

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.

In addition to the comments submitted by Nebraska Cattlemen President Dave McCracken in support of U.S. Meat Animal Research Center, I wish to supplement that letter with my professional experiences on this issue.

My direct experience with U.S. MARC over the past decade has been included personal visits, tours and meetings with the Center Director, researchers and scientists. In coordination with the Nebraska Cattlemen Board of Directors, I have worked to support and seek improvements in the advancement of the beef cattle community. Our relationship with the MARC team has always been professional. Collectively, we share the collective goal of enhancing the beef industry through various means including improvements in animal care, maintaining an outstanding consumer product and ensuring a thriving, economically-viable agriculture community for generations to come.

With my duties as Executive Vice President for the membership of Nebraska Cattlemen, I have personally experienced the highest level of commitment and integrity by Dr. E. John Pollak as Center Director. The U.S. Meat Animal Research Center has expanded their efforts to include sustainability of the natural resources as well enhancement in beef genetics. I have the highest regard for Dr. Pollak in his representation of the Center. And, his exceptional administrative work is reflected in his commitment to protecting the resources of the USDA and tax payers.

My final point of emphasis is the very real impact MARC's work has on the agriculture community. Sustained financial support and commitment to U.S. MARC will continue to reap substantial benefits for rural America and meat animal protein consumers in the United States and beyond. Because of this deeply-held belief and appreciation, I strongly support U.S. Meat Animal Research Center and Dr. Pollak.

Thank you for considering of my letter of support for the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center.

Sincerely,

Pete McClymont
Nebraska Cattlemen
Executive Vice President