

March 18, 2015

REE Advisory Board Office
Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 332A
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

RE: In accordance with 7 U.S.C. 3124a, Federal-State Partnership and Coordination, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announces an open meeting of the Agricultural Research Service--Animal Handling and Welfare Review Panel (ARS-AHWR) to discuss their report and recommendations on the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center.

As partners in a family owned ranching operation, we respectfully submit these comments on the 2015 ARS-AHWR report on the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center.

We support the conclusion of the review panel regarding MARC's professional and careful animal handling. Our experience with the research facility and its scientists and caretakers of animals is consistent with the panel's observations and we are not aware of instances of animal abuse, misuse or mistreatment. We find the work of MARC to be professional, compassionate and valuable. For these reasons and those articulated below, we encourage the panel to recommend lifting restrictions on research activity at MARC.

I. Current MARC research projects work toward increased production for a rising world protein demand.

Specific to beef research projects, MARC's focus has been, and continues to be, targeted at feed efficiencies, increased resistance of disease, improvements toward the reduction of morbidity and mortality. Advances in these phases of livestock production benefit all. Demands for lean and nutrient-rich protein continue to rise and MARC's work provides a meaningful positive impact to mankind.

II. Historic MARC projects have made clear and impactful improvements to beef and other meat industries to maintain economic viability in despite changes in climate, consumer need and trade regulations.

As the world emphasizes a more concentrated focus on sustainability, MARC is the premier model of creating scientific advances in improved practices of doing more with less. MARC

research goes beyond the obvious mission with livestock efforts to encompass issues such as water efficiencies and nutrient management of our soil. These efforts work toward extending the quality and life of our natural resources, reduce man-made inputs into our land and enhance the richness of our environment.

III. Outstanding leadership at MARC focuses on animal care, strives to complete quality research and works to share important information with industry leaders impacted by their work.

Since MARC's inception, the caring for animals is a benchmark of high quality research from all involved. These methods are essential as poorly cared-for animals benefit no one and do nothing to advance MARC's values and goals. Collaborative efforts between MARC and stakeholders provide specific focus and results.

Our experience in the beef industry has shown MARC to be the envy of world livestock researchers and producers. Commitment to continue MARC efforts is essential for sustaining the quality of life for rural America - especially those whose livelihoods depend upon stewardship of the land and improved animal care practices.

IV. Summary

We respectfully request the Agricultural Research Service-Animal Handling and Welfare Review Panel to recommend lifting restrictions on research activity at the Meat Animal Research Center (MARC). We look forward to the continued success of MARC. The world's population deserves the continued investment in MARC to help assure that generations of children in the world will not face hunger.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Tom and Laura Field in red ink. The signature on the left is "Tom Field" and the signature on the right is "Laura J Field".

Tom and Laura Field
Field Land and Cattle Company, LLC
Parlin, Colorado 81230