

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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SUBJECT: Support for a multi-state committee on antimicrobial resistance

TO: Jeff Jacobsen  
Executive Director, North Central Regional Association

FROM: Doug Buhler  
Director



Data from the CDC indicates antimicrobial resistance kills over 750,000 people worldwide each year and causes illness in over 2,000,000 people in the US annually. While this is attributed in part to overuse of antibiotics in human medicine, evidence suggest antibiotic use in food producing animals may also have a negative impact on public health through transmission of antibiotic resistant bacteria from food producing animals to humans through the food supply. This has already impacted animal agriculture and led to new regulations on antibiotic use in food producing animals, including elimination of use of antibiotics in farm animals for growth promotion and allowing antibiotic use only for health needs and under supervision of a licensed veterinarian.



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While awareness of antimicrobial resistance has increased dramatically in recent years, research has lagged behind. A national action plan for combating antimicrobial resistance was released by the White House in 2015 and outlined a series of goals focused on combating this emerging public health concern. Such goals include: 1) Slowing the emergence of resistant bacteria and preventing the spread of resistant infections, 2) Strengthening national one-health surveillance efforts to combat resistance, 3) Advancing development and use of rapid and innovative diagnostic tests for identification and characterization of resistant bacteria, 4) Acceleration of basic and applied research and development of new antibiotics, other therapeutics, and vaccines and 5) Improved international collaboration and capacities for antibiotic-resistance prevention, surveillance, control, and antibiotic research and development. Given the prominence of animal agriculture in the North Central region, our scientists with relevant expertise are positioned collectively to play a key role (through fundamental and applied research) in addressing the research agenda outlined above and combatting this emerging problem impacting both animal agriculture and human health.

MSU AgBioResearch (Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station) supports the formation of a multi-state committee on antimicrobial resistance to help address

these critical issues. We see this as an important activity and are confident that there is a critical mass of scientists to make the committee a success.

Please contact me or George Smith if you have questions.

Best wishes.

cc: George Smith  
John Baker  
Deb Hamernik  
Chris Hamilton