Support Section 1433
Formula Funds for Animal Health and Research

https://nifa.usda.gov/program/animal-health-and-disease-research-program

$10 million in appropriations for Section 1433
Continuing Animal Health and Disease, Food Security, and Stewardship Research, Education and Extension Programs

University laboratories are the research and development centers for American agriculture.

IMPACT

Animal Health and Disease Research funds provide essential support for research on diseases affecting food-producing animals. These funds are an important source of research support for departments of veterinary science at U.S. universities.

In the Agriculture Act of 2014 (PL 113-79) this program was expanded to include a competitive grants component that focuses on food security, One Health, and stewardship. This program was reauthorized in the 2018 Farm Bill. These grants are often small, but are used to gather data that supports larger research grants. Schools of veterinary medicine receiving these grants last year included: Tuskegee, Cornell, Kansas State University, The Ohio State University, Washington State University, The University of Pennsylvania, Louisiana State University, NC State University, and the University of Missouri. The AAVMC would like to see much more robust funding in this critically important area.

This program was reauthorized in the recently passed Farm Bill and has broad support across animal agriculture.

RATIONALE

USDA funding to support the animal sciences has remained stagnant for many years.

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, improved sustainability and working to feed a growing global population.

Demand for food is expected to increase from 70 to 100 percent by 2050, and animal agriculture must rise to meet this challenge. Increased animal agriculture research is more necessary now than ever before.

The need to increase federal government investment in this area is documented in the National Academy of Sciences’ recent "Critical Role of Animal Science Research in Food Security and Sustainability."

The United States must step up its investments in agricultural research to maintain its status as a leading producer of safe, affordable and abundant food.

AAVMC
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

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Support HR 4714/S 2458
The America Grows Act

IMPACT
HR 4714/S 2458 – the America Grows Act will authorize a five percent, inflation adjusted annual increase over the next five years for agricultural research at four USDA agencies:

- Agricultural Research Service (ARS) – USDA’s chief in-house scientific research agency, with more than 90 locations nationwide and overseas.
- National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) – Funds external research through a nationwide network of land-grant colleges and universities, agricultural experiment stations, schools of forestry, schools of veterinary medicine, and cooperative extension experts.
- National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) – Collects and reports statistics on U.S. agriculture, such as the farm census, crop forecasts, and price estimates.
- Economic Research Service (ERS) – Provides economic and policy analysis on farming, ranching, food, conservation practices, farm management, commodity markets, and rural economic development.

RATIONALE
Over the past 50 years, the percentage of federal support for critically important domestic agriculture research has shrunk from 35 percent to less than 25 percent. Today, most domestic agricultural research is funded by corporations. Over the past 30 years, Chinese investment in agriculture research has risen eight-fold.

Bold investments in agricultural research are necessary to boost agricultural productivity, sustainability, and achieve American competitiveness in global markets. Studies show that every dollar invested in agricultural research returns more than $20 to the economy.

The United States must invest in agricultural research and development.

To co-sponsor this legislation, please contact:

Yusuf Nekzad with Rep. Cheri Bustos
Yusuf.Nekzad@mail.house.gov for HR 4714

Todd Atkinson with Sen. Dick Durbin
todd_atkinson@durbin.senate.gov for S 2458

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ONE HEALTH

Support HR 3771/S 1903
The 2019 Advancing Emergency Preparedness Through One Health Act

IMPACT

The legislation recognizes that humans, animals, and the environment are inextricably linked and that federal government efforts to deal with human and animal health emergencies can be enhanced with greater inter-agency coordination.

The Advancing Emergency Preparedness Through One Health Act will build on existing work underway in federal agencies by requiring the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the USDA to coordinate with other agencies and develop a federal One Health Framework. This framework will:

• Improve coordination between federal agencies that study human and animal health and the environment.

• Advance workforce development related to the prevention of and emergency response to disease outbreaks in animals and humans.

• Advance scientific understanding of the connections between human, animal, and environmental health.

RATIONALE

The novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) that originated in Wuhan, China last month has infected thousands of individuals, killing hundreds and shutting down over a dozen Chinese cities. It is believed to have originated in wildlife. Cases have now been reported in at least 15 countries worldwide, including confirmed cases of the pneumonia-like illness in the United States, all of whom had recently traveled to Wuhan.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has begun screening for the novel coronavirus at major U.S. airports, and the World Health Organization (WHO) has urged countries to prepare for the continued spread of the virus.

This is but one example of the threats that continue to arise around the globe. This legislation will enable federal agencies to better coordinate the critical response to them.

To co-sponsor this critical legislation, please contact:

Julia Stafford with Rep. Schrader
Julia.stafford@mail.house.gov for HR 3771

Adam Schiff with Sen. Smith
Adam_Schiff@smith.senate.gov for S 1903

The public health and food security threats emerging at the intersection of humans, animals and the environment are growing. The Wuhan corona virus is just the latest example.