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Our Industry Must Stand Together to Combat ASF

Scientific advancements and the rise of a global economy have transformed our world at a rapid pace. The animal food industry is not immune to this transformation and now faces new challenges, including the increasing spread and transmission of African swine fever (ASF) across Europe and Asia. This new challenge must be addressed by all partners of the feed industry. If ASF were to become endemic in the U.S., it would devastate the U.S. pig population, adversely reshape the pork and feed industries and negatively impact rural America.

Prior to the introduction and spread of porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv) in 2013, our industry primarily considered the role our trucks could play in spreading diseases between farms and our biosecurity practices reflected that. The ensuing research surrounding PEDv has put the focus on the feed industry as a potential entry point and mode of transmission for viruses. Though these theoretical situations are being tested, we must take the threats seriously.

While our attention is currently focused on ASF, research has shown the potential for other animal viruses to survive transboundary shipments in certain feed ingredients after inoculation (see related article on current ASF research on page 13). A recent study from Kansas State University shows that the ASF virus, even at low levels in feed, could cause pigs to become sick. While many factors must be taken into account for this to happen, such as the number of times pigs were exposed to the virus, the discussions around research, potential mitigation steps and biosecurity practices need to be broad enough in scope to cover the range of potential animal viruses and pathogens out there.

Given these new developments, the feed industry must be united and proactive. We must proactively prevent feed from being a potential vector as well as protect against the spread of viruses between farms. We must be proactive in our communications with our customers.

Our industry would love to source every possible ingredient domestically, but that is not feasible, nor should it be necessary, given our global economy. We should not shy away from the conversations about our supply chains and instead open up and display them to demonstrate the actions we’ve taken to ensure safe products.

Science must be our guide. Any measures put in place, either voluntarily or potentially required by regulation, must be based on sound science. That’s why AFIA’s public charity, the Institute for Feed Education and Research (IFEEDER), is co-funding a study on holding times for ingredients to reduce the viral load in feed ingredients. IFEEDER is also evaluating funding other potential research studies in this area.

After consultation with domestic and global industry experts, AFIA earlier this year updated its biosecurity guidelines to reflect recent information regarding how viruses can potentially spread throughout the feed manufacturing process. The updated guidance provides recommendations to help facilities create onsite biosecurity programs, more thoroughly evaluate and verify their suppliers, work with shippers and train on and communicate best practices to all facility personnel and visitors. The guidance also includes a definition for “biosecure,” given no regulatory definition currently exists. Proactively, many segments of the industry have been requesting that suppliers only source products from known biosecure facilities.

The Food Safety Modernization Act requires verification of foreign suppliers to ensure they are following proper food safety procedures. The feed industry must take this one step further and consider foreign suppliers’ biosecurity programs. It is our responsibility to be responsive to our industry customers. We must continue working with suppliers to provide assurance of where ingredients are sourced and confidence in the biosecurity practices being used at our ingredient and feed processing facilities.

Global trade is the future of our industry. Therefore, we must find ways to operate with confidence that the measures implemented are scientifically appropriate and will provide products our customers can trust.

Let’s all stand together, with our producer customers, and proactively manage the biosecurity of our changing feed and food industry. AFIA, IFEEDER and each of you can accomplish this together. It is the right thing to do and the future of the U.S. pork industry depends on it!
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When the 116th Congress took the reins in early January, many unprecedented changes came about: more women than ever are now serving in Congress, incoming Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., agreed to term limits in the leadership position and the new Congress began during a partial government shutdown. Suffice it to say - if the first few weeks of this new Congress are an example of what is to come, we’re in for an interesting ride for the next two years.

With Democrats now in control of the House and Republicans the Senate and White House, negotiations that were already proving difficult last year will be even more challenging as party priorities and political gamesmanship take on a larger role.

Below is a summary of some of the major legislation the American Feed Industry Association is tracking on behalf of its members.

**USMCA INCHING CLOSER TOWARD RATIFICATION**

All of agriculture will be watching progress on the ratification of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (i.e., the renegotiated North American Free Trade Agreement). The trade relationship with Canada and Mexico is essential for U.S. agriculture and the feed industry, representing $1.46 billion and $1.6 billion respectively, according to 2017 export numbers.

However, reaching an agreement proved to be difficult for the three neighboring countries for a number of reasons, including some agricultural. Once the three countries reached an agreement last fall, the focus shifted from the negotiations to the legislative bodies in each country, which must approve the agreement. In the U.S., Congress gets an up-or-down vote on the measure and AFIA, along with others, will be doing its part to ensure USMCA moves through Congress.

Of course, Mexico and Canada aren’t the only two trading partners this administration and Congress will have to worry about. China, Europe and other countries are also on the radar for potential changes and agreements in the near future. Gina Tumbarello, AFIA’s director of international policy and trade, covers these negotiations in more detail in her article on page 12.

**INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE COULD BOOST TRANSPORT OF AG GOODS**

While it has not been formally announced yet, a desperately needed infrastructure package is likely coming during this Congress and is hopefully something Democrats and Republicans can agree on. It’s widely accepted that the United States’ current aging infrastructure simply cannot keep up with the demands being placed on it. Couple that with a growing need for broadband access nationwide and revitalizing our nation’s infrastructure quickly becomes something that impacts almost every state and congressional district. An infrastructure package would be a big boon to agriculture with improvements to roads, rails, inland waterways and ports, all making the movement of agricultural goods significantly easier.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Companies lose an average $1.75 million annually in revenue per ingredient waiting in the regulatory pipeline.
APPROPRIATIONS VITAL FOR EXPEDITING ANIMAL FOOD INGREDIENT REVIEWS

The year began with a rocky start as parts of the federal government were shuttered due to an ongoing battle between lawmakers on border security and funding. While the battle over completing the fiscal 2019 funding is over, AFIA is focused on the appropriations cycle for fiscal 2020. Specifically, AFIA is working with both appropriations committees to boost funding for the Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) animal food ingredient review staff.

The review and approval of animal food ingredients is complicated and detail-oriented work. Unfortunately, the CVM has not been adequately funded to meet the needs of the animal food industry with timely ingredient reviews. This lack of resources is significantly hindering innovation in the industry and AFIA is working diligently to find a resolution.

FINAL THOUGHTS...

Agriculture has faced some challenges in the last few years, including low commodity prices, animal disease outbreaks and trade wars, but through it all – it has remained resilient. As 2020 inches closer, the political world is already gearing up for a big election cycle, and if we thought 2016 was something, 2020 will probably top it.

For more information, please contact John Stewart, AFIA’s manager of government affairs, at jstewart@afia.org.
Two years into the Donald Trump administration, the American Feed Industry Association hoped for more progress with the “regulatory revolution” to review, change or rollback many rules that were seen as overreach for the animal food industry. While other agencies have taken this revolution to heart, it has been slow to happen at the Food and Drug Administration. The FDA asked for public comments on rules that presented significant regulatory burdens, and AFIA has provided feedback, but seemingly little action has been taken to reduce these burdens.

