

## **Listening Session: Livestock Research Needs**

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### **Systems Research**

- Integrated livestock/crop systems.
- Food safety; pest/disease suppression.
- Productivity; ecosystem performance.
- Soil health and mineral balancing impacts on animal health – how to assess.
- Holistic impacts – nutritional informatics.
- BMPs to market organic livestock products as “functional foods.”

### **Animal Health**

- Sources of animal health information relevant to organic farmers.
- Impact of grass-based systems on animal disease – long-term study.
- Efficacy of available treatments; therapies and approved products.
- Incidence of lameness on organic farms;
  - Causes: nutrition; symptoms; housing;
  - Prevention: environment; preventative practices.
- Food safety and health implications for outdoor access of poultry.
- Parasite management for hogs & small ruminants.
- Probiotics for animal health – efficacy; risks; costs/benefits.
- Effective treatment options for poultry diseases and human pathogens that reside in poultry.

### **Veterinary Services**

- Vet costs for organic livestock producers.
- Role of veterinarians on organic farms – preventative practices; treatment.
  - Research to help resolve conflicts between FDA guidelines and organic standards.
- Rationale for organic withhold times – communicate to vets & producers.
- Veterinarian attitudes towards organic management.
- Parasite prevention on pastures.

### **Feed and Nutrition**

- Ration customization for season/climate; environment.
- Effective alternatives to synthetic methionine for poultry.
- Forage quality impacts on dairy production under organic management.
- GMO vs organic feed impacts on animal health.

### **Breeding**

- Breed performance in organic systems.
- Desirable traits for maximum performance.
- Immunity to pathogens.
- Resistance to parasites.

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- Efficient grazing on pasture.
- Feed conversion.
- Marketable traits.
- Poultry breeding.

**Policy**

- Different interpretations of NOP regulations by different certifiers.
- Stockmanship/cattle handling/humane treatment BMPs.
- Limitations of grant-funded research to assess long-term systemic impacts.
- Regulatory status of alternative medicines: homeopathy, acupuncture, chiropractic adjustment.
- Methane emissions from various organic livestock systems.