

AGF AMERICAN GOAT FEDERATION

Dairy • Meat • Fiber
Representing ALL Goat Producers

September 7, 2016

USDA-ARS Animal Disease Research
3003 ADBF, WSU
Pullman, WA 99164

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Dear Dr. White:

AGF serves the goat industry by encouraging sound public policy, supporting production and marketing of goat products and promoting research and education related to goat management, health and production. We recognize that research is an important asset for the goat industry and any meaningful research results that we can make available to goat producers will improve the profitability of their enterprises. AGF encourages research to enhance responsible goat production systems, and goat products that increase profitability, environmental health, and basic understanding of important biological processes.

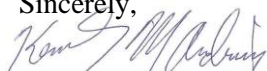
The Federation believes that the research project proposal entitled "Identification of Genetic Regions Associated with Shedding of *Coxiella burnetii* (Q Fever) in Goats as a Small Ruminant Model," will provide important information for all goat producers and AGF strongly supports this project. Q fever is an important problem for the goat and sheep industries, and it has been the topic of ongoing discussion and concern (for example, see <https://americangoatfederation.org/education-research/q-fever-the-hidden-menace/>).

Since there is no licensed vaccine for *C. burnetii* in the U.S. and antibiotic treatment is both not completely effective and undesirable, there is a great need for interventions that can mitigate *C. burnetii* transmission and disease. The genetic approach in this proposal has great promise to break the transmission cycle and lead to useful breeding tools in goats. The outcome of this study will include the first list of gene regions associated with *C. burnetii* shedding for any species, and will also have utility for developing breeding tools for sheep and other ruminants. AGF is excited that this goat research will also contribute to genetics of *C. burnetii* susceptibility in humans.

We understand that one additional point about this project that will be a valuable contribution for the goat and small ruminant industries is that this grant can be leveraged as seed money to develop a federally funded research program. To date, there has not been such federal funding for *C. burnetii* research to benefit small ruminant production in the U.S. However, this is an important area for research and the use of this grant as seed money to generate a federally funded program will be a benefit to the goat industry and beyond for years to come.

AGF wishes you great success in this research endeavor.

Sincerely,



Ken Andries, President

American Goat Federation

Executive Director Anita Dahnke

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AmericanGoatFederation.org

"A unified voice for all elements of
the goat industry in public policy,
education, research, and
marketing of goat products."