Although the FDA may not be rolling back regulations, the pace for issuing new regulations has noticeably slowed. AFIA continues to push for progress in these areas, despite the fact that it is clearly not a priority for the FDA. AFIA’s focus has turned to seeking the necessary clarity in FDA’s many regulations or guidance documents in order to make implementation smoother and more effective for the animal food industry.

Unfortunately, the government shutdown that occurred in early 2019 will slow any work coming out of the FDA. It has been stated that for every week the government was shut down, it set the agency back about a month on getting work completed and into finished form. This slows ingredient reviews and approvals, development of guidance for industry on regulations, inspections and FDA’s responses to general questions.

Below is what AFIA is working toward on behalf of the animal food industry related to animal food safety and ingredient approvals.

**FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT NOW A REALITY FOR ALL ANIMAL FOOD FACILITIES**

As mentioned in the article on page 7, all animal food manufacturers must now be in compliance with a portion of the FDA’s billion-dollar Food Safety Modernization Act rule. The agency is continuing the “educate before you regulate” policy and has been issuing guidance to industry to assist in implementation of the FSMA regulations.

In 2018, the FDA issued over 370 pages of FSMA guidance around preventive controls, foreign supplier verification, registration and other compliance areas. AFIA provided comments on many of these documents and expects the agency to continue issuing additional guidance on specific topic areas of the regulations throughout the year.

There will also undoubtedly be growing pains on the side of state and federal inspectors as they are trained on the inspection process and conduct inspections this year, and on animal food manufacturers as they learn to manage multiple types of inspections at once. A big challenge for the industry will be balancing the ability to continue producing safe animal food while undergoing lengthy and resource-intensive inspections.

**INGREDIENT APPROVAL PROCESS**

The animal food industry continues to express frustration with the slow process for ingredient approvals at the FDA and Association of American Feed Control Officials. Speeding up review times to facilitate moving new animal food products into the marketplace is a top priority for AFIA.

Data from a study commissioned by AFIA’s public charity, the
Institute for Feed Education and Research, has been provided to FDA officials, AAFCO and members of Congress to gain appreciation for the issue. This data demonstrated that firms lose on average $1.75 million per product for every year the FDA does not grant approval while being reviewed. The FDA’s Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) has it as a top priority to find solutions to speed up its review process. The CVM and AFIA are working their respective processes to secure additional funds for the agency to hire or replace the necessary positions to review ingredient submissions in a timelier manner (see related article on legislative issues on page 2).

AFIA achieved a significant win in 2018 with Congress approving a bill that removed language in the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007, which caused the CVM to stop reviewing AAFCO ingredients dating back to 2010. Deleting this language removes concerns raised by the CVM about AAFCO ingredients not meeting a “standard” and keeps currently defined ingredients in AAFCO able to be utilized by industry.

AFIA will be working to secure other improvements and advances in streamlining the ingredient review processes this year. AFIA’s committees will also be working to evaluate how the industry and CVM can manage and seek approvals for label claims (e.g., feed efficiency, structure/function or production claims) that can be made on products.

For more information, contact Leah Wilkinson, AFIA’s vice president of public policy and education, at lwilkinson@afia.org.
How have you organized the L&R team and what are your future priorities?

Gina Tumbarello, AFIA’s director of international policy and trade, always worked closely with the L&R team and as I am taking over the Codex Alimentarius Commission responsibilities, it made sense to add her back to the L&R team. Our priorities for this year are: improving the ingredient approval processes, ensuring proper implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act regulations, conducting education and training sessions and enhancing our export opportunities for the animal food industry.

Richard Sellers held this post for several years. How do you think his management style and yours compare?

I was very fortunate to be hired by Richard and had eight years to learn all that I could. He trained us well and left the association in a good spot for carrying on this vital mission area. Richard’s philosophy was – and mine is as well – to hire good people, equip them with the necessary tools and let them do their work.

What do you see as the biggest legislative or regulatory challenge facing the feed industry today?

Implementation of the FSMA regulations. As inspections continue on the FSMA rules, AFIA will be monitoring the results to determine where more education is needed for the industry and where we need to engage with the Food and Drug Administration regarding enforcement. Inspections are going to be lengthy and facilities need to be prepared for handling them with the least disruption to their operations.

Where do you see opportunities for the team to grow?

I’ve always said that my ultimate goal is to work myself out of a job – that we’d get to a point where regulation is so logical the industry would not need representation in Washington, D.C.! So far, that doesn’t seem practical, so we will continue to focus on issues of importance to the industry, always looking for science-based and practical regulation of the animal food industry.

How do you see members playing an active role in deciding where AFIA should prioritize work?

The L&R team can only be successful when we know what our members need. We need our members to be active in our committees and member interest groups and provide feedback.

What is the best part of your job so far?

I learn something new almost every day with my interactions with our members. The people in our industry and association genuinely care about each other and I love how it has that family-feel!
Outside of work, what are your favorite things to do?

Almost everything outside of work is about sports. Sports have been with me all my life and luckily my husband and kids love sports too. I love to run and I’m either coaching, watching or keeping score at my kids’ baseball/softball, volleyball, football or basketball games…or driving to practices!

What else should AFIA members know about you and your background?

I grew up in the pork industry on my family farm in southern Minnesota, which my brothers have now taken over. This allows me to bring a perspective of our end-customers into AFIA's L&R work and keeps me grounded in why it is so important to ensure proper regulations so our industry can continue producing safe, nutritious, high-quality and affordable animal food products for our livestock, poultry, aquaculture and companion animals.

For more information on Wilkinson and the L&R team, contact her at lwilkinson@afia.org.
2018 was a monumental year for implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act as the entire animal food industry, no matter the size of the firm, came into compliance with at least one component of the “Current Good Manufacturing Practice, Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Food for Animals” regulation. 2019 will be a critical test to see if our industry is measuring up to the Food and Drug Administration’s stringent standards. We have a lot to learn from each other as the FDA investigators and facilities get used to the new “normal” for inspections.

Inspections for CGMPs, or the hazard analysis/preventive controls part of the regulation, are occurring based on the phase-in dictated by the agency in the final rule. Any-size facility can now receive a CGMP inspection, while inspections for preventive controls for large firms (i.e., those with over 500 employees) began in late 2018. Small-sized firms (i.e., those with less than 500 employees but more than $2.5 million in animal food sales annually) needed to be in compliance with the preventive controls regulations in September 2018. Although the FDA has said it will not conduct inspections until late 2019 for these sized firms, firms must still be in compliance, since they will still be held responsible in any adulteration event.

The American Feed Industry Association is receiving information from the FDA via a Freedom of Information Act request to learn where the agency is conducting inspections to ensure diversity in geography, product type and firm size. So far, the results have showed:

- In 2018, there were 622 CGMP inspections completed.
- Out of those, 28 facilities received a Form 483 (notice of inspectional observations).
- There were also seven preventive control inspections last year and six facilities received a Form 483. It should be noted that the preventive control inspections appear to have been targeted toward facilities that recently had animal food safety issues.

