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Greetings to all,

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support for the expansion of Precision Livestock Farming efforts at North Dakota State University. Dr. Guillermo Scaglia and Dr. Leon Schumacher are at the forefront of leaders working to integrate new technology for improving the efficiency and reducing the environmental footprint of animal agriculture into practical farm and ranch management.


Analogous efforts in crop production were first initiated at universities across the country about 30 years ago. These efforts have been spectacularly successful!! Now precision techniques are routinely used to enhance productivity and reduce the negative impacts of agricultural systems throughout the United States and around the world. It has become increasingly imperative to similarly apply precision sensors and technology to improve the efficiency, genetics, and welfare of animals to ensure food security and the long-term sustainability of our food supply.

Precision technology makes it possible to treat each animal as an individual while at the same time attaining the cost and efficiency benefits of large-scale animal production. Both Dr. Guillermo Scaglia and Dr. Leon Schumacher have become familiar with this technology by attending workshops focusing on Precision Livestock Farming. One such workshop was the recent summer workshop held in Knoxville, Tennessee. They have learned about the progress others have achieved and are eager to extend this progress through the incorporation of new sensor technology and AI techniques. This will translate data generated through the implementation of Precision Livestock Technology into practical information that producers can use to achieve animal production, welfare, sustainability, and economic goals.

We fully support the efforts of the Ag and Biosystems Engineering and the Animal Sciences Departments as they seek funding to identify and overcome impediments to the adoption of Precision Livestock Technology in the livestock industry. Their plan is to create a team to leverage Precision Livestock Technology through the development of effective implementation protocols. The documentation of the benefits of the technology will certainly accelerate the adoption of Precision Livestock Technology in North Dakota and the United States.

The world faces the rapidly accelerating and competing challenge of balancing global food security against climate chaos and environmental sustainability. The widespread adoption of Precision Livestock Production technology promises to help producers make decisions that improve their economic opportunities and provide long-term benefits to local regions, the State of North Dakota, and the United States.

Best regards,


Patrick Zimmerman, President