

From: Stephen Reichley
To: [Aquaculture2018 - ARS](#)
Subject: USDA Priorities for Aquaculture
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Good Morning,

Clear Springs Foods would like to thank USDA for all the important work they have accomplished to date. Aquaculture continues to progress thanks to the strong participation of USDA and its many researchers. We deeply appreciate the collaboration we enjoy with our USDA partners and others.

Regarding priorities for the USDA-ARS National Program 106 and USDA-NIFA, Clear Springs would like to see the following priorities addressed:

1. The utilization of next generation sequencing and bioinformatics to better understand and characterize the microbiome of water used in trout production as well as the microbiome of rainbow trout. This research should be focused on identifying key parameters to predict and/or mitigate disease outbreaks, improve production, and synergistic affects with current and improved diets.
2. Continued progress using bioinformatics and *in vivo* studies to better characterize and determine pathogenicity of bacterial isolates and epidemiology of disease. Specifically, members of *Flavobacterium*, *Aeromonas*, and *Edwardsiella*. The focus of this work should be on vaccine production and other prevention and control measures.
3. Improvements for the prevention and control of Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus (IHNV). Research should be focused on pathogen characterization, epidemiology of disease, and production of a vaccine practical in a commercial trout farm.
4. Genetic improvement of rainbow trout stocks. Work should be focused on developing mechanisms to enhance disease resistance, improve growth in production environments, synergy with improved diets, and other positive impacts on trout production.
5. Feed analysis and progress toward producing better performing, yet cost effective, diets leading to improved trout production and decreased environmental impact.

If there are any questions or clarifications, please let me know.

Thank you,

Stephen

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