AFIA will be gathering more information regarding the FDA’s inspection findings to determine if additional clarification or interpretation of the regulations are needed to assist the industry in compliance.

AFIA’s information is bolstered when we hear from our members on how inspections went at their facilities. Please fill out our survey at afia.org/fsmasurvey to share results or contact an AFIA staff member to discuss any recent inspections. As a reminder, the AFIA staff is also available to assist members during an inspection should you have questions or need assistance. All information provided will be held confidential, used in summary and with no attribution.

AFIA’s FSMA webpage afia.org/fsma has resources for members to help them ensure their facilities are in compliance with the various FSMA regulations. This year, AFIA will also be updating its compliance materials to help members prepare for inspections. As we obtain feedback, AFIA will keep clear lines of communication open with members so they can better prepare for upcoming inspections. AFIA will also continue meeting with the FDA so they can make improvements to their inspection processes and guidance materials.

For more information, visit AFIA’s member webpage afia.org/LRstaff to contact AFIA’s legislative and regulatory team.

Industry research on new feed ingredients helps species optimize their nutrient absorption, reach their genetic potential and reduce the excretion of excess nutrients.
Despite northern blizzards and the federal government shutdown hampering attendance at the Association of American Feed Control Officials’ mid-year meeting this past January, spirited debate carried on. Over 340 people, representing 29 AAFCO member states, joined in the discussion on the latest regulatory proposals under consideration at the state and federal levels and reviewed definitions for ingredients to be published in the association’s annual Official Publication (OP), the legal listing that states follow to allow ingredients on commercial feed labels.

AAFCO’s Ingredient Definitions Committee, the working body responsible for reviewing and making recommendations on ingredient definitions before they are voted on by the full membership and added to the OP, also met, but no new ingredients were considered. The committee spent the majority of the meeting discussing edits to the, “Guide to Submitting New or Modified Ingredient Definitions to AAFCO,” which were eventually approved. This guide would adjust the “tentative” status so that ingredients would automatically move to “official” status six months after they are accepted for publication by the AAFCO membership.

The AAFCO Pet Food Committee’s label modernization working group presented the results of the group’s research, which assessed the value of proposed pet food label changes. The next step in the process entails further review of the focus groups’ results to develop recommendations for proposed changes to consumer package labels.

Other actions from the AAFCO meeting include the AAFCO Feed Labeling Committee establishing a working group to explore if maximum levels of certain nutrients should be required on the label. The AAFCO Feed and Feed Ingredient Manufacturing Committee is reinvigorating a working group to update the mineral guidelines in the AAFCO OP, which has not been updated since the 1970s. AFIA will participate in both of these working groups.

The 2019 AAFCO annual meeting is scheduled for Aug. 5-7 in Louisville, Ky. For more information on the AAFCO annual meeting, visit aafco.org. For more information on the latest AAFCO activities, contact Leah Wilkinson, AFIA’s vice president of public policy and education, at lwilkinson@afia.org.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

All U.S. landfills would be full in four years if it weren’t for processing and using coproducts in feed production.
Outlook on Regulation is a Mixed Bag for Industry, with Major Actions Pending

2019 kicked off with several decisions anticipated on the federal regulatory front. The Donald Trump administration’s deregulation agenda – particularly at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – slowed in part due to the partial government shutdown at the start of the year. With the work of many agencies disrupted, uncertainty has increased on whether action on highly visible and complex deregulation initiatives will be completed by the end of the presidential term. Despite these roadblocks, the American Feed Industry Association effectively engaged with the agencies on priority issues for AFIA members.

Below is a select list of pending rules and issues AFIA has been working on at the federal level:

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

- **Tier II Reporting for Combustible Dust under EPCRA** – AFIA has been working with the EPA since late 2018 to reduce the confusion and ensure proper industry compliance with Tier II form reporting requirements and give local emergency planners the relevant facility information needed under the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA). Not only has the EPA recognized there are legitimate questions about how feed and grain facilities should report combustible dust, the agency has provided constructive feedback to resolve the issue. AFIA prepared a compliance guide to assist members on the issue prior to the March 1 reporting deadline. Ultimately, the EPA agreed with industry’s recommendations to provide two simple, reasonable options for completing the Tier II form.

- **“Waters of the U.S.” (WOTUS) Rule** – The re-write of the WOTUS rule is far from over. It remains as controversial as ever and heavily litigated by all sides. At issue, among other things, is the scope of federal control over agricultural lands and other areas, what constitutes a “wetland” subject to the Clean Water Act and the legality of the Trump administration’s replacement process for the Obama-era rule already on the books. The agency issued its “replacement rule” for public comment in December 2018.

- **Manure Reporting Exemption for Farms under EPCRA** – In November 2018, the agency formally proposed its widely anticipated rule that would fully exempt farms from reporting air releases from manure to local and state emergency response authorities. The rule’s exemption for manure reporting under EPCRA followed a separate manure reporting exemption, which Congress recently approved. Under the exemption, farms would not be required to report releases from manure to the Coast Guard’s National Response Center under the federal Superfund law. The EPA argued that exempting manure from federal reporting under the Superfund essentially removes manure from reporting to state and local emergency planning agencies under EPCRA as well. Certain activist groups are planning to sue the EPA to prevent the exemption.

**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**

- **Electronic Reporting Rule** – OSHA required electronic submission of Form 300A for calendar year 2018 by March 2. OSHA now requires employers with 250 or more employees, which are mandated to keep injury and illness records, and establishments with 20-249 employees, which are classified in certain industries with historically high rates of occupational injuries and illnesses, to electronically report their Form 300A data annually through the agency’s Injury Tracking Application (ITA).

  Feed and feed equipment manufacturing facilities are considered “manufacturing” and establishments with 20 or more employees are required to comply with the rule. Establishments in the states of California, Maryland, Minnesota, South Carolina, Utah, Washington and Wyoming are not required to submit their summary data electronically through the ITA and will continue to file written forms.

OSHA also recently amended its recordkeeping regulation by rescinding the requirement for establishments with 250 or more employees to electronically submit information from OSHA forms 300 (“Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses”) and 301 (“Injury and Illness Incident Report”). This change is meant to better protect sensitive worker information from potential disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

- **Inspection Targeting Program** – In late 2018, OSHA announced it would initiate a Site-Specific Targeting 2016 (SST-16) Program, which will target inspections toward high injury rate establishments in both the manufacturing and non-manufacturing sectors. The program will use injury and illness information from employers for calendar year 2016. OSHA intends to create inspection lists of establishments
With elevated Days Away, Restricted or Transferred (DART) rates, together with a random sample of establishments that did not provide the required 2016 Form 300A data. In 2016, the DART rate for animal food manufacturers stood at 2.2.

