

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR NATIONAL MORATORIUM ON NEW AND EXPANDING CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS

ACTION 9: REQUIRING INCREASED FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ON AND DISSEMINATION OF GOOD ANIMAL PRODUCTION PRACTICES THAT WILL BENEFIT THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

In light of the wide-ranging negative health and environmental impacts associated with Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), as well as serious social and environmental justice concerns, the American Public Health Association adopted a new policy resolution. The [Precautionary Moratorium on New and Expanding CAFOs](#) calls for federal, state and local governments, including public health agencies, to impose a national moratorium on new and expanding CAFOs until additional scientific data on the attendant risks to public health have been collected, uncertainties resolved, and 12 action steps outlined in the resolution have been taken. This document is one of a series of briefs concerning the action steps that must be met before the APHA's call for a moratorium will be lifted. This document focuses on Action Step 9, and provides additional information pertinent to this action step.

Action Step 9 requires:

Federal and state governments increase funding for research on and dissemination of food animal production practices that will be beneficial to the environment, public health, and rural communities, and offer funding and technical assistance to farmers to adopt these practices.

Overview of Farm Bill programs that support sustainable agriculture research: A number of farm bill programs are allocated for sustainable agriculture research, which covers research the USDA conducts internally, as well as competitive grants to external

actors, such as farmers and organizations. Some of these farm bill provisions include:

- ▶ Sustainable Agriculture Systems Research Program ([SASR](#))
- ▶ Agriculture and Food Research Initiative ([AFRI](#))
- ▶ National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service ([ATTRA](#))
- ▶ Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative ([OREI](#))
- ▶ Organic Transitions Program ([ORG](#))
- ▶ Specialty Crop Research Initiative ([SCRI](#))
- ▶ Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education ([SARE](#))

In order to expand knowledge and viability for sustainable animal production, more farm research and development is needed. The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) has identified research

needs in specific areas, such as, “rotational grazing, grass based meat and dairy production, sound husbandry techniques, and the integration of livestock into existing cropping systems”.¹

RECOMMENDED POLICY CHANGES

- ▶ Enhance federal and state funding for animal production research, education, and outreach in order to support a transition to more sustainable and regenerative models.
- ▶ Appropriate new funding for farm bill programs committed to research for sustainable production, including but not limited to, SASR, AFRI, ATTRA, OREI, ORG, SCRI and SARE.

The Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future is an interdisciplinary academic center based within the Bloomberg School of Public Health’s Department of Environmental Health and Engineering and is a leader in public health research, education, policy and advocacy that is dedicated to building a healthier, more equitable and resilient food system. The opinions expressed herein are our own and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Johns Hopkins University.

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REFERENCES

1. Animal Agriculture. National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. <https://sustainableagriculture.net/our-work/issues/animal-agriculture/>. Accessed April 2, 2020.