



Rep. Musgrave's agriculture funding requests passed in the House

Washington DC: Today, Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave (CO-04) secured funding for agricultural, drought, and disease research programs at Colorado State University (CSU) by voting of the annual Agriculture Appropriations bill. Musgrave previously urged Chairman Henry Bonilla of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies, to include funding for these programs in the legislation, along with expressing their importance for agricultural producers, the safety of food, and growing the economy.

"Farmers and ranchers are experiencing difficult realities with severe weather conditions, potential bioterror attacks, and weak commodity prices," said Musgrave. "These various research programs at CSU are critical in aiding agricultural producers to overcome their burdens and continue to provide a safe, cost effective food source for the nation."

The Agriculture bill passed the House of Representatives today by a vote of 347 - 64. The bill contains the following funding requests by Musgrave for CSU:

The Center for Economically Important Infectious Animal Diseases (CEIAD): The center began its activities in 1998 as the first single institution to fill a national void in the integrated research on animal diseases. The CEIAD research focuses entirely on animal diseases that either cause, or can

potentially cause, serious economic losses for animal agriculture, or that threaten our national food supply such as West Nile Virus, bovine tuberculosis, vesicular stomatitis, chronic wasting disease, paratuberculosis (John's disease) and strands of *E. coli* infection. These are particularly important in handling a bioterror related outbreak. For fiscal year 2004, \$745,000 will be included in the Agriculture bill.

Russian Wheat Aphid/Genetic Enhancement of Wheat: Researchers at Colorado State University are working to develop varieties of wheat that have improved heat and drought stress tolerance, which will serve to stabilize production under present climate conditions. It is anticipated that even minor gains in stress tolerance would add \$15 million annually to the value of Colorado wheat crop. CSU is ideally suited to undertake this research because of the close integration of its wheat breeding and wheat molecular genetics programs along with its history of research accomplishments in this area. For fiscal year 2004, \$318,000 will be included in the Agriculture bill.

National Beef Cattle Genetic Evaluation Consortium: The Consortium consists of four universities: Colorado State University, Iowa State University, Cornell University and the University of Georgia, as well as cattlemen and breeders from across

America. Its mission is to develop and implement improved methodologies and technologies for genetic evaluation of beef cattle for the purpose of maximizing the impact genetic programs have on the economic viability, international competitiveness, and sustainability of U.S. beef cattle producers and to provide consumers with affordable and healthy beef products. Although research funding for the Consortium has been significantly low to date, rapid development and dissemination of genetic evaluation breeding technologies have been created. For fiscal year 2004, \$750,000 will be included in the Agriculture bill.

"Colorado State University provides the state and region with valuable research in the area of agriculture, drought and animal diseases," said Musgrave. "This money will help CSU extend their research and to aid farmers and ranchers with the difficulties they face today."

Marilyn Musgrave was elected to the United States House of Representatives in January 2003, and she represents Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. Musgrave is a member of the House Committees on Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, and Small Business. To learn more about Rep. Musgrave please visit her official website at <http://www.house.gov/musgrave>.