

April 4, 2019

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 Sanford Bishop  
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 Jeff Fortenberry  
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 Bishop, Ranking Member Merkley, and Ranking Member Fortenberry:

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 2020 Agriculture Appropriations bill. This program was reauthorized in the recently passed Farm Bill and has broad support across animal agriculture. 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 2020. Please let us know if you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance as the FY 2020 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 Coalition

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  
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 Dairy Producers  
Indiana Pork Advocacy Coalition  
Indiana State Poultry Association  
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 Producers Association  
Minnesota Pork Producers Association  
Mississippi Cattlemen's Association  
Mississippi Poultry 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

US Dairy Forage Research Center Stakeholders Committee

U.S. Poultry & Egg Association

Virginia Cattlemen's Association

Virginia Pork Council, Inc.

Wisconsin Pork Association