

The Endowed Chair in Food Safety and Environmental Health

By contributing to the Endowed Chair in Food Safety and Environmental Health at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, you can make a difference by assisting researchers in their efforts to provide safe food supplies to people and animals around the world.

The Initiative

Every 3.6 seconds someone dies of hunger. In many cases, grain grown to feed a population is readily available, but with extended drought stress and inadequate storage facilities, fungal growth can make the grain toxic to animals and humans. Research conducted at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences is advancing ways to help make this food safe for consumption.

Aflatoxin is a toxic product of fungal growth that can be harmful to animals and humans in heavily contaminated food supplies. Recent studies at Texas A&M have demonstrated that a clay material can be added to contaminated food and will bind with the aflatoxin to safely remove it from the digestive system. This strategy allows contaminated grain to be consumed safely by animals and humans.



Picture of a kernel of corn infected by the fungus that produces aflatoxin. Fungal infection of corn can occur in the field (especially during periods of drought), or in storage.

Our Objective

The purpose of this endowed chair is to provide an endowment that will support meaningful research efforts directed at solving world hunger and environmental health problems by ensuring



Corn is often dried above the ground or on the hot pavement of roads before being processed and used for food.

a safer food supply for both humans and animals. Holders of this prestigious faculty chair will have shown significant progress and promise in the field of food safety and environmental health through their previous and ongoing research efforts.

Your Support

Through your support of the Endowed Chair in Food Safety, and Environmental Health you can make a difference by assisting efforts to provide a safe food supply to people and animals around the world. Gifts of \$1-3 million will provide an endowment that will support and enhance the research efforts of scientists whose research is on the front lines of the battle against hunger. A gift of \$4 million provides full support for a researcher in this field to include an associated laboratory.

Contributing to the Endowed Chair in Food Safety and Environmental Health at the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences makes you a valuable part of the team that is working to improve animal, public, and environmental health around the world. We would be very pleased to have you visit us and our research scientists for a personal tour of their laboratories to learn more about their efforts.

O.J. "Bubba" Woytek, DVM '65, Assistant Vice President of Development
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in Veterinary Medicine*