

March 16, 2018

The Honorable John Hoeven
Chairman
U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Agriculture, Rural Development Food
and Drug Administration and Related
Agencies
129 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Agriculture, Rural Development Food
and Drug Administration and Related
Agencies
190 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hoeven, Chairman Aderholt, Ranking Member Merkley, and Ranking Member Bishop:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to request your support for **\$10 million** in appropriations for Section 1433 Continuing Animal Health and Disease, Food Security, and Stewardship Research, Education and Extension Programs in the fiscal year 2019 Agriculture Appropriations bill. These funds would enable competitive research grants to address critical priorities in food security, one health and stewardship.

Unfortunately, current funding by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to support the animal sciences is not proportionate with the economic contributions of animal agriculture and has remained stagnant for many years. This disturbing trend was highlighted by National Academy of Sciences in its report "Critical Role of Animal Science Research in Food Security and Sustainability". The report recognizes the historic underfunding of animal sciences and calls for increased investments.

The imbalance in support for animal science puts U.S. animal agriculture at a major disadvantage at a critical time when livestock and poultry producers are striving for global competitiveness, improving sustainability and working to feed a growing global population. Recent disease outbreaks such as avian influenza in the United States underscore the need to develop science based tools to prevent and mitigate the impacts of such outbreaks. A proactive research effort is needed to help address these threats and protect the nation's animal agriculture industry.

Demand for food is expected to increase from 70 to 100 percent by 2050 and animal agriculture must be a major contributor to meet these needs. Meat consumption is estimated to increase by 73 percent, dairy consumption is estimated to increase 57 percent, and per capita egg consumption in developing countries is expected to rise by almost 40 percent.

As the world's population grows and natural resources become limited, animal agriculture research is necessary now more than ever to improve efficiency in order to continue providing safe and abundant food supplies for the growing global community. It is imperative that the increased food production be done in a manner that will protect our natural resources while maintaining America's global competitiveness in producing animals and animal products.

Advancements in animal science will play an important role in the future success of animal agriculture and the rural economy. Livestock and poultry sales account for 40 percent of all farm income. When feed crops consumed by livestock are included, the contribution to farm income is 60 percent. The United States must step up its investments in agriculture research to maintain its status as a leading producer of safe, affordable and abundant food and meet increasing demands.

The competitive grants program in Section 1433 provides a mechanism to focus resources on high priority areas to help animal agriculture meet future challenges. We respectfully request that **\$10 million** be appropriated for Section 1433 in fiscal year 2019. Please let us know if you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance as the FY 2019 appropriations process moves forward.

Sincerely,

Alabama Cattlemen's Association

Alabama Poultry and Egg Association

American Association of Avian Pathologists

American Association of Bovine Practitioners

American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases

American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners

American Association of Swine Veterinarians

American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

American Dairy Goat Association

American Dairy Science Association

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Feed Industry Association

American Goat Federation

American Meat Science Association

American Sheep Industry Association

American Society of Animal Science

American Veterinary Medical Association

Animal Agriculture Alliance
Animal Health Institute
Arizona Cattlemen's Association
Arizona Cattle Feeder's Association
Arizona Cattle Grower's Association
Arizona Pork Council
Arkansas Pork Producers Association
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Veterinary Biologics Companies
California Pork Producers Association
Colorado Cattlemen's Association
Colorado Dairy Farmers
Colorado Livestock Association
Colorado Pork Producers Council
FASS
Florida Cattlemen's Association
Florida Farm Bureau Federation
Georgia Poultry Federation
Georgia Cattlemen's Association
Illinois Pork Producers Association
Indiana Beef Cattle Association
Indiana Pork Advocacy Coalition
Iowa Pork Producers Association
Kansas Livestock Association
Kansas Pork Association
Livestock Marketing Association
Louisiana Cattlemen's Association

Maryland Pork Producers Association
Michigan Agri-Business Association
Michigan Cattlemen's Association
Michigan Milk Producers Association
Michigan Pork Producers Association
Michigan Sheep Breeders
Minnesota Pork Producers Association
Mississippi Cattlemen's Association
Missouri Pork Association
Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals Multistate Initiative
National Aquaculture Association
National Association for the Advancement of Animal Science
National Association of Federal Veterinarians
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Dairy Herd Information Association
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Farmers Union
National Grain and Feed Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Pork Producers Council
National Turkey Federation
Nebraska Cattlemen
Nebraska Pork Producers Association
New York Pork Producers Coop. Inc.
North American Meat Institute
North Carolina Cattlemen's Association
North Carolina Pork Council

North Dakota Pork Council
Ohio Pork Council
Oklahoma Pork Council
Oregon Beef Council
Poultry Science Association
Southeastern Livestock Network
SouthEast Milk, Inc.
South Carolina Cattlemen's Association
South Carolina Pork Producers Association
South Dakota Pork Producers Council
Tennessee Cattlemen's Association
Texas Allied Poultry Association
Texas Broiler Council
Texas Cattle Feeders Association
Texas Egg Council
Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
Texas Poultry Federation
Texas Poultry Improvement Association
Texas Turkey Federation
United Dairymen of Arizona
United Egg Producers
U.S. Animal Health Association
U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center Research and Industry Committee
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association
Virginia Cattlemen's Association
Virginia Pork Council, Inc.
Wisconsin Pork Association