



Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture

The Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture (M-AAA) is a partnership among Michigan animal agriculture industries, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine, MSU AgBioResearch and MSU Extension that focuses on the advancement of the Michigan animal agriculture economy.

From evaluating and improving worker training on dairy farms to promoting environmental sustainability, MSU researchers and educators have been on the forefront of addressing producers' most urgent concerns.

Examples of M-AAA impact include:

- Adam Lock, a professor in the MSU Department of Animal Science, is working with dairy farms on nutritional strategies to increase milk fat content, which impacts the value of milk and profitability.
- Richard Pursley, a professor in the MSU Department of Animal Science, is working to help dairy farmers remediate issues with pregnancy loss. Cows that lose pregnancies have a much greater chance of either being culled from the herd or becoming pregnant late in lactation. Pursley's M-AAA work has identified strategies that are saving dairy producers roughly \$80,000 per year for a 1,000-cow herd.
- Beth Ferry, a swine educator with MSU Extension, helped create a training program to assist first responders called Emergency Response to Accidents Involving Livestock (ERAIL). Of participants surveyed, 91% say they increased their skill set and will implement new methods of accident response following the training. More than 95% plan to provide training for their local organizations.

The overarching goal of M-AAA is to facilitate applied research and extension projects directly tied to immediate priorities of industry partners. This program has been continually funded since 2017 with \$3 million in the State of Michigan's MDARD budget as a grant.

By reallocating the investment to the MSU Extension and MSU AgBioResearch higher education funding lines, it stabilizes this annual funding and shows support for Michigan's animal agriculture sectors on par with Michigan's plant-based agriculture sectors.