



American Meat Science Association

April 14, 2015

National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board
Michele Esch, Designated Federal Officer and Executive Director
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW.
STOP 0321
Washington, DC 20250-0321

Via email to nareee@ars.usda.gov

NAREEE Advisory Board Members,

The American Meat Science Association (AMSA) is a section 501(c)(3) individual membership scientific professional society with an international membership of over 2,000 scientists and students from academia and the meat industry. Our members discover and apply scientific principles to secure a sustainable supply of abundant, nutritious, high quality muscle protein for the world's food supply. AMSA members share a commitment to proper animal care and handling and strive to maintain optimal animal care with the latest information and best practices in this crucial area.

AMSA supports the implementation of the recommendations put forward by the ARS Animal Handling and Welfare Review Panel (Panel) regarding animal care and well-being at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (MARC). The recommendations effectively address the key findings of the Panel and will strengthen MARC's standing with the scientific community, the meat industry and the public.

USDA needs to work closely with the scientific community, particularly the scholarly journals, to ensure that the scientific integrity of the body of work from MARC remains intact. Much of the valuable scientific work conducted by MARC and its scientists has gone through the peer-review process to ensure the scientific rigor of the research. MARC's scientists have provided significant contributions to the field of meat science and examples of those contributions are provided below.

- Elucidating the mechanisms and measurement of consistent tenderness, color and flavor of meat.
- Understanding the biology of food pathogens and developing effective interventions to prevent harm to the consumer.
- Developing effective and efficient production practices that result in enhanced animal wellbeing and positive environmental impact.

This body of work is foundational to securing a sustainable, safe, high quality food supply for our nation. AMSA commends USDA for its decisive actions in reviewing allegations raised and we support the maintenance of this vital research institution and its ongoing research.

Should you have questions or desire additional clarification regarding our comments, please feel free to contact myself or Deidrea Mabry, Director of AMSA's Scientific Communications and Technical Programs (dmabry@meatscience.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas H. Powell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas H. Powell, Ph.D.
Executive Director
tpowell@meatscience.org

cc: Under Secretary Dr. Catherine Woteki
ARS Administrator Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young