- **Workplace Safety Incentive Programs and Post-Incident Drug Testing** – In a memorandum last fall, OSHA clarified the agency’s position on workplace safety incentive programs and post-incident drug testing stating that 29 C.F.R. § 1904.35(b)(1)(iv) does not prohibit workplace safety incentive programs or post-incident drug testing. OSHA states that proper employee safety incentive programs can be an important tool to promoting workplace safety and health. The agency encourages programs that reward workers for reporting near-misses or hazards and encourages employee involvement in a safety and health management system. However, OSHA reminded employers that any programs they implement must not be implemented in a manner that discourages employees from reporting workplace injuries and illnesses. In addition, OSHA clarified that most instances of workplace drug testing are permissible under § 1904.35(b)(1)(iv).

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

- **Current Hours-of-Service (HOS) Regulations** – In 2018, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced its proposed rulemaking to revise the HOS regulations. The agency is considering revisions to four specific areas, including:
  - the 100 air-mile “short-haul” exemption;
  - the current 14-hour on-duty limitation when drivers encounter adverse driving conditions;
  - the mandatory 30-minute break for truck drivers after eight hours of continuous driving; and
  - the option for splitting up the required 10-hour, off-duty rest break for drivers with sleeper-berth compartments in their trucks.

AFIA submitted comments to the FMCSA supporting these changes and expects the agency to issue an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking this spring.

- **Electronic Logging Devices** - In late 2018, the FMCSA announced that drivers hauling livestock and insects can continue to run on paper logs, without an electronic logging device, “until further notice.” The FMCSA also noted that livestock transporters do not need to carry documentation about this exemption. This exemption is intended to give more flexibility to livestock haulers since they deal with different challenges hauling live animals.

For more information on these and other regulations from the EPA, OSHA and FMCSA, contact Gary Huddleston, AFIA’s director of feed manufacturing and regulatory affairs, at ghuddleston@afia.org.
This 2019 state legislative session has been as active as expected with every state in session this year. The American Feed Industry Association tracks state legislative and regulatory activities and below are some of the highlights as of press time in late February. AFIA members should stay tuned to Feedgram for biweekly updates on these and other emerging issues.

**Arizona, Maryland and Utah** – AFIA expects these states will update their commercial feed regulations to reflect the current version of the Association of American Feed Control Officials’ model regulations.

**Illinois and Maryland** – Both states have reintroduced legislation this year, which aim to curtail the judicious and legal use of antibiotics afforded by federal law. Both bills include burdensome reporting requirements for farmers and reduce the ability for antibiotics to be used for prevention purposes. AFIA will oppose both of these bills.

**Missouri** – The state is currently reviewing a bill to increase the license, tonnage and registration fees to better fund its commercial feed program.

**New Mexico** – The state is considering a bill, which AFIA is opposed to, that would phase-in an increase of the fee on pet foods registered in the state from $2 to $100 to pay for a spay/neuter program for low-income individuals. The governor vetoed a similar bill last year.

**North Dakota and South Carolina** – Bills are being considered that will modernize the state feed laws to the most current version of the AAFCO model bill.

**Hemp as a feed ingredient** – With the passage of the 2018 Farm Bill, which treats hemp as a commodity crop and gives primary regulatory authority to the states, many states have considered bills relating to hemp. Oftentimes it is assumed that the byproducts from hemp production can automatically be fed to livestock and pets, but there are currently no approved hemp ingredients. AFIA is working to communicate this to state legislatures as bills are being considered. For more information, see AAFCO’s guidelines.

If you hear of bills or rules being proposed or to get involved in states where changes are being considered, contact the AFIA staff at afia.org/StateIssues.
In the race for the White House, President Donald Trump made many campaign promises: withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal, renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), raise tariffs on imports, and “correct” the trade deficit with China. There is no question that President Trump put a target on the back of trade policies of yore. And here we are, two years later, with a renegotiated NAFTA, a tariff war with China and promises of new bilateral trade agreements.

USMCA MOVES TOWARD RATIFICATION

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), the new North American Free Trade Agreement, brings the animal food industry all the advantages previously enjoyed under NAFTA and then some. USMCA adds new, modern principles and obligations that allow products to flow freely between the three countries on a more level playing field, one where regulatory guidelines and obligations are clearer and based on science.

However, a signed, updated trade agreement with Canada and Mexico does not mean the U.S.’s work is done. Next, each of the countries must ratify the trilateral agreement in their respective countries’ legislative bodies before it can go into force.

CHINA TRADE MIRED WITH CHALLENGES

The tariff war with China, which began in 2018, has hindered the animal food industry’s place in this crucial market. Tariffs on U.S. animal food products to China have increased, with pet food experiencing the heft of it with a 25 percent increase, putting the new tariff at 29 percent. Technical-level discussions between the two countries are strained, making it difficult to continue addressing outstanding barriers to the Chinese market for the animal food industry.

The most recent export numbers from 2018 show only $349 million in exports of animal food products to China (excluding bulk commodities, soybean meal, distiller’s dried grains and hay/alfalfa). While this is an increase from previous years, it clearly demonstrates how limited the access is for U.S. animal food products to China. For reference, exports to Japan in 2018 of those same products equated to $288 million and with Japan’s population a fraction of China’s – 127 million compared to China’s 1.4 billion – the U.S. animal food industry should clearly be exporting more products to feed growing demand for animal protein and pet food.

China currently has restrictions on ruminant- and avian-origin products from the U.S., as well as new market access restrictions attached to facility registration requirements. Compounding these challenges with increased tariffs and a tattered relationship between the U.S. and China leaves the U.S. animal food industry waiting with bated breath for resolution. As we wait, AFIA worries about further escalation and the threat of additional tariffs that might affect the U.S. animal food industry’s ability to do business and compete, both domestically and globally.

FEED INDUSTRY TURNS ATTENTION TO NEW MARKETS

Despite these challenges, AFIA is entering 2019 with a sense of optimism. The Trump administration has turned its focus away from existing trade agreements and toward new opportunities, such as with Japan, the EU and the U.K. However, having already negotiated a trade deal with Japan through TPP, and then pulling out of the agreement, only to later come back to the table with just the two countries, will prove to be challenging.

Even more daunting will be the uphill battle of initiating trade negotiations once again with the EU. The Obama administration spent several years in negotiations with the EU until President Trump came into office. Now, there is another opportunity to go back to the negotiating table, but the EU has said it does not want to address agriculture in these negotiations. Contradicting objectives between the two parties may leave a potential trade deal behind altogether, at least for now. And with the U.K.’s potential split from the EU, we cannot know what a trade agreement between the U.S. and the U.K. could look like. Only post-Brexit will tell.

This year will be another trade-filled and -focused year for the U.S. and we are not just here for the ride. The U.S. animal food industry must stay engaged, informed and active in the administration’s trade developments to ensure its interests are protected.

