrees applicable to their respective fields and 6 administrative assistants and technical support staff. Tests are performed on a published schedule and results are immediately reported to the appropriate party. Accurate and repeatable results are imperative for laboratory users and strict adherence to established quality practices is demanded of laboratory personnel. The staff is proficiency tested up to three times per year and internal audits are currently employed to guarantee that laboratory quality control and assurance procedures are followed. The following bodies have accredited the Diagnostic Laboratory: the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, the US Department of Agriculture and the Federal Drug Administration. The highly trained and skilled staff provides expertise to its users in the following areas: pathology/clinical pathology, bacteriology, parasitology, mycology, serology/immunology, virology, histopathology, milk testing and molecular diagnostics.

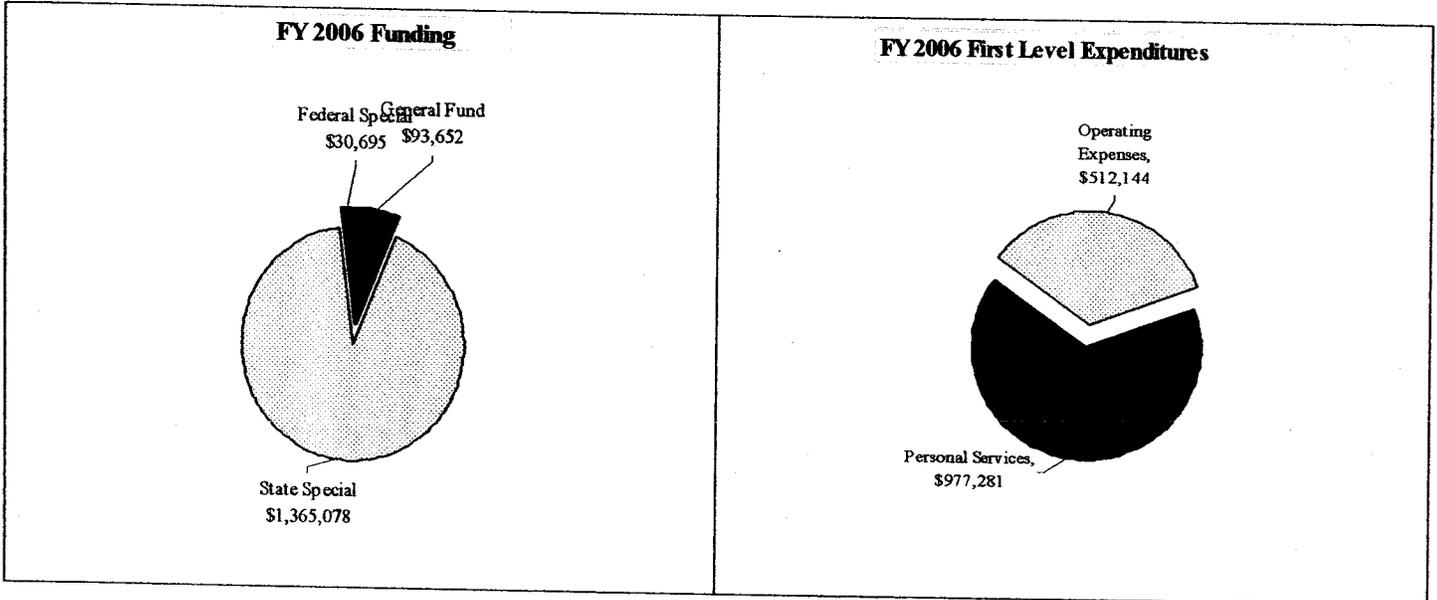
Recently, the Diagnostic Laboratory has become a member of USDA/APHIS National Animal Health Laboratory Network. (NAHLN). The main purpose of NAHLN is to perform disease surveillance and response to a exotic animal diseases, such as Foot and Mouth Disease. The Diagnostic Laboratory has implemented real-time PCR and passed proficiency testing for several foreign animal diseases. In addition, the pathologists are all extensive trained to recognize and respond to foreign animal disease introduction.

\*Fee Schedule is attached

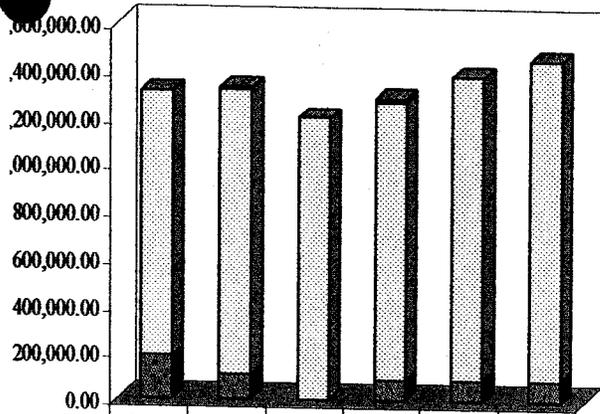
# Spending and Funding Information

The Lab is funded primarily with state special revenue and is operated by the Montana Department of Livestock.

