



January 29, 2024

Dr. Brian Parr, Dean
Hutson School of Agriculture
Murray, KY 42071

Dean Parr,

On behalf of the Kentucky Poultry Federation, we would like to formally endorse the Murray State University School of Veterinary Medicine proposal.

We are concerned about the shortage of large and food animal veterinarians in the state of Kentucky. As of the time of writing this letter, one year ago, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture had three open veterinarian positions. In addition to the regulatory duties these veterinarians are on the front line of animal disease outbreak response and containment. Today the USDA, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and numerous rural veterinarian offices are still looking to hire qualified candidates. These veterinarians work to ensure that Kentuckians have food on the table and Kentucky farmers can maintain their way of life. With a decreasing number of veterinarians in Kentucky, our farm families have been the first ones to feel the negative effects of their absence.

The Kentucky Poultry Federation is in full support of veterinarian education, training, and service to the Commonwealth. As we look at rural economic development and sustainability of Kentucky livestock producers, it is clear something must be done to recruit, train, and retain large and food animal veterinarians in Kentucky. We fully support this endeavor.

The Kentucky Poultry Federation was organized in 1957 as a civic and educational non-profit corporation. The federation exists to foster, promote, and encourage the improvement of production and marketing of all types of poultry, poultry products, eggs, and egg products in Kentucky. The Kentucky Egg Council coordinates all promotional activities for eggs and egg products. The Federation acts as the industry liaison with Kentucky Universities, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the Kentucky State Legislature, the American Egg Board, the National Chicken Council, and the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jamie D. Guffey". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jamie D. Guffey
Executive Director
Kentucky Poultry Federation

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