For more information, contact Gina Tumbarello, AFIA’s director of international policy and trade, at gtumbarello@afia.org.
With the rampant spread of African swine fever (ASF) across parts of Asia and Europe, many scientific experts are questioning the virus’s composition and its ability to spread in hopes of finding ways to mitigate its devastating effects on global pig populations. The U.S. animal food industry has been engaged in and monitoring this research to learn more about how feed could potentially be a vector for the virus and to put into place scientifically-based prevention and biosecurity measures.

Below is a snapshot of some of the completed and ongoing research on ASF:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE OF STUDY</th>
<th>AUTHORS/YEAR</th>
<th>WHAT WAS EVALUATED</th>
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<tr>
<td>“Survival of viral pathogens in animal feed ingredients under transboundary shipping models”</td>
<td>Dee, Scott, et al. (2018)</td>
<td>The study evaluated if certain viral pathogens, including ASF, could survive in frequently imported animal feed ingredients or products by spiking the ingredients with the pathogens or their surrogates and incubating them under environmental conditions simulating transboundary shipments from Asia or Eastern Europe to the U.S.</td>
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<td>“Holding Time Calculation for Feed Ingredients”</td>
<td>Dee, Scott, et al. (2018)</td>
<td>Using the virus’s half-life, this research modeled and evaluated holding times (i.e., times in which imported feed ingredients should be quarantined from the manufacturing supply) as a way of reducing the spread of ASF should the virus be found in feed ingredients.</td>
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<td>“Evaluation of chemical mitigants for neutralizing the risk of foreign animal diseases in contaminated feed ingredients”</td>
<td>Diel, Diego; Dee, Scott (2019)</td>
<td>Conducted by the Swine Health Information Center, this study evaluated whether certain feed additives with anti-viral properties could be used to mitigate the spread of certain high-risk foreign animal diseases in high-risk feed ingredients. AFIA assisted by selecting the candidate feed additives for the study and the association’s public charity, the Institute for Feed Education and Research (IFEEDER), served as a sponsor.</td>
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<td>“Infectious dose of African swine fever virus when consumed naturally in liquid or feed”</td>
<td>Niederwerder, M.C., et al. (2019)</td>
<td>Conducted by Kansas State University, this study evaluated the minimum amount of ASF virus that must be present in water or feed for pigs to become infected.</td>
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<td>“Stability of Senecavirus A in animal feed ingredients”</td>
<td>In progress</td>
<td>IFEEDER and the SHIC are working with South Dakota State University on a research project that aims to identify potential risk mitigation steps for the feed industry, analyze ASF’s ability to survive in transport via inoculated feed ingredients and test the effectiveness of holding times for feed and ingredients.</td>
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The findings suggested that some viruses could survive transport via certain feed ingredients, highlighting the need for improved feed biosecurity on imported products.

The results showed holding times ranged from 78 to 286 days, depending on which feed ingredient potentially carried the virus.

While the feed additives did not completely inactivate the target viruses, the results showed that a select group has the potential to dramatically reduce viral contamination levels in feed.

The results showed that pigs would need to consume a minimum of 100 50 percent tissue culture infectious dose (TCID50) in water and 104 TCID50 to contract ASF from a single exposure. It also looked at the number of exposures needed to sicken additional pigs.

Preliminary results expected spring 2019.

To date, ASF has not been confirmed to survive an actual transboundary shipment.

In October 2018, the pork industry released an educational tool to producers reflecting the current thinking on minimum ingredient holding times. While this information was largely based on Dee’s study, the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) stands firm that more research is necessary, given no assurances against ASF have been proven.

Further study is needed to learn more about how the mitigants work and the efficacy in large groups of pigs following natural feed consumption, (in conjunction with viral load and product inclusion rate). It should be noted that any of the proposed feed additives are not approved by federal regulators for this purpose.

AFIA believes this information must be kept in context as other factors will play a role in whether pigs become sick. In other words, presence ≠ illness.

Preliminary results show that it may look like the virus survivability declines as temperature increases.

The decision tree matrix assists pork producers with asking their feed suppliers the right questions to minimize the risks of ASF spread from feed ingredients.

Updated in early 2019, the AFIA Biosecurity Guide provides information on how animal food manufacturing facilities can set-up, deploy, evaluate and communicate their biosecurity plans with all plant personnel, suppliers, shippers, customers and visitors.

Find these resources at afia.org/ASF.

For more information on these or other ongoing ASF research, contact Paul Davis, Ph.D., AFIA’s director of quality, animal food safety and education, at pdavis@afia.org.
## LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY LEADERSHIP ACTIONS

A synopsis of the significant AFIA actions in the legislative and regulatory arenas from July 2018 – Feb. 25, 2019.

