

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

March 9, 2019

Jeff Jacobsen, PhD NCRA
Executive Director

Dear Jeff:

On behalf of MSU AgBioResearch, we are pleased to strongly endorse establishment of a new multistate research project focused on precision management of animals. Efforts to create such a new multistate project are being led by Dr. Tami-Brown Brandl at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and by Dr. Janice Siegford and Dr. Juan Steibel at Michigan State University. Drs. Siegford and Steibel are internationally recognized scientists in the Department of Animal Science at MSU and committed to application of new technologies to enhance behavior and welfare of farm animals linked to improvements in management and profitability

Current intensive and integrated livestock operations commonly house animals in large numbers in relatively confined spaces with a small number of caretakers. This limits attention to management and care of animals at the individual animal level. Furthermore, the pool of talent with the knowledge and expertise to manage such animals also is limited. Lack of attention at the individual animal level can create animal welfare issues and limit productivity and profitability. New technology is needed.



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This new multistate project will provide a vehicle for bringing together scientists with diverse expertise to work together in design of precision management systems, the modelling of data, and the implementation of those systems in animal facilities. Such technologies hold the potential to enhance animal welfare, also improve disease detection, treatment and prevention, and increase sustainability of livestock operations in the North Central Region and beyond.

The scope and objectives of proposed project is in solid alignment with the mission of the multistate research program. I am pleased Drs. Siegford and Steibel are taking a leadership role in this effort and creation of this program is endorsed and has solid support from MSU AgBioResearch.

Please feel free to contact us if we can provide further information in support of this effort.

Best Regards,

A blue ink signature of Douglas D. Buhler.

Douglas D. Buhler
Director of MSU AgBioResearch

A blue ink signature of George W. Smith.

George W. Smith
Associate Director MSU AgBioResearch