

2023 Farm Bill AVMA Priority: Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD)



AVMA SUPPORTS

The AVMA urges increased authorization to \$5 million for FARAD to secure the future of this vital USDA program that protects our food supply

KEY POINTS:

- FARAD is a key program protecting the U.S. food supply from accidental or intentional contamination of animal-derived foods from substances not safe for human consumption.
- Highly trained scientists provide veterinarians and producers with real-time, scientifically based expert advice on if and when an animal can safely enter the food supply.
- FARAD has operated at its authorized amount of \$2.5 million since FY 2018 but is unable to invest and grow.
- More funds are needed to attract and retain scientists, keep pace with inflation, invest in technology, and conduct critical safety validation studies.

What is FARAD?

- FARAD is a decision support system providing veterinarians, livestock producers, and extension specialists with real-time, practical information on how to avoid drug, pesticide, and environmental contaminant residues in food animals.
- FARAD is supported and staffed by highly trained veterinary pharmacologists, toxicologists, and food animal specialists at five U.S. colleges of veterinary medicine.
- These scientists identify, analyze, and generate residue avoidance data that serves as the scientific basis for withdrawal times in situations involving environmental or feed contamination, agro-terrorism, and extra-label drug use across all food-animal species.
- Administered by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, FARAD develops and maintains the most up-to-date and comprehensive collection of residue data in the world.
- FARAD provides recommendations for food animals across a wide range of species, including beef, dairy, swine, poultry, goats, sheep, and honey production systems.



What is the problem?

- Veterinarians and livestock producers need real-time information to make informed decisions that help ensure food animals entering the food supply are safe.
- Without additional funding, FARAD is at risk of being unable to invest in necessary sophisticated statistical modeling software, platform technology upgrades, and safety validation studies that provide vital food safety recommendations.
- Without this information, producers may lose market value for their animals by keeping them on-farm for unnecessarily long periods of time or may not provide needed therapy.

FARAD Authorization

Congress authorized FARAD in 1998 (P.L. 105-185) to help prevent harmful residues from entering the food supply.

Why is AVMA supportive?

FARAD's modest, yet essential, federal investment has demonstrated its value with measurable results. The AVMA urges Congress to increase FARAD's authorization to \$5 million to ensure that our food supply stays safe, secure, and affordable.