Contact: Joan Racki

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY NAMING – AGRICULTURE STUDENT LEARNING CENTER

<u>Action Requested</u>: Consider Iowa State University's request to name the University's Agriculture Student Learning Center as the Jeff and Deb Hansen Agriculture Student Learning Center.

Executive Summary: The University requests Board approval to name the University's Agriculture Student Learning Center as the Jeff and Deb Hansen Agriculture Student Learning Center in honor of the Hansens of West Des Moines, who have committed a lead gift of \$2 million for the facility.

In August 2004, the Board granted permission to proceed with project planning for Phase 2 (Pavilion component) of the Dairy/Animal Science Education and Discovery Facility. (Phase 1, the Dairy Facility, has been completed.) The Pavilion, renamed the Agriculture Student Learning Center, is to be located south of the campus on the farm land that was part of the former Dairy Farm and is currently used by the Department of Animal Science's equine program. The proposed site, on southwest corner of Mortensen Road and Gateway Hills Park Drive, north of the ice arena, is shown on Attachment A.

Construction of the Agriculture Student Learning Center, approximately a \$7 million project, was contingent upon private fundraising. The Iowa State University Foundation has now been successful in substantially completing the fundraising for the project with the gift from the Hansens, and the University is prepared to proceed with detailed project planning.

The Hansens, who are third-generation family farmers and pork producers, founded Iowa Select Farms in 1992. The pork production company is the largest Iowa-based pork producer, employing nearly 1,000 people in 45 Iowa counties.

The couple recently pledged \$1.5 million for construction of a new hospital in Iowa Falls and have made significant inroads to hunger relief in Iowa through their generous food donations.

Construction of the Agriculture Student Learning Center will enhance animal interaction education and outreach in animal agriculture, helping to ensure a strong animal agriculture workforce to improve lives in Iowa, across the nation and around the world. The facility would include a 125-by-250 foot arena with seating for 1,000. The arena will be heated during the winter, making it an ideal location for livestock judging and skills competition, short courses, training sessions, and livestock, dog and equestrian shows. Four classrooms accommodating up to 35 people each will be included in the building. The University will return to the Board for approval of the project description and budget and schematic design.

The University is grateful to the Hansens for the support they are providing to Iowa State University and respectfully requests Board approval of the naming of the Agriculture Student Learning Center in their honor.

