

March 28, 2014

The Honorable Mark Pryor
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 Roy Blunt
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 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 Sam Farr
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 Pryor, Chairman Aderholt, Ranking Member Blunt, and Ranking Member Farr:

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 2015 Agriculture Appropriations bill. The recently passed farm bill includes an important expansion of Section 1433 to establish a new competitive research grants mechanism to address critical priorities in food security, one health and stewardship. The expanded authority came in response to a historic funding disparity for the animal sciences and represents a strong opportunity to address significant challenges facing animal agriculture.

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. In fact, investment in the animal sciences has been declining for many years, even for programs such as the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) that have received increased appropriations. This 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.

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 new competitive grants program in Section 1433 provides a mechanism to focus resources on high priority areas to help animal agriculture meet future challenges. It is important to get the new competitive program started as soon as possible. We respectfully request that **\$10 million** be appropriated for Section 1433 in fiscal year 2015, as a first step toward the goal of meeting the program's authorized level of \$25 million. Please let us know if you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance as the FY 2015 appropriations process moves forward.

Sincerely,

Alabama Cattlemen's Association

Alabama Farmers Federation

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 Dairy Goat Association

American Dairy Science Association

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Farmers and Ranchers

American Feed Industry Association

American Goat Federation

American Meat Institute

American Meat Science Association

American Sheep Industry Association

American Society of Animal Science

American Veterinary Medical Association

Animal Health Institute

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

Association of Veterinary Biologics Companies

California Farm Bureau Federation
Dairy Producers of New Mexico
Fats and Proteins Research Foundation
Federation of Animal Science Societies
Florida Cattlemen's Association
Florida Farm Bureau Federation
Georgia Agribusiness Council
Georgia Cattlemen's Association
Georgia Milk Producer's, Inc.
Georgia Poultry Federation
Indiana Pork Advocacy Coalition
Illinois Pork Producers Association
Iowa Pork Producers Association
Kansas Pork Association
Kentucky Cattlemen's Association
Livestock Marketing Association
Louisiana Cattlemen's Association
Michigan Agri-Business Association
Michigan Allied Poultry Industries, Inc.
Michigan Milk Producers Association
Michigan Pork Producers Association
Michigan Sheep Breeders Association
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association
Minnesota Pork Producers Association
Mississippi Board of Animal Health
Mississippi Cattlemen's Association
Mississippi Poultry Association
Missouri Pork Association
Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals (MDA) - 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 Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Chicken Council
National Grain and Feed Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Pork Producers Council
National Renderers Association
National Turkey Federation
Nebraska Pork Producers Association
North American Meat Association
North Carolina Cattlemen's Association
North Carolina Pork Council
Ohio Pork Producers Council
Oklahoma Pork Council
Poultry Science Association
South Carolina Cattlemen's Association
South Dakota Pork Producers Council
Southeast Milk Inc.
Southeastern Livestock Network
Tennessee Cattlemen's Association
Texas Allied Poultry Association
Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
Texas Broiler Council
Texas Cattle Feeders Association
Texas Egg Council
Texas Pork Producers Association

Texas Poultry Federation

Texas Poultry Improvement Association

Texas Turkey Federation

U.S. Poultry and Egg Association

United Dairymen of Arizona

United States Animal Health Association

Vermont Dairy Industry Association

Virginia Cattlemen's Association

Wisconsin Pork Producers Association