

**COVID-19 Alert  
To Land-Grant-University Presidents and Chancellors:  
Choose Public Health Over Meat Delusion  
From Responsible Policies for Animals  
April 23, 2020**

**An Urgent Email to Heads of the Fifty States’ “1862” Land-Grant Universities**

Since 2003, when Responsible Policies for Animals began to urge you and your predecessors to phase out your agriculture colleges’ public relations, propaganda, sales, lobbying, training, and research for the meat, dairy, fish, and egg industries, your universities have chosen the *meat delusion* over human health and the wellbeing of other animals and the living world. You and/or your predecessors bear a lot of responsibility for needless suffering and premature death that has occurred these past seventeen years on a massive scale.

Had your universities followed the facts presented to you by RPA in hundreds of letters, books, videos, and items of literature, they might have prevented the COVID-19 pandemic wreaking havoc throughout the human world today. Recent Ebola outbreaks, too – your voices could have been heard around the world, preventing abuse of bats to which that horrible disease is traced.

It was already too late, when RPA started writing to your universities, to prevent the butchering of a chimpanzee that caused the ongoing AIDS pandemic. But countless people suffer and die from heart disease, stroke, and cancers linked to the meat delusion. Our species would not have experienced influenza, smallpox, chicken pox/shingles, bubonic plague, anthrax, or many other infectious diseases – even the common cold – if not for thousands of years of unnatural contact with other animals. Raising animals for food is the main source of gases breaking down Earth’s climate. It pollutes groundwater and oceans and devastates entire ecosystems.

*Yet still, at this late date, your universities’ “animal science” programs continue to mislead students, families, entire university communities, and the public to believe the long bloodbath called meat, dairy, fish, and eggs – and other uses of nonhuman animals – is natural and beneficial.*

We cannot change the past. But you must acknowledge it is past time that your institutions, individually and collectively, stopped aligning themselves with the most destructive and harmful industries and sided with human health, and end to animal-abuse culture, and reversal of our species’ devastation of Earth, as urged by RPA and millions of concerned people.

*Yours are the most powerful institutions determining food policy and belief about human health and nutrition. As long as you side with the meat delusion at the root of COVID-19, there will always be a next spillover, a next outbreak, a next pandemic.*

For your convenience, I am providing links below to two of the most recent items RPA sent to you or your predecessor about the “animal science” problem: RPA’s brief white paper “The Case for Ending ‘Animal Science’ Documented” and the detailed letter accompanying it. Together we can prevent needless future suffering and premature death. I hope you will soon let me know that your university is phasing out “animal science.” Thank you for your consideration, and of course let me know if I may provide any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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