The following figures show funding and expenditure information for FY 2006 for all sources of funding of the Diagnostic Laboratory Division.

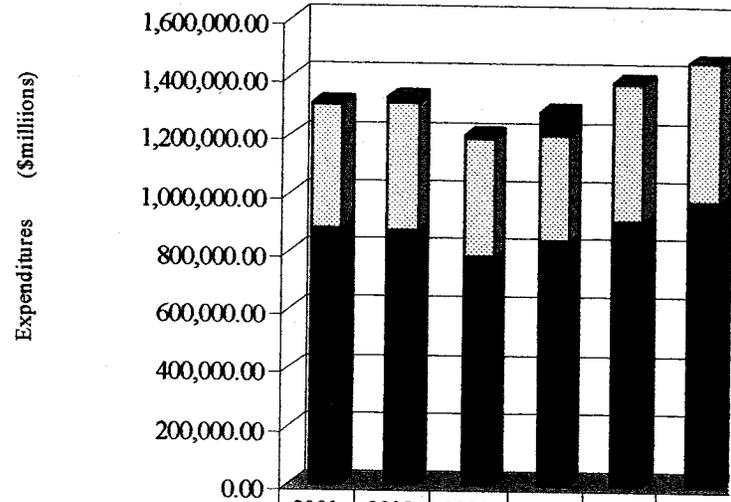


### Historical Funding



	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
proprietary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
General Special	0.00	9,240.00	0.00	17,296.5	0.00	0.00
State Special	1,131,49	1,214,94	1,205,36	1,176,13	1,293,04	1,365,07
General Fund	183,957.	109,547.	26.61	91,911.0	91,911.0	93,652.0

