

March 28, 2013

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman, Agriculture Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Farr
Ranking Member, Agriculture Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member Farr:

As members of the Friends of the Agriculture Research Service Coalition (FARS), we are writing to you in support of the United States Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Research Service (ARS). ARS has a strong track record of providing science-based solutions to critical agricultural challenges faced by the Nation, thereby improving the competitiveness and sustainability of U.S. agriculture. ARS intramural research is uniquely suited to conduct research that requires a long term commitment investment leading to high-impact payoff, while maintaining the capacity and readiness to respond to emerging and pressing problems. ARS also plays a critical role in partnering with the university community and industry to advance science and address emerging issues.

As you begin work on agriculture appropriations for fiscal year 2014, we encourage you to provide funding for ARS at the level of at least \$1.103 billion, as was requested in the President's FY 2013 budget request. Given the current uncertainty about FY 2013 appropriations and the President's FY 2014 budget request, we hope this correspondence will be the first step in an ongoing dialogue between the Subcommittee and stakeholders about the FY 2014 budget needs of ARS.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. FARS stands ready to work with the committee as the process moves forward and answer any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

American Association of Bovine Practitioners
American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners
American Beekeeping Federation
American Dairy Goat Association
American Dairy Science Association
American Feed Industry Association
American Goat Federation
American Horse Council
American Seed Trade Association
American Sheep Industry Association
American Society of Agronomy
American Society of Animal Science
American Veterinary Medical Association
Animal Health Institute

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Crop Science Society of America
CropLife America
Fats and Proteins Research Foundation
Federation of Animal Science Societies
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 Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Potato Council
National Renderers Association
National Sunflower Association
Poultry Science Association
Soil Science Society of America
U. S. Canola Association
United Egg Association
United Eggs Producers
US Dry Bean Council
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Rice Federation

Cc:

Members of the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies