



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JUL - 2 2018

The Honorable Jackie McClaskey
Secretary
Kansas Department of Agriculture
Room 456
900 SW Jackson
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Secretary McClaskey:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of support for the Cattle Trace pilot program for the advancement of animal disease traceability (ADT). The U.S. Department of Agriculture is pleased to be in partnership with Kansas on this project, together with your State's agencies, industries, and cattle producers.

As you are aware, developing a robust, national traceability system is one of my top priorities. A national system helps us all to protect our domestic food supply against animal disease outbreaks. Among other factors, this is critical to opening export markets that will help cattle producers in Kansas—and across the country—to thrive.

The Cattle Trace pilot program will help participants understand how a traceability system could be implemented and identify methods that could benefit individual beef producers. Components of an animal disease traceability system must be easily integrated into business processes at many points in the beef supply chain. The project plan Kansas has developed promises to provide a model from which we all may learn.

Congratulations on the kick-off of Cattle Trace! I look forward to monitoring its progress and outcomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Ibach", written in a cursive style.

Greg Ibach
Under Secretary
Marketing and Regulatory Programs