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Musgrave secures funds for Colorado agriculture research

Congresswoman helps pass agriculture package through House

Washington, DC: As the Representative for rural Eastern and Northern Colorado, Marilyn Musgrave secured federal funding for critical agriculture and university projects to the Fourth District as the House approved the Agriculture Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006.

"I am encouraged that this bill invests federal money into our local research programs. These research dollars benefit agricultural producers and provide economic growth for all of Colorado and the region," said Musgrave. "Using sound science to focus on better agriculture is a worthwhile investment."

Musgrave supported the Agriculture Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006, which allocates \$82 billion in mandatory agriculture spending and \$17 billion for discretionary spending, which is \$96 million more in discretionary spending than requested by President George W. Bush in his 2006 budget request.

Earlier this year, Musgrave petitioned the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies to provide federal funding for several high priority agriculture projects around Colorado. As a result of her efforts, the following provisions were included in this bill:

National Beef Cattle Genetic Evaluation Consortium: \$880,000

The consortium consists of Colorado State University, Cornell University and the University of Georgia, as well as cattlemen and breeders from across America. Its mission is to develop and implement improved methodologies and technologies for genetic evaluation of beef cattle for the purpose of

maximizing the impact genetic programs have on the economic viability, international competitiveness, and sustainability of US beef cattle producers and to provide consumers with affordable and healthy beef products.

Center for Economically Important Infectious Animal Diseases: \$778,000

The center began its activities in 1998 as the first single institution to fill a national void in the integrated research on animal diseases that threaten our national economy. Their research focuses on BSE, biosecurity for livestock, the spread of Foot and Mouth Disease in wildlife, West Nile Virus, and *E. coli* O157:h7.

Russian Wheat Aphid Resistance, Stress Tolerance, and Quality Enhancement of Wheat: \$291,000

Researchers at Colorado State University are working to develop varieties of wheat that have improved heat and drought stress tolerance, which will serve to stabilize production under present climate conditions. CSU is ideally suited to undertake this research because of the close integration of its wheat breeding and wheat molecular genetics programs along with its history of research accomplishments in this area.

Regional Barley Mapping Project: \$682,000

The North American Barley Genome Project is a model for sustained, product-oriented, comprehensive, multi-institutional, and collaborative agricultural research. Barley production, manufacturing and sales for products such as malt, beer, food, and livestock feed support millions of jobs and generate billions of dollars in excise and income tax revenue for the U.S.