

National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

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February 27, 2009

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 200-A
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

At the November, 2008, general meeting of The National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (the Board), a focus session was held on the subject of "Maintaining U.S. Leadership in the Poultry Industry." During this session REE Mission Area staff as well as Land Grant University and Stakeholder experts updated the Board with respect to current major research needs of the poultry industry and the higher education and research community.

From these presentations and the discussions that followed this focus session, the Board has developed a list of recommendations for the USDA to consider. Our Board believes these recommendations, if implemented, will ensure that the U.S. continues to be a world leader in poultry production in large part because of research, education and extension activities funded by the Federal government.

It is with pleasure that I provide you the Board's summary report and recommendations from this focus session. As always, I remain available to discuss our findings with you at any time.

Sincerely,



Martin A. Massengale
Chair

Enclosures

cc: U.S. House and Senate Agriculture and Appropriations
committees/subcommittees

bcc: Deputy Secretary-Designate Merrigan
Acting Under Secretary for REE Smith
National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges