



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 12, 2026

The Honorable John Hoeven
Chair
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
338 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hoeven:

Consistent with our policy to keep Congress informed regarding the redirection of appropriated funds, I am writing to notify you of plans to reprogram unobligated Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Buildings and Facilities resources previously designated for the modernization of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) in Beltsville, MD. The Department is closing BARC and moving funded research programs to other ARS facilities as part of efforts to improve agricultural research and its benefits to U.S. producers, stakeholders, and customers. Accordingly, these resources are no longer needed for modernization efforts at BARC. A total of \$75,700,000 will be reprogrammed in the following manner:

- \$26,700,000 to fully fund the construction of the new laboratory at the ARS Forage-Animal Production Research Unit in Lexington, KY.
- \$37,000,000 to fully fund the construction of the new National Center for Resilient and Regenerative Precision Agriculture in Lincoln, NE.
- \$12,000,000 to design a new National Plant Germplasm System Centralized Distribution Center in Ames, IA.

If you have any further questions regarding this change, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095. A similar letter is being sent to Ranking Member Jeanne Shaheen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Stephen Alexander Vaden", is positioned above the printed name.

Stephen Alexander Vaden
Deputy Secretary