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<tr>
<th><strong>AFIA ACTION</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FSMA:</strong> In response to the Food and Drug Administration's draft guidance for industry, AFIA filed formal comments urging the agency to take a flexible approach when regulating under the Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls (HA/PC) for Food for Animals final rule.</td>
<td>Not every facility will identify hazards that require preventive controls and companies will have many ways of safeguarding animal food. By taking a flexible approach, the FDA can ensure via these rules that the company takes proper action to control hazards that cannot be controlled through current good manufacturing practices (CGMPs).</td>
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<td><strong>BIOTECH:</strong> AFIA joined with the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) and the Coalition for Safe Affordable Food in calling upon the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to support developing a proposed rule to implement the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard Law.</td>
<td>The industry urged the AMS to ensure that any labeling symbols or text created under the disclosure standard is truthful, not misleading and does not disparage bioengineered foods by treating non-bioengineered foods as safer than their counterparts. AFIA requested any animal food products that come from animals fed with genetically modified feed do not need to be separately labeled or disclosed. The agency included these requests in its final rule, published in December 2018.</td>
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<td><strong>MARKETS:</strong> In letters to the Senate majority and minority leaders, AFIA joined several agricultural industry stakeholders in endorsing the nominations of Dawn DeBerry Stump and Dan Berkovitz as commissioners of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC).</td>
<td>The animal food industry relies on the CFTC to ensure a fair marketplace for purchasing commodities used in feed and pet food manufacturing, but without a complete suite of commissioners, it makes it difficult for the CFTC to complete its regulatory function at full capacity. The U.S. Senate confirmed Stump and Berkovitz in late August.</td>
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<td><strong>INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION:</strong> AFIA's President and CEO Joel G. Newman spoke before the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) defending processes that enable the commission to move forward with science-based decisions.</td>
<td>Recent countries' actions have attempted to stop progress on veterinary drug products in the approval process. Newman reiterated the call for using science for risk management and risk analysis.</td>
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<td><strong>CONSUMER CHOICE:</strong> As part of the Animal Agriculture Alliance (AAA), AFIA sent a letter to WeWork CEO and co-founder Adam Neumann following the company's decision to take meat and poultry off the menu for its staff while traveling for business and participating in company events.</td>
<td>WeWork's policy to go meatless is based on disproven exaggerations about the proportion of greenhouse gas emissions that can be attributed to livestock and poultry. The alliance encouraged Neumann to instead explore more productive and science-based ways of reducing the company's environmental footprint.</td>
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<td><strong>FARM BILL:</strong> As part of a coalition, AFIA urged Senate Farm Bill conferees to establish and fully fund a permanent three-pronged program to prevent, identify and rapidly respond to potential animal disease outbreaks.</td>
<td>AFIA sent a letter applauding the Farm Bill conference committee for its work on the Farm Bill. President Donald Trump signed the Farm Bill into law in December 2018, which provided full funding for this program.</td>
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<td><strong>RESEARCH:</strong> In a coalition letter to the Senate and House Agriculture Committees, AFIA urged Congress to support enhanced funding of $200 million for the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR), a program that matches each public dollar with at least one dollar of non-federal funding for agriculture research.</td>
<td>Public investments in food and agricultural research have made U.S. agriculture the most productive in the world and a bright spot in the economy. Congress supported FFAR in the appropriations measure passed in early 2019 at the same level authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill.</td>
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<td><strong>FSMA:</strong> On Aug. 14, the FDA announced that it would delay inspections for some Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) regulations for certain-sized facilities, an action AFIA had been calling on for some time while the industry learned and implemented the new regulations and while the agency trained its inspectors and finalized its FSMA guidance documents.</td>
<td>The additional 9-month delay affords small-sized facilities the same delay in inspections that the FDA granted to large-sized facilities. Small-sized facilities must be in compliance, however, inspections for the preventive controls portion will not start until fall of 2019. For facilities that are very small businesses, the FDA intends to delay inspections for compliance until fall 2020.</td>
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<td><strong>ANIMAL HEALTH:</strong> On Aug. 14, President Trump signed the Animal Drug and Animal Generic Drug User Fee Amendments Act of 2018 into law, which provided the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) with the necessary resources to review new animal drugs more expeditiously and improve the agency's review and approval process for animal food ingredients.</td>
<td>Not only will the new law streamline the FDA's process for approving new animal food ingredients, reducing the burden on the agency and the regulated industry without compromising animal food safety, it will require the FDA to provide more guidance and information to submitting companies regarding their submissions. It also struck an unnecessary provision that previously required the FDA to establish ingredient standards and definitions for pet food, which the agency sought to expand to all animal food.</td>
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**AUGUST 2018**
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Section</th>
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<td>AUGUST 2018</td>
<td><strong>ANIMAL DISEASE RISKS:</strong> In late August, AFIA activated its internal</td>
<td>AFIA’s crisis response team developed a multi-pronged action plan that involves research,</td>
<td>AFIA disagrees with the administration’s use of additional tariffs as a means to punish</td>
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<td>crisis management team in response to foreign outbreaks of African</td>
<td>updating the industry’s biosecurity guidelines (released in late Jan. 2019), increasing</td>
<td>China for poor technology transfer and intellectual property practices and innovation</td>
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<td>swine fever (ASF) and began meeting with several swine organizations</td>
<td>communication with ingredient suppliers and farmer/rancher groups and supporting the</td>
<td>theft, and therefore does not support an additional 25 percent ad valorem duty on</td>
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<td>to develop a coordinated strategy for protecting U.S. pigs from an</td>
<td>regulatory compatibility and be based on science.</td>
<td>Chinese products. AFIA also urged the USTR to remove methionine and enzymes from the</td>
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<td>outbreak.</td>
<td>This is part of AFIA’s ongoing effort with ISO to ensure the U.S. feed</td>
<td>list of Chinese products. President Trump added a reduced duty of 10 percent on these</td>
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<td>equipment industry’s concerns and interests are heard and well represented in the</td>
<td>products until the March 1, 2019, deadline, which as of Feb. 25, 2019, has been</td>
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<td>development of voluntary international standards in the area of feed machinery.</td>
<td>postponed further.</td>
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<td><strong>FEED EQUIPMENT STANDARDS:</strong> AFIA participated in an International</td>
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<td>Standards Organization (ISO) meeting in July to continue seeking input</td>
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<td>from global feed equipment representatives on international standards</td>
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<td>for the safety of feed machinery.</td>
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<td>SEPTEMBER 2018</td>
<td><strong>INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION:</strong> AFIA supported the nomination of</td>
<td>AFIA’s Newman and Board Chair Bruce Crutcher participated in an International Feed</td>
<td>As the medicated feed specialist for the FDA’s CVM, Dr. Momcilovic has developed and</td>
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<td>Dr. Dragom Momcilovic to serve as an expert on the CAC’s Committee on</td>
<td>Industry Federation (IFIF)-Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</td>
<td>supported policies on the use of approved veterinary drugs in U.S. animal feed and is</td>
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<td>Residues of Veterinary Drugs, which examines the carryover from feed</td>
<td>meeting to discuss how to better collaborate on projects aimed at promoting a safe,</td>
<td>well-qualified to represent U.S. interests on the panel that sets international food safety</td>
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<td>to food of unavoidable and unintended residues of approved veterinary</td>
<td>nutritious and sustainable feed and food supply.</td>
<td>standards. Dr. Momcilovic was chosen as an expert, but unable to participate due to the</td>
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<td>drugs.</td>
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<td>government shutdown in early 2019.</td>
