

# STATE OF MICHIGAN



## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE DEPARTMENT'S

#### PET FOOD INVESTIGATION TEAM

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Pet Food Investigation Team (Team) demonstrated outstanding leadership and dedication during its investigation and response to the 2012 pet food *Salmonella* *Infantis* outbreak. The outbreak caused numerous human and animal illnesses and ultimately resulted in massive pet food recall. The Team's surveillance and laboratory activities were covered under the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) BSE Feed Safety Grant and their effective response and coordination of the outbreak resulted from organizational and preparedness activities developed under FDA's Rapid Response Grant; and,

WHEREAS, the Team consisted of John Tilden, Lisa Hainstock, Justin Henderson, John Buchweitz, Jeff Haarer, April Hunt, Tim Lyons, Stevie Glaspie, Ahmed Jama, Jim Loncar, Nicole Cairns, Mike Zupin, Ted Gatesy, Karen Wilson, Frances Mohnke, Scott Benko, Karen Pietrzen, Mark Stenske, Sharon Robeson, and Mike Neault; and,

WHEREAS, the Team played a key role in identifying the pathogen, facilitating communication and sharing information between MDARD Divisions, the Michigan Department of Community Health, State Departments of Agriculture, two FDA Districts, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and,

WHEREAS, FDA Detroit District has a long standing partnership with MDARD through FDA contracts as well as the aforementioned grants. As a result, the District and MDARD have established open and effective lines of communications for public health issues that require emergency response. When this event emerged, MDARD and FDA were able to effectively communicate findings internally and externally thereby accelerating the recall of violative products; and,

WHEREAS, the Team's leadership, coordination efforts, and outstanding investigational and analytical casework significantly promoted public health. The Team collected and analyzed samples, identified the pathogen, linked the pathogen to an outbreak, identified the responsible firm, then coordinated and communicated with state and federal agencies to facilitate a recall. This recall and subsequent removal of product in distribution prevented further human contact with contaminated pet food, thereby preventing illnesses and the expansion of the *Salmonella* *Infantis* outbreak in 2012; and,

WHEREAS, in recognition of the Team's outstanding work, MDARD received the *FDA Commissioners Special Citation* – one of the highest level awards given by FDA; and,

THEREFORE, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development commends the Pet Food Investigation Team and extends its sincere appreciation for their outstanding work, as well as congratulations for having received the *FDA Commissioners Special Citation*.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Kennedy".

Adopted, July 16, 2013  
East Lansing, Michigan

Bob Kennedy  
Commission Chair