

The welfare and well-being of animals is a priority at USDA, and we have worked hard to continuously improve our practices in this area. On Jan. 7, the National Academy of Sciences released a study that USDA requested two years ago on the importance of sustainability – including animal well-being – in animal science research that is conducted to improve benefits for American agriculture and the livestock animals themselves.

The Agricultural Research Service, which oversees U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC), helped to fund that study. Over the last 5 years, ARS has spent more than \$8.5 million in expanding and upgrading facilities at the USMARC to better accommodate animals at that facility.

We will look into the most recent reports about activities at USMARC and identify ways we can further improve our animal research – not only at USMARC, but at USDA facilities across the nation.

Your feedback is important to us. Please put your comments in writing so they can be considered by ARS decision makers. The email address is: animalwellbeing@ars.usda.gov.