

September 18, 2018

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USDA
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC

Dear Sustainable Ag Systems Review Panel:

We at AGF recognize that research is an important asset, not only for the goat industry, but also for the entire livestock industry. The federation supports meaningful research to enhance responsible goat production systems, results that we can make available to American goat producers and improve the profitability of their goat enterprises, as well as enhance environmental health.

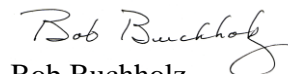
A unified voice for all elements of the goat industry in public policy, education, research, and marketing of goat products.

The American Goat Federation supports the proposal entitled "Enhancing Livestock Production in the Southern Great Plains." The problem addressed in this proposal, loss of rangeland productivity and livestock carrying capacity because of woody plant encroachment is a serious problem for ranchers not only in the Southern Great Plains but throughout most of the U.S. The suggestion of using research and extension education to increase the adoption of existing management options such as prescribed fire, goat browsing, and multispecies grazing to reduce woody plant encroachment and increase livestock carrying capacity have great merit. The proposed project also has the potential to help meet future demands for high quality, healthy animal protein.

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Sincerely,



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