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<td><strong>BIOTECH:</strong> AFIA joined members of the U.S. food value chain in</td>
<td>The proposed language in the Senate’s fiscal 2019 Agriculture Appropriations legislation</td>
<td>Proposed changes in four specific areas will allow for more efficiencies in moving</td>
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<td>calling upon House and Senate appropriators to reject a Senate-</td>
<td>would direct the FDA to implement a separate, conflicting, mandatory disclosure for</td>
<td>freight while maintaining the federal agency’s desired level of safety.</td>
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<td>passed provision that would undermine the intention of the National</td>
<td>specific bioengineered food products already covered by the law, which would undermine</td>
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<td>Bioengineered Food Disclosure Law.</td>
<td>the congressionally mandated U.S. Department of Agriculture uniform disclosure standard</td>
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<td>and generate consumer confusion. This measure did not pass in the 115th Congress.</td>
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<td><strong>TRANSPORTATION:</strong> AFIA called upon the U.S. Department of</td>
<td><strong>USDA:</strong> AFIA joined in urging Senate leadership to support the nomination of Dr. Scott</td>
<td>Dr. Hutchins has diverse experience in industry, academia and the professional scientific</td>
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<td>Transportation to simplify its hours-of-service rules for truck</td>
<td>Hutchins to serve as the USDA’s Undersecretary of Research, Education and Economics.</td>
<td>community, demonstrating his ability to lead this vital mission area and be responsive to</td>
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<td>drivers to provide the necessary flexibility and lead to more</td>
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<td>industry concerns. His confirmation is still pending in the Senate as of Feb. 25, 2019.</td>
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<td>consistent compliance.</td>
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<td>OCTOBER 2018</td>
<td><strong>FOOD SAFETY:</strong> AFIA urged the FDA to consider the differences</td>
<td>While the agency’s goal of increased consumer communication around food recalls is</td>
<td>Japan represents the third largest destination for animal food products, yet significant</td>
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<td>between human and animal food as it establishes and puts into</td>
<td>commendable, it has limited applicability to animal food, with the exception of pet treats.</td>
<td>barriers remain that limit further expansion into this market. Any trade agreement with</td>
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<td>practice policies for collecting and publishing lists of retail</td>
<td>The FDA finalized the guidance in early 2019 with very few changes.</td>
<td>Japan should better coordinate regulatory compatibility and be based on science.</td>
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<td>consignees that may have received recalled foods.</td>
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<td>Meeting attendees heard the latest progress on the life-cycle analysis tool to measure</td>
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<td>greenhouse gas emissions from the production of certain feed ingredients, including</td>
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<td>progress on two regional databases – the European Union and U.S./Canada – and the</td>
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<td>initiation of a project to develop a regional database for Brazil.</td>
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<td><strong>TRADE:</strong> AFIA sent a letter to U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador</td>
<td><strong>INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION:</strong> AFIA’s Newman and Board Chair Bruce Crutcher</td>
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<td>Robert Lighthizer concerning the USTR’s proposed modification of</td>
<td>participated in an International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF)-Food and Agriculture</td>
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<td>action under Section 301.</td>
<td>Organization of the United Nations (FAO) meeting to discuss how to better collaborate</td>
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<td>on projects aimed at promoting a safe, nutritious and sustainable feed and food supply.</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>DECEMBER 2018</td>
<td><strong>TRADE:</strong> AFIA sent letters to USTR’s Robert Lighthizer outlining the feed and agriculture industry’s priorities for a trade agreement between the U.S. and the EU.</td>
<td>Many factors—including the EU’s hazard-based regulatory regime—have limited the U.S. agriculture industry’s ability to expand in this marketplace. A U.S.-EU trade agreement should support risk-based regulations, remove tariff and non-tariff barriers on food and agricultural products, and be a truly comprehensive agreement to allow the U.S. agriculture industry the ability to compete on a more-level playing field.</td>
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<td><strong>ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE:</strong> AFIA’s Leah Wilkinson, vice president for public policy and education, participated in the ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR), which is working on ways countries can minimize the threat of foodborne antimicrobial resistance from impacting public health and how those changes can impact global trade.</td>
<td>It is important that international trade standards are based in science. As part of the U.S. delegation, Wilkinson offered valuable technical advice on the impact that the various changes could have on the global feed industry.</td>
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<td><strong>FSMA:</strong> AFIA provided comments on the HA/PC draft guidance for industry, explaining that there will likely be limited use of supply-chain-applied-controls in animal food safety plans at facilities.</td>
<td>Among some of its suggestions, AFIA called upon the FDA to clarify where it expects to see supply-chain-applied controls and verification activities to help industry better understand when it applies to their facilities.</td>
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<td><strong>OSHA:</strong> In partnership with the NGFA, AFIA urged the Occupational Safety and Health Administration not to add regulations for the grain handling or processing industries to mitigate combustible dust hazards.</td>
<td>The current grain handling standard, combined with the industry’s proactive safety and education efforts, have been effective in reducing combustible dust hazards, even as the volume of grain handled has increased significantly.</td>
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<td>JANUARY 2019</td>
<td><strong>TRADE:</strong> AFIA sent a letter to USTR’s Lighthizer concerning negotiating objectives for a U.S.-United Kingdom trade agreement.</td>
<td>U.S. animal food ingredient exports to the U.K. have increased in value since 2007, despite many restrictions imposed on EU imports. Any U.S.-U.K. trade agreement must aim to better coordinate regulatory compatibility between the two parties and be scientifically based.</td>
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<td><strong>REGULATORY HARMONIZATION:</strong> AFIA sent a letter to the White House on how the federal government, working under the U.S.-Canada Regulatory Cooperation Council, may reduce or eliminate unnecessary regulatory differences between the U.S. and Canada.</td>
<td>Canada should adhere closer to Article III of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and seek greater regulatory harmonization within the policies, procedures and requirements at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to eliminate the competitive disadvantage facing imported animal food products.</td>
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<td><strong>EPA:</strong> AFIA urged the Senate Environment on Public Works Committee to confirm the nomination of Andrew Wheeler to be the next administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.</td>
<td>Wheeler’s previous EPA career experience and time on Capitol Hill working on the Senate committee with jurisdiction over the agency have prepared him for the broad and complex regulatory obligations of leading the EPA.</td>
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<td><strong>FEED EQUIPMENT STANDARDS:</strong> AFIA participated in the ISO Technical Committee 293 (ISO/TC-293) meeting for feed machinery, which made significant progress toward reaching an achievable and usable set of standards for the equipment sector.</td>
<td>The eight U.S. delegates, along with delegates from other countries, were successful in convincing the international committee to adopt a strategy of just creating one standard in each of the three main areas (i.e., terminology, safety and hygiene).</td>
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<td><strong>CONSUMER CHOICE:</strong> In coordination with the AAA, AFIA developed a coordinated communications strategy to set the record straight on the EAT-Lancet Commission on Food, Planet, Health report, which calls for drastic reductions in the consumption of meat and dairy products.</td>
<td>This report falsely calls on consumers to cut meat and dairy from their diets to boost public health, reduce food waste and protect the environment, but is riddled with misinformation about animal agriculture’s environmental footprint. AFIA worked to position experts to speak to key news outlets for more balanced coverage and developed a number of resources for members to use.</td>
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<td>FEBRUARY 2019</td>
<td><strong>TRADE:</strong> As part of the U.S. Agriculture Coalition for Cuba, AFIA urged the Secretary of Agriculture to use Market Access Program and Foreign Market Development Program funds to promote exports to Cuba.</td>
<td>Cuba imports $2 billion in food each year. The USACC believes that improving agricultural trade with Cuba is good for agriculture, economics and foreign policy.</td>
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The Future of Our Planet, Our Health and Our Food is All About Innovation — And It All Starts with Seed

