

Dr. Jeff Jacobsen
Executive Director, North Central Regional Association
446 West Circle, Room 408
Justin S. Morrill Hall of Agriculture
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824-1039

Dear Jeff,

I am pleased to write this letter of enthusiastic support for the formation of a new multistate committee on antimicrobial resistance in food producing animals. The use of antibiotics in livestock and poultry is essential for the treatment and prevention of infectious diseases. However, in recent years bacterial resistance to antimicrobial drugs has increased dramatically. In fact, antibiotic resistance has been identified by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization as one of the most significant threats to global human health. According to the CDC, an estimated 2 million Americans become ill and more than 20,000 Americans die from antibiotic-resistant bacteria each year.

To mitigate antibiotic resistance, the CDC and the USDA have each developed national action plans with specific research priorities that are focused on a One Health approach. These action plans describe a basic and applied research agenda to: 1) enhance surveillance and monitoring of antibiotic resistance; 2) better understand the epidemiology and ecology of antibiotic resistance; 3) develop new antibiotics and alternatives to antibiotics; 4) determine the mechanisms involved in resistance and transmission of resistance; 5) determine and/or model patterns and practices that impact the use of antibiotics in food animals; and 6) develop improved diagnostic tests and vaccines. Approximately one year ago President Obama signed the executive order "Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria" followed by the "National Strategy for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria." In addition, the President's fiscal year 2016 budget includes plans to double the current budget available for research on antibiotic resistance to \$1.2 billion. Thus, antibiotic resistance is a national priority that requires immediate attention from scientists with expertise in food animal production.

As you know, the North Central region has large numbers of food producing animals (beef, dairy, swine, and poultry). In addition, the North Central region also has a critical mass of scientists with excellent expertise to conduct the experiments and meet the goals described in the action plans listed above. Successful completion of these studies will likely lead to new methods to mitigate antimicrobial resistance in food animals in the United States and throughout the world. Thus, the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station supports the formation of a new multistate committee to address these important and timely issues.

Sincerely,



Archie C. Clutter
Dean, Agricultural Research Division
Director, Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station