

July 15, 2022

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

RE: Humane Handling Educational Resources for Farmers, Ranchers, and Small Processors
Southern SARE Education Grant Proposal

To Whom it May Concern:

For the past seven years, I have direct marketed grass-finished beef, lamb, and goat meat. This has involved working with small processors throughout the Four States region of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Kansas. I am also a lawyer and professor of agricultural law at the University of Arkansas. Humane handling has become a prominent topic among consumers, producers, and academics yet there is little to no information easily accessible for those stakeholder groups on human handling requirements at processing plants.

There is a significant need for these educational resources because of the increased demand for more humanely raised meat and the ongoing bottlenecks around processing. Helping producers to understand more about humane handling requirements can help them in many ways including identifying plants that comply with these rules, informing their customer bases about humane handling requirements, and helping them ensure rules are being complied with at processing facilities. These educational materials will also *prevent suspension*, which can negatively impact sustainable livestock producers businesses.

I commit to participating in and supporting the 2023 application to the Southern SARE Education Grant entitled “Humane Handling Educational Resources for Farmers, Ranchers, and Small Processors.” I commit to actively participating in this two-year project from April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2025 by helping to develop the farmer training guide and educational materials, co-presenting during the virtual training day, promoting the virtual training and educational materials, and assisting as needed with overall implementation of the grant. My experience as a farmer with humane animal handling, working with processors, selling directly to consumers, and as an educator in my off-farm occupation will contribute significantly to this project.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lauren Manning

Lauren Manning
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