



NAAAS Applauds Inclusion of New Animal Science Initiative in Farm Bill

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For Immediate Release:

The National Association for the Advancement of Animal Science (NAAAS) applauds the inclusion of a new competitive grants program in the recently passed Farm Bill that will address critical issues impacting animal agriculture. The new program is part of the Continuing Animal Health and Disease, Food Security and Stewardship Research, Education and Extension Programs and is authorized for \$25 million per year over the life of the Farm Bill. Research will focus on the priority areas of food security, one health and stewardship.

The program was proposed by NAAAS last year to address the shortfall in the federal investment in animal science. NAAAS appreciates the efforts of national and state animal agriculture organizations and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) to support inclusion of the new program in the Farm Bill conference report. Current federal funding to support the animal sciences is not proportionate with animal agriculture's economic contributions. Livestock and poultry sales account for forty percent of all farm income. When feed crops consumed by livestock are included, the contribution to farm income is 60 percent. Colorado played a significant role in the initiative through support by the Colorado Livestock Association and the co-sponsorship of the original amendment to the farm bill by Senator Michael Bennet.

Unfortunately, the federal investment in the animal sciences has been declining for many years. The new competitive grants program provides the opportunity to step up investments in animal research to maintain its status as a leading producer of safe, affordable and abundant food and meet increasing demands. Dr. Russell Cross, NAAAS President, stated, "This new program comes at a critical time when livestock and poultry producers are striving for global competitiveness, improving sustainability and working to feed a growing global population. We thank Congress for recognizing this need and including the new program proposed by NAAAS."

The National Association for the Advancement of Animal Science (NAAAS) is comprised of animal, dairy, poultry and veterinary science departments from colleges and universities across the United States as well as national and state organizations involved in animal agriculture and animal science. NAAAS is dedicated to improving overall federal funding for animal agricultural research to help

National Association for the Advancement of Animal Science
1500 King St., Suite 201, Alexandria, VA 22314
202-406-0212
www.animalsciences.us



maintain the nation's status as a world leader in safe, abundant and efficiently produced animal products. For more information on NAAAS contact Lowell Randel (lowell@therandelgroup.com).

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