

April 25, 2022

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chairwoman
U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and
Related Agencies
129 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sanford Bishop
Chairman
U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and
Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Hoeven
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and
Related Agencies
190 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Andy Harris
Ranking Member
U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and
Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairwoman Baldwin, Chairman Bishop, Ranking Member Hoeven, and Ranking Member Harris:

The undersigned organizations are writing in support of the additional \$2.5 million in funding through USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) for aflatoxin research as submitted through NCGA's Aflatoxin Mitigation Center of Excellence (AMCOE). This type of mycotoxin in particular has an impact which can be felt beyond the farm gate, into the value chain. In order for the U.S. to be the best possible stewards of public health, additional research to help mitigate, and eventually prevent, such outbreaks is necessary. We agree with AMCOE's assessment that a considerable gap exists between the amount of research being conducted currently and the magnitude of this issue. Climate change will further exacerbate the problem and continue to expand the impacted geographic area beyond the South and into the Midwest and Western Plains states.

Over the past decade, AMCOE has self-funded research projects on mitigating the impact of aflatoxin outbreaks at a level of \$4.3 million. That research has made strides in areas such as novel breeding and biocontrols; gene silencing; biological control; identification of gene-based markers; and boosting resistance through metabolites to name a few. The work which AMCOE has been able to conduct has helped to put together a strong network of university cooperators who have partnered on this research and prevented duplicating of efforts. Given the scale of the aflatoxin issue, however, additional funding for this important work is necessary.

We respectfully ask for your support of this request throughout the FY 23 appropriations process. We find this request to be well-aligned with the mission of ARS which is to deliver "scientific solutions to national and global agricultural challenges." We are confident that funding through ARS to the well-established cooperative partners on this topic will be able to provide for meaningful research that creates solutions. If our organizations can be of any assistance or provide any additional information on this request, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

American Feed Industry Association

Corn Refiners Association

Louisiana State University, Ag Center

National Grain & Feed Association

National Milk Producers Federation

National Pork Producers Council

North American Millers' Association

Pet Food Institute

Renewable Fuels Association

Southwest Council of Agribusiness

Texas A&M AgriLife Research

University of Georgia, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences