MICHIGAN ALLIANCE FOR ANIMAL AGRICULTURE (M-AAA)

M-AAA is a partnership among Michigan animal agriculture industries, Michigan State University (MSU) College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, MSU AgBioResearch and MSU Extension focused on the advancement of the Michigan animal agriculture economy.


With competitive grant funding starting in 2015, the State of Michigan invested in M-AAA research to advance the animal agriculture industry from fiscal years 2017 to 2019.

Examples of M-AAA projects

Animal housing standards
By April 1, 2020, all Michigan producers will need to house pregnant pigs in pens where they can turn about freely, something typically not found in most current operations. Producers are now transitioning to group housing. And though pigs are social by nature, they don’t always get along well in group settings. Researchers at MSU, alongside collaborators, are developing a host of tools to identify pigs suitable for group housing that are more likely to live in harmony. The basis for the solution may be rooted in genetics.

Managing diseases such as bovine leukemia
A survey of 113 Michigan dairy herds found an 88 percent herd-level prevalence of bovine leukemia virus (BLV) — a retrovirus that causes infection in dairy and beef cattle that can lead to more devastating diseases. Evidence is mounting that BLV infection negatively affects milk production and longevity. By educating producers about BLV and its potential effects on their operations, they will be able to identify BLV in their herds and develop control strategies with the help of veterinarians and MSU experts. Since BLV prevalence is not easily predicted, producers need systematic monitoring such as the BLV Herd Profile Test to stay ahead of this disease.

Increasing efficiency of fertility programs
Infertility of lactating cows is an issue that limits both profitability and sustainability of dairy farms. In response, researchers developed fertility programs to control ovarian development. These programs allow well-managed dairy farms to increase cow fertility to that of virgin heifers. Additionally, they decrease pregnancy loss and twinning — both detrimental to profit of dairy farms. Using these fertility programs over time can reduce the number of cows in a herd with excessive body condition loss, revolutionize reproductive management of dairy cattle and improve farm revenues. For example, an 800-cow dairy could expect a projected increase in revenue of $150 per cow, per year.

Recurring funding is needed at the level of $2.5 million for research and extension projects to enhance Michigan animal agriculture through the M-AAA.

Find legislative reports online at maaa.msu.edu.

M-AAA Funding

- State of Michigan
- Michigan State University
- Michigan Milk Producers Association

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

$500,000 $1M $1.5M $2M $2.5M

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