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December 24, 2008

Representative Dave Obey
Washington DC Office
2314 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515-4907

Dear Representative Obey,

As you work to finalize the FY 2009 agriculture appropriations bill, the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) urges you to recede to the higher senate figure of \$806,000 for Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD).

- FARAD, in existence since 1982, develops and maintains a unique food safety databank that provides information to veterinarians, livestock producers, state and federal regulatory and extension specialists on avoiding both animal drug residues and environmental contaminants in meat, milk and eggs.
- FARAD's databank provides information regarding the time-course of drug and chemical depletion in the blood and tissues of animals following the routine use of drugs in animal agriculture, for the extra-label use of drugs in animal agriculture, and during food contamination emergencies which might arise from exposure to environmental toxins, particularly pesticides, either accidentally or intentionally introduced into the food supply.
- FARAD provides rapid response assistance, through both its telephone hotline and web access, for inquiries concerning residue issues that affect food animal health and food product contamination.
- FARAD provides assistance in trade matters by maintaining databanks of foreign drug approvals, and it trains veterinary students and veterinary medical residents in the principles of residue avoidance.

The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) is an international association with membership consisting largely of state feed control officials responsible for administration of state laws and regulations, as well as portions of the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, which pertain to the distribution of commercial feed and feed ingredients for livestock, poultry, and other animals, including pets. AAFCO members include all fifty states, Canada, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, the United State Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). AAFCO provides the forum where its members can meet and discuss regulatory issues and promote uniformity in the adoption and enforcement of laws and regulations.

The members of AAFCO play a vital role in assuring food safety through its inspection and sampling efforts and the development and enforcement of preventative animal feed processing or manufacturing standards. In this effort, FARAD has proven to be a valuable tool in assessing risk and toxicity of chemical and natural food contaminants.

In summary, AAFCO urges Congress to provide adequate funding for FARAD to help assure that the nation's food supply will continue to be the safest in the world.

On behalf of the Association of American Feed Control Officials, I would like to thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Gray", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andy Gray
AAFCO President