



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

Honors College

September 8, 2023

LL.M. Program in Agricultural and Food Law
1045 W. Maple St.
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701

RE: The State of Sustainable Meat Processing - What Laws and Policies Make a Difference?: SARE Research and Education Grant Proposal

To Whom it May Concern:

I am a professor of agricultural economics in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at University of Arkansas with nearly 25 years of experience working in economic, social and environmental issues surrounding agricultural production and processing. I am currently also serving as associate dean in the university's Honors College. My research has touched many areas of agriculture including poultry and cattle. As such I hold an interest in small meat processing access and development in Arkansas and the surrounding area.

During the pandemic, I led a study conducted for the National Beef Cattlemen's Association that assessed the economic contribution of beef cattle in the US. In this study, we recognized the imbalance in production levels and available processing in Arkansas for beef. The weight of the pandemic put further constraints on available processing. We know this isn't unique to the beef industry and therefore policies that can alleviate the processing crunch for beef and other animal production can improve economic, environmental and social outcomes for producers in the region.

I commit to participating in and supporting "The State of Sustainable Meat Processing - What Laws and Policies Make a Difference?" application to Southern SARE Research and Education Grant Proposal. I commit to actively participating in this three-year project from April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2027. I will support the project by commit to actively participating in this project from April 1, 2024– May 31, 2026 by: assisting the PI team in developing surveys in year one and supervising the agricultural economics graduate student in years one and two to collect and assess data. I believe my extensive experience in survey development and analysis will contribute significantly to this project.

Sincerely,

Jennie Popp, Ph.D.
Associate Dean and Professor