

March 31, 2019
Jeff Jacobsen, PhD
NCRA Executive Director

Dear Jeff:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for establishment of a new Multistate Research Project to achieve collaborative impacts in the area of Precision Animal Management. There is tremendous potential to enhance the production, health and well-being of food animals through new technologies for precision management. I am very pleased that Dr. Tami Brown-Brandl here at the University of Nebraska is partnering with Dr. Janice Siegford and Dr. Juan Steibel at Michigan State University to initiate and help lead this effort.

Dr. Brown-Brandl is an example of our commitment at the University of Nebraska to growing faculty capacity and investment in this important, emerging field. In January 2019, Dr. Brown-Brandl became the William E. and Eleanor L. Splinter Chair in precision animal management, a newly created position in our Department of Biological Systems Engineering. Expertise in this area will be critical to addressing priorities identified in several national initiatives. For example, a new USDA Blueprint for Animal Genome Research 2018 – 2027 (Genome to Phenome: Improving Animal Health, Production and Well-Being), and a recently established National Institute for Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Education (NIAMRRE), each include significant themes emphasizing the value of precision management of animals.

Developing and validating effective precision tools for these initiatives will require real systems approaches, and the Multistate model can provide a platform for bringing together transdisciplinary teams across institutions to create innovation and achieve greater impacts than could otherwise be possible. The project envisioned for the North Central Region would be particularly well positioned given the extent and importance of animal production in these states.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you think I can provide additional information related to this request.

Sincerely,



Archie C. Clutter
Dean, Agricultural Research Division
Director, Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station