



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Research
Education
Economics

Office
of the Chief
Scientist

Room 338A
Jamie L. Whitten Building
Washington, DC 20250-0110

CONFIDENTIAL

February 8, 2016

Jonathan Lundgren, Ph.D.
USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
North Central Agricultural Research Laboratory
Integrated Cropping System Research Unit
2923 Medary Avenue
Brookings, SD 57006

Re: USDA Scientific Integrity Case "USDA-ARS-SI-09.12.2014"

Dr. Lundgren:

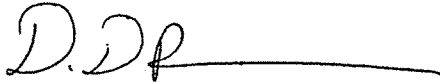
The USDA Scientific Integrity Review Panel (SIRP), which was appointed to review your allegation that the USDA Scientific Integrity Policy was violated, has completed its inquiry into the matter. Based on the review of your written complaint and accompanying documentary evidence, as well as documentary evidence provided by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the panel unanimously concluded that the allegation was unsubstantiated and that there was *not* a preponderance of evidence to establish that the policy was violated. Based on these conclusions, the panel recommended that the matter be closed. *See* enclosed report, dated January 20, 2016. Please note that some of the issues raised in your complaint did not fall within the scope of the USDA Scientific Integrity Policy. Correspondingly, those issues were outside the scope of the panel's review, and were not addressed in the report.

The USDA Chief Scientist and ARS Administrator both concurred with the conclusions and recommendations in the panel's report. *See enclosed* memoranda dated January 29, 2016, and February 3, 2016. Correspondingly, the Department considers the matter closed with respect to your allegation that the USDA Scientific Integrity Policy was violated.

The enclosed report and exhibits are being provided to you in accordance with the *Scientific Integrity Review Panel (SIRP) Guidelines*, dated May 2015, which state that "[the panel's report] may also be shared with any internal USDA party(ies) that either sought or were directly involved in the review." The enclosed documents should be treated as confidential and protected from public disclosure.

The Department is committed to upholding the principles set forth in the USDA Scientific Integrity Policy, and takes seriously allegations that scientific integrity has been compromised. Your willingness to step forward and raise your concerns is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. D. Bannerman", followed by a horizontal line.

Doug Bannerman, Ph.D.

USDA Departmental Scientific Integrity Officer

Enclosures: SIRP Report, dated January 20, 2016
 Exhibits Referenced in the SIRP Report
 USDA Chief Scientist Memorandum, dated January 29, 2016
 ARS Administrator Memorandum, dated February 3, 2016

cc: Chief Scientist, USDA
 Administrator, ARS
 Agency Scientific Integrity Officer, ARS
 Director, Office of the Chief Scientist