

Securing the U.S. Vitamin and Amino Acid Supply Chain Is Critical

The U.S. is highly dependent on China for essential vitamins and amino acids, which are critical for human health, animal production and overall agricultural productivity. Nearly 78% of U.S. vitamin imports come directly from China, which dominates global production of key vitamins (B1, B3, B7, B12, D3 and K) due to its vast manufacturing capabilities and supportive government policies. With limited viable alternatives, any disruption in China's supply chain could significantly impact U.S. food security and the agricultural sector.

The amino acid supply chain faces similar challenges. China accounts for over 62% of global production, controlling 77% of lysine, 91% of threonine, 84% of valine and 27% of methionine. The shift in China's export strategy, especially post-2019, has led to increased U.S. imports, undermining domestic production. A recent study concluded that imports of these amino acids from China "poses a threat to the entire domestic industry, which produced over \$3 billion of output last year and supports nearly 30,000 jobs."

Strengthening domestic production and diversifying global sourcing are critical to ensuring a secure, reliable supply of these essential nutrients.

AFIA POSITION

The United States' heavy dependence on China for these essential nutrients poses significant risks to food security, economic stability and national security. The American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) continues to advocate for the U.S. to diversify its supply chain for vitamins and amino acids, critical for animal health and agricultural productivity, which policymakers can do by offering tax incentives, grants and other mechanisms to encourage investment in U.S. domestic manufacturing. Strengthening domestic capabilities will reduce reliance on foreign sources and safeguard against supply chain disruptions.

The AFIA also supports international collaboration to encourage other countries to expand their production capacities and is calling on policymakers to prioritize vitamins and amino acids in supply chain security discussions, which would enhance the resilience of the global supply chain and protect the U.S. agricultural economy.

KEY POINTS

- **Encourage Domestic Production:** Support the development of existing or new mechanisms, such as tax incentives, grants and low-interest loans, to promote investment in domestic production facilities for vitamins and amino acids.
- **Promote International Cooperation:** Advocate for U.S. government-led initiatives that encourage other vitamin-producing nations to expand their production capabilities. This can be achieved through diplomatic efforts, technical assistance and trade negotiations that emphasize supply chain diversification.
- **Recognize Critical Goods in Policy Frameworks:** Ensure that vitamins and amino acids are identified as critical goods in U.S. supply chain security strategies and international agreements, such as the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF). This recognition would pave the way for coordinated international efforts and partnerships to secure a stable supply chain for these essential inputs.



- **Advance Legislative Efforts:** Support legislative measures like the **Securing American Agriculture Act (H.R. 8003 & S. 5277)**, which aims to bolster agricultural supply chains and provide the necessary tools for proactive supply chain management. The AFIA encourages Congress to consider additional policies that specifically address vulnerabilities in the supply of vitamins and amino acids. **Sponsors of this effort in Congress include Rep. Ashley Hinson, R-Iowa-2, and Sen. Pete Ricketts, R-Neb.**
- **Facilitate Public-Private Partnerships:** Encourage the creation of public-private partnerships that bring together government, industry and research institutions to develop innovative solutions for supply chain challenges, such as scaling up domestic production and improving supply chain transparency.

See the AFIA's



Legislative Priorities