

May 14, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee
328 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee
328 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow:

As you continue work to pass a new five-year Farm Bill, we ask that you prioritize the bipartisan effort led by Senators Cornyn and Klobuchar to secure all the needed components to adequately address risks to animal health, livestock export markets, and our nation's livestock and poultry producers. An outbreak of a foreign animal disease, such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) or Avian Influenza (AI) has the ability to cripple the entire agricultural sector and have long-lasting ramifications for the economic viability of U.S. livestock and poultry production. It is critical that the new Farm Bill provide full funding to address these risks to animal health while likewise bolstering the long-term ability of U.S. animal agriculture to be competitive in the global marketplace and provide consumers around the world safe, wholesome, affordable food produced in a sustainable manner.

We call on Congress, in the 2018 Farm Bill, to establish and fully fund a permanent three-pronged program to deliver the sufficient development and timely deployment of all measures necessary to prevent, identify and rapidly respond to the potential catastrophic impacts that an animal disease outbreak would have on our country's food security, export markets, and overall economic stability.

It is essential that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), state animal health officials, and stakeholders involved in animal agriculture have: (1) early detection, prevention and rapid response tools to address any potential animal disease outbreak; (2) robust laboratory capacity for surveillance; and (3) a viable stockpile of vaccine to rapidly respond to the intentional or unintentional introduction of a high consequence disease like FMD. We cannot wait. The arrival of highly pathogenic AI in our country in 2014 clearly demonstrated the implications of these diseases, both financially and from an animal welfare standpoint. In that outbreak, the direct cost to taxpayers was nearly \$1 billion, while the costs to the poultry industry were more than \$3 billion.

Livestock producers are particularly concerned about the potential introduction of FMD. FMD is the most important transboundary animal disease in the world at this time and presents the greatest economic threat to U.S. animal agriculture. Recent studies indicate the cumulative 10-year loss due to an uncontrolled FMD outbreak would be \$199.8 billion.

The three-pronged program advocated by all sectors of animal agriculture is outlined in greater detail below.

PREVENTION: ANIMAL PEST AND DISEASE DISASTER PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROGRAM

(AAC Requests CCC funding of \$70M per year)

Modelled after the highly successful plant pest and disease management and disaster prevention programs, a new **Animal Pest and Disease Disaster Prevention and Response Program**, administered by APHIS, would be established to provide a proactive and concerted preventative “boots on the ground” effort focusing on early detection and rapid response to protect the nation’s animal agriculture industry. It is envisioned that this program would be structured to take full advantage, through support and collaboration, of the science generated by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

SURVEILLANCE: NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

(AAC Requests CCC funding of \$30M per year)

Building upon the 2014 Farm Bill’s authorization of the **National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN)**, the Animal Disease and Disaster Prevention Program will help support NAHLN and bring together the federal government with states, industry, universities, and other interested groups to reduce the impact of high-consequence animal diseases, provide rapid detection and response capabilities to respond to animal diseases, develop disease prevention and mitigation technologies including vaccines, prevent the entrance and spread of foreign animal diseases into the United States, and identify and support critical research needs.

RESPONSE: NATIONAL ANIMAL DISEASE VACCINE BANK WITH PRIORITY FOR STOCKPILING FMD VACCINE

(AAC Requests CCC funding of \$150M per year)

The final component is the ability to rapidly respond to a disease outbreak. Congress should provide funds to establish and maintain a rapidly deployable vaccine bank for high consequence animal diseases. The vaccine bank would by necessity prioritize stockpiling vaccine to respond in the event of an introduction of Foot and Mouth Disease into the United States. The efficient and reliable delivery of sufficient vaccines to meet needs in the early stages of an outbreak is crucial to mitigate the potential impacts of an animal disease outbreak.

Thank you for your consideration of our priorities. We look forward to working with you.

Alabama Cattlemen's Association
Alabama Poultry & Egg Association
American Association of Avian Pathologists
American Association of Bovine Practitioners
American Dairy Goat Association
Animal Dairy Science Association
American Feed Industry Association
American Goat Federation
American Horse Council
American National Cattle Women
American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc.
American Sheep Industry Association
American Society of Animal Science
American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases
American Veterinary Medical Association
Animal Health Institute
Arizona Cattlemen's Association
Arizona Pork Council
Arkansas Cattlemen's Association
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Veterinary Biologics Companies
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
California Cattlemen's Association
California Pork Producers Association
California Poultry Federation
Catfish Farmers of America
Chicken & Egg Association of Minnesota
Colorado Cattlemen's Association
Colorado Egg Producers
Colorado Livestock Association
Federation of Animal Science Societies
Florida Cattlemen's Association
Florida Poultry Federation
Georgia Cattlemen's Association
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Hawaii Beef Industry Council
Hawaii Cattlemen's Association
Idaho Cattlemen's Association
Illinois Beef Association
Illinois Pork Producers Association
Indiana Beef Cattle Association
Indiana Dairy Producers
Indiana Pork Advocacy Coalition
Indiana State Poultry Association
International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses

Iowa Cattlemen's Association
Iowa Pork Producers Association
Iowa Poultry Association
Iowa Turkey Federation
Kansas Livestock Association
Kansas Pork Association
Kentucky Cattlemen's Association
Kentucky Poultry Federation
Louisiana Cattlemen's Association
Louisiana Pork Producers Association
Michigan Allied Poultry Industries
Michigan Cattlemen's Association
Michigan Pork Producers Association
Minnesota Pork Producers Association
Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association
Minnesota Turkey Growers Association
Mississippi Cattlemen's Association
Mississippi Pork Producers Association
Mississippi Poultry Association
Missouri Cattlemen's Association
Missouri Pork Association
Mycobacterial Disease of Animals Multistate Initiative
National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials
National Association for the Advancement of Animal Science
National Association of Federal Veterinarians
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Grain and Feed Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Turkey Federation
Nebraska Cattlemen
Nebraska Pork Producers Association
Nevada Cattlemen's Association
New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association
New Mexico Wool Growers
New York Beef Producer's Association
North American Meat Institute
North Carolina Cattlemen's Association
North Carolina Poultry Federation
North Dakota Pork Council
North Dakota Stockman's Association
Northwest Chicken Council
Ohio Pork Council
Ohio Cattlemen's Association
Ohio Poultry Association
Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association
Oregon Cattlemen's Association
PennAg Industries Association

Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association
South Carolina Poultry Federation
South Dakota Cattlemen's Association
South Dakota Pork Producers Council
South Dakota Poultry Industries Association
Tennessee Cattlemen's Association
Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
Texas Cattle Feeders Association
Texas Poultry Federation
The Poultry Federation: Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas
United Egg Producers
United States Animal Health Association
U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center Stakeholder Committee
Utah Cattlemen's Association
Virginia Beef Industry Council
Virginia Cattlemen's Association
Virginia Pork Council
Virginia Poultry Federation
Washington Cattlemen's Association
Washington Cattle Feeders Association
Wisconsin Poultry & Egg Industries Association
Wyoming Stock Growers Association