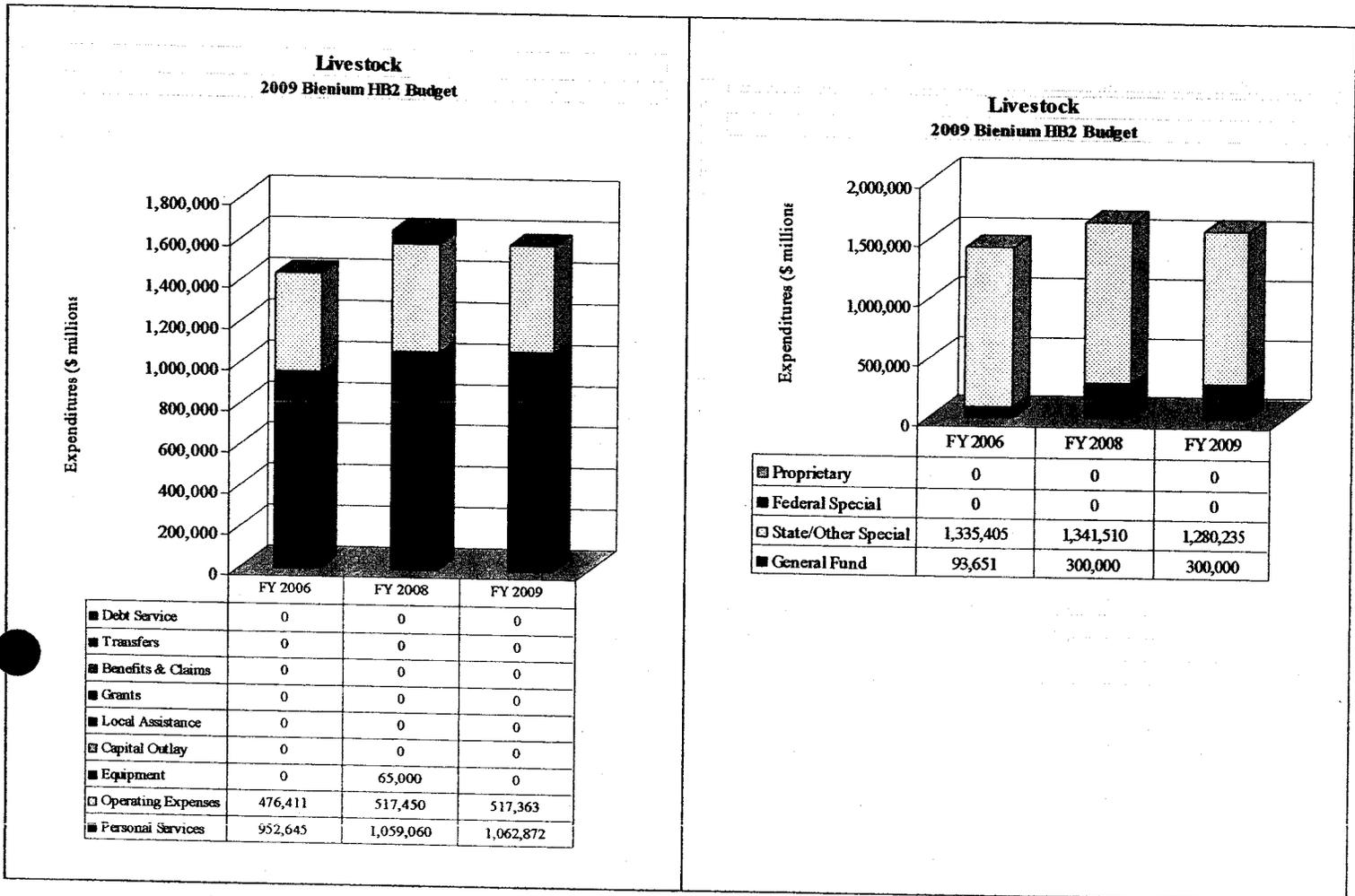
### Historical Expenditures



	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Debt Service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Benefits & Claims	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grants	0.00	9,240.0	0.00	17,296.	0.00	0.00
Local Assistance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital Outlay	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Equipment	6,578.0	9,999.0	18,450.	66,850.	6,800.0	0.00
Operating Expenses	424,99	441,99	400,72	359,95	471,25	481,44
Personal Services	883,88	872,49	786,21	841,23	906,90	977,28

# 2009 BIENNIUM BUDGET

The following figures show the proposed HB 2 budget for the 2009 biennium.



## Goals and Measurable Objectives

The following figure shows the department base year and budgeted biennium goals and performance measures that are associated with the proposed 2009 biennium HB 2 budget.

The goals of the Diagnostic Laboratory Division are:

- Continue to fulfill our defined mission statement and continue to provide rapid, accurate and repeatable test results for all the Laboratory users.
- Maintain accreditation status from the Laboratory's accreditation bodies (AAVLD, USDA and FDA)  
These reviews provide outside audits that verifies the laboratory testing credibility and competence.

Accreditation reviews will be conducted by each of the organizations in the next biennium

- Continually revise and improve the Quality Control and Quality Assurance Policies in the Laboratory. The Quality System is essential for producing accurate and repeatable test results that are expected and demanded.

The Quality system will be reviewed, revised and documented at minimum, annually.

- Maintain a highly trained and qualified staff. The Laboratory is competing with hospitals, research laboratories and other employers for ideal employees. We have been fortunate not to have a large employee turnover but impending retirements will require finding excellent replacements. Salaries are low compared to similar private business positions in the state and adjacent regional laboratories.

Continue to provide a flexible and stimulating work environment.

Maintain minimal personnel standards for replacements as outlined by accrediting bodies.

Employ only service oriented and conscientious personnel.

Investigate and utilize automation technology to maximize productivity.

Encourage and provide continuing education opportunities.

- Continue to develop molecular diagnostic procedures, such as real-time PCR. Molecular techniques are rapid and accurate diagnostic methodologies that are becoming common place and expected in the veterinary community. These tests are frequently requested and need to be provided to our users.

Identify which tests need to be developed based on demand, cost efficiency and availability of validated commercial test protocols. PCR for BVD virus and trichomoniasis are two such test procedures.

Obtain a FTE molecular technician. Our current staff members are cross-trained in multiple areas and time obligations prevent a focused development of these complicated and sensitive molecular test procedures.

- Continue to establish a cooperative, working relationship with Montana State University, Department of Public Health and Human Services, Fish Wildlife and Parks, and USDA/APHIS. The Laboratory staff performs numerous tests for these institutions to both the benefit of the Laboratory and mission objectives of the respected institutions.

Update and renew the memorandum of understandings currently in place with these institutions

- Expand involvement with NAHLN. NAHLN conducts foreign animal disease surveillance to minimize the economic impact that would occur if these diseases were to be introduced. Member laboratories will cooperate and participate in eradication effort and conduct testing to assure that a disease free state exists.

Institution of disease surveillance testing will be pursued, especially for Avian Influenza

Personnel are to be trained to conduct testing against Vesicular Stomatitis and possible, Chronic Wasting Disease.

- Continue to provide the services and tests desired and needed by the Laboratory users. In 2003, a survey was distributed to our users and there was a 50% response rate. The Laboratory received high marks for service and benefited from responses on how to improve. Introspection is essential for improvement. High standards, courteous and rapid service, personal consultations, personnel availability and fair and competitive test fees are justly expected and are currently considered to be provided.

Distribute another survey for self-evaluation and to determine how we should proceed to better serve our users. Five-year reviews are desired.

## **BUDGET AND POLICY ISSUES**

The following budget or policy issues are included in the (department, division, program) budget submission to the Governor's Office.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES EXPANDED**

The most significant issue for the Department and the Lab is the general fund support for the public health testing that is being done for the Montana citizens. The general fund support at the Lab has decreased by 65% since 1992. Yet sample specimens "workload" has increased by 101%. In 1992 the general fund provided 40% of the Lab's total budget. In 2006 only 7.7% of the budget was general fund. This executive budget proposes a funding switch to increase the total general fund support from \$93,651 in FY 2006 to \$300,000 in FY 2008 and FY 2009 or a \$206,349 annual increase. The per capita fee state special revenue would be reduced by a like amount of \$206,349.