

November 29, 2023

Dear SBARE members,

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support for the expansion of Precision Livestock Farming efforts at NDSU. Dr. Guillermo Scaglia and Dr. Leon Schumacher shared that the time is now! MetaFarms Inc. has been working with Livestock farmers in their digital journey of leveraging data and technology to make better livestock business decisions that improve the animal, business, and community outcomes of the farm for nearly the past 25 years. While there has been much progress, the need for added applied research that is believable and trusted is critical to its continued adoption.

Universities across the USA have focused on how to use sensor technology to manage crop production for nearly 30 years! And now, 30 years later, we are beginning to see widespread adoption of precision agriculture technology for crop production. This IS what we all hoped to accomplish when we began this effort three decades ago. The Crop farmers have proven data-based decisions can make a difference and now is the time to see that same progress expedited in Livestock.

It's time now for NDSU, as well as other colleges across the region, to begin to focus on how we can accelerate economic development in animal agriculture by developing, testing, and utilizing precision livestock technology. Both Dr. Guillermo Scaglia and Dr. Leon Schumacher have attended workshops that have focused on Precision Livestock Farming. The most recent one was held this past summer in Knoxville, TN. In short, they have learned how others across the state and region have incorporated sensor technology that has allowed them to test AI systems that allow them to efficiently manage livestock production. We hope that these efforts will facilitate the adoption and management of Precision Livestock Technology.

In conclusion, we fully support the efforts of the Ag and Biosystems Engineering and the Animal Science Departments as they seek external funding to break down the silos that currently exist in the livestock industry and develop a team to manage an effort that optimizes and leverages Precision Livestock Production in North Dakota. This new technology is the ticket that best addresses many of the challenges faced by today's livestock producers.

In short, these efforts will help our producers make better decisions about livestock production that will benefit our state, region, and country-wide economies.

Sincerely,



Chad L. Becker
CEO & President
MetaFarms Inc.