



Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank



AVMA SUPPORTS

AVMA recommendation: \$2.5 million in the fiscal 2015 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

The Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) is authorized at \$2.5 million annually, but is presently funded at \$1,250,000. Because Congress recognizes the important function that FARAD plays in ensuring food safety, it restores funding for the program each year. The AVMA would like to see FARAD receive the full authorization so that it can continue carrying out its important public and animal health functions.

Fiscal 2015 Agriculture Appropriations Bill

Fiscal Year	AVMA Recommendation	President	House	Senate
\$1,250,000	Up to \$2,500,000 and no less than \$1,250,000	\$0	TBD	TBD

Recent Funding History

Fiscal Year	Pre-sequestration	Final	PL
2014		\$1,250,000	113-79
2013	\$974,870	\$926,127	113-2
2012		\$1,000,000	112-55
2011		\$998,000	112-10
2010		\$1,000,000	111-80
2009		\$806,000	111-8

Key points:

- FARAD helps keep milk, meat and eggs free of drug or contaminant residues (e.g. pesticides, minerals, biologic toxins) so that they are safe for human consumption.
- In 2013, FARAD handled 2,000 cases, involving more than 7.5 million animals, where residues were present.
- FARAD's Global Veterinary Drug Database will provide a transparent resource that will help exporters in the United States navigate the ever-changing rules and regulations that sometimes discourage the export of U.S. livestock products.

FARAD works to keep meat and dairy products free from drug and chemical residues

- FARAD scientists identify, gather, extract and analyze residue avoidance information to determine scientifically based withdrawal advice for veterinarians and livestock producers in situations involving accidental contaminations, agro-terrorism or legal extra-label drug use in both major and minor food-producing animal species.
- FARAD scientists help to ensure that food-producing animals are not sent to slaughter or their products (e.g. milk or eggs) are not sent to market until they are safe for human consumption.

Veterinarians and livestock producers rely upon the FARAD for:

- Regulatory information on approved uses of food animal drugs.
- Recommended withholding times following extra-label uses of selected drugs in selected species. "Withholding" times refer to the period of time after an animal was last treated with a drug and before it can be sent to slaughter or its products can be sent to market.
- The Withdrawal Time Calculator, which identifies the precise withholding calendar date for food animal products following approved drug treatments.
- The collection of regulatory rules, restrictions and requirements pertaining to the extra-label drug uses in food-producing animals.

- Information when livestock are mistakenly exposed to environmental contaminants (e.g. pesticides, biotoxins, radionuclides, and gas fracking water).
- During times of both small- and large-scale disasters (i.e., hurricanes, tsunamis, fires, oil spills, and nuclear incidents).

A fully funded FARAD will allow the program to carry out many vital services, which helps keep animals healthy and our food supply safe

Specifically, the FARAD is capable of:

- Improving the “real time” determination of withdrawals for legal extra-label drug use in food animal species;
- Providing expert advice in situations involving accidental or intentional contaminations of food-producing animals;
- Validating higher-level mathematical approaches for determining safe withdrawal periods;
- Validating withdrawal estimates and expanding into contaminant exposure;
- Broadening the Department of Homeland Security’s data elements and analyses to help mitigate the impact of intentional acts of bioterrorism on the nation’s food supply; and
- One of the most important services--strengthening the global FARAD to ensure that imported foods are safe to eat and to expand the United States’ domestic exports.

FARAD’s Global Veterinary Drug Database (GVDD) expands America’s healthy food standards

In 2013, FARAD began developing and implementing a Global Veterinary Drug Database (GVDD) in partnership with CABI (Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux International) in the United Kingdom.

The GVDD will catalog global drug availability and the proper uses of drugs to ensure that another country’s maximum residue limits (MRLs) are not exceeded, which will improve food safety and protect public health. Furthermore, the GVDD will allow the United States to ensure that international trade partners are abiding by the same stringent food safety standards.

The GVDD’s important responsibilities include:

- Reporting on the MRLs available, including those established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (a body jointly established by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization to set international food standards) and by other entities, such as the European Union and the United States.
- Estimating extended withdrawal times, which helps U.S. producers sell their animal-derived foods on international markets and the United States to enhance global food safety.
- Enabling a user to easily access the MRLs in countries that they wish to export to and providing withdrawal times to enable users to avoid breaching MRL regulations. Bringing this information together in one place will benefit global food producers and facilitate international trade.
- Connecting approved drug use in an exporting country with the regulatory requirements as mandated by the importing country.
- The GVDD will not establish MRLs, but will provide a transparent resource that will help exporters in the United States to navigate the ever-changing rules and regulations that sometimes discourage the export of U.S. livestock products.