Written by Bethany Shively
VP of strategic communications
American Seed Trade Association

Evolving plant breeding methods, like gene editing, could hold the key for addressing some of our most pressing societal challenges. Gene editing is simply the most recent breakthrough — and is certainly not the last — in a continuum of breeding methods that have been used to develop better crops for centuries. Through its highly targeted approach, gene editing can allow scientists to work within a plant’s own DNA to make improvements with greater precision than ever before — and in years, rather than decades.

Research is currently underway on everything from row crops, to fruits and vegetables and cover crops — with real-world, problem-solving applications for the benefit of our planet, our health and our food. From a consumer standpoint, this could mean direct health benefits like new heart-healthy oils; vegetables that are more nutritious, flavorful or that stay fresher longer; or even wheat that’s higher in fiber or lower in gluten. From an environmental standpoint, we could see heartier, drought-tolerant crops that are able to thrive in spite of a warming climate or crops with built-in disease resistance for more sustainable production. And much, much more.

There are lots of reason to be excited about the future of plant breeding and there’s too much at stake not to get it right. Policy advocacy, stakeholder engagement and consumer communications are all critical components to fostering a culture of continued innovation. That’s why the American Seed Trade Association, in partnership with the Biotechnology Innovation Organization, recently launched Innovature — a platform to engage people in a dialogue that is thoughtful, wide-ranging and inclusive of varying viewpoints to realize the benefits of innovation in food and agriculture, including evolving breeding methods, such as gene editing.

Through the content hub, social properties and other activities, Innovature aims to engage key influencers in a conversation around shared values to cultivate broad-based partnerships. The goal is to fully realize the potential evolving breeding methods, like gene editing, have to address society’s most urgent and pressing challenges, such as climate change, the need for sustainable food production and addressing global hunger. At the same time, we are advocating for strong policies — both at the domestic and international levels — to promote consistent, science-based policies around plant breeding innovation.

We encourage you to join the conversation by following @InnovatureNow; sharing your story ideas for Innovature.com; and engaging with influencers in your networks. Please reach out to us with questions or feedback at info@betterseed.org.
As fake-meat manufacturers furiously race to commercialize the first lab-grown products, the federal government is moving ahead with plans for creating a regulatory framework. Last November, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration announced a plan that involves both agencies’ involvement in the oversight process of this emerging technology. Luckily, thanks in part to the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA)’s aggressive advocacy, the USDA looks set to retain the primary authority over the production and labeling of lab-grown, fake meat.

The USDA’s primary role is certainly good news, but the joint announcement was only the beginning. Now comes the hard work of developing detailed regulations to ensure that lab-grown, fake-meat products are safe and accurately labeled. To help inform the initial development of these regulations, the USDA and FDA asked for public comments related to lab-grown, fake-meat oversight. NCBA, our affiliates and producers from across the country used the opportunity to make their voices heard, as did fake-meat manufacturers, animal rights activists and environmentalists. After reviewing the initial set of comments, here are three things we learned.

PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS WILL NOT SETTLE FOR INADEQUATE PROTECTIONS

NCBA and our affiliates made it clear in the public comments that the federal government has a responsibility to develop a comprehensive framework to protect consumer health and well-being. That process must start with a full, independent assessment of the products we are dealing with. Several commenters, including the NCBA asked the government to study the products fully before making any final decisions related to their regulation.

In NCBA’s view, lab-grown, fake-meat producers should be required to make samples of their products available for independent study. Until that happens, the government and other stakeholders will be forced to base assessments of lab-grown, fake meat on the unverified (and sometimes misleading) claims of cell-cultured meat manufacturers and the limited academic research on the topic.

On the labeling question, there was overwhelming support for a framework that requires fake-meat manufacturers to give consumers enough information to make informed choices. Cattle producers, consumer advocate groups and state government officials from Wisconsin and Mississippi all referenced the importance of transparency with consumers. NCBA also encouraged the USDA to “conduct a comprehensive consumer survey to evaluate consumer perceptions of cell-cultured protein products and labeling descriptors.”

FAKE–MEAT PROMOTERS AGREE WITH SOME OF NCBA’S REGULATORY PRINCIPLES

The comments from some organizations promoting fake-meat products showed encouraging signs. NCBA has repeatedly asked for an even playing field for all products on the market and prioritized science-based regulations. After some initial resistance, the public comments suggested that fake-meat promoters are getting on board.

For example, some fake-meat promoters initially said that the absence of slaughter in their facilities should exempt them from the USDA’s daily inspection procedures. This time around, they acknowledged that the USDA should use “the same inspection frequency as conventional meat processing facilities” when inspecting lab-grown, fake meat.

The same organizations also noted that any labeling claims should be “supported by scientific evidence.” This marks a distinction from some fake-meat marketers, which have advanced misleading claims about their products and used terms that are not grounded in science.

ANTI-ANIMAL AGRICULTURE ACTIVISTS SEE LAB-GROWN, FAKE MEAT AS AN OPPORTUNITY

The traditional opponents of animal agriculture are clearly watching the development of lab-grown, fake meat closely. These groups often use the same, exaggerated claims to vilify the livestock industry. But they also urged the government not to take any action that would hinder lab-grown, fake meat development.

NCBA and other groups are advocating for a fair, even-playing field and will be watching these groups’ actions closely. The top priority for both consumers and producers is to ensure the products are safe and marketed fairly. The USDA and Congress must resist any pressure from activist groups that are intent on accelerating the introduction of these products for misguided reasons.

For more information on NCBA’s policy positions, visit policy.ncba.org.
What You Need to Know about Keeping People Safe Through Equipment, Facility Signage

For nearly 30 years, Clarion Safety has been helping product manufacturers create legally adequate warnings that use the latest standards-based criteria to effectively fulfill their duty to warn. By using the most advanced symbols, color-coding and formatting principles, feed manufacturers can be confident that their Clarion Safety labels, signs and tags are state-of-the-art.

THREE IMPORTANT ITEMS TO KEEP IN MIND RELATED TO YOUR SAFETY LABELS, SIGNS AND TAGS:

1. AFIA members have access to warnings specifically designed to meet the feed industry’s needs, as well as special AFIA member pricing through Clarion Safety and AFIA’s partnership.

2. If you’re unsure where to start with your warnings, Clarion Safety offers label and sign assessments. This is a FREE service where we review your existing labels or signs in line with your needs and today’s best practices.

3. If you have specialized needs for your warnings, Clarion Safety offers easy customization services, including a Custom Product Designer online tool. We also offer custom printing for instructional messages, identification and asset management – including barcode labels, serial number labels and QR code labels.

Read more about Clarion Safety and AFIA’s partnership and its benefits at clarionsafety.com/afia. For questions, contact Angela Lambert, head of standards compliance at Clarion Safety Systems, at alambert@clarionsafety.com.

Top Row: An old-style AFIA safety label (at left) and Clarion Safety’s updated, best practices version at right.
Bottom Row: An old-style facility safety sign (at left) and Clarion Safety’s updated, best practices version at right.

(Best practice label and sign designs ©Clarion Safety Systems. All rights reserved.)
A decade ago, the American Feed Industry Association recognized the need for independent research to inform policymakers of how legislation and regulations under consideration could impact the industry’s ability to operate. AFIA also realized that constituents have their elected officials’ ears and even the most misguided fears or misperceptions could limit consumer choice and prevent new technology from making it to the marketplace.

In 2009, the Institute for Feed Education and Research, a 501(c)(3) public charity, was born. IFEEDER’s mission is to ensure that consumers have access to a safe, healthy and sustainable food supply through 1) funding critical animal feed and pet food research and 2) by highlighting the industry’s positive contributions to America’s food supply in communications.

Nearly a decade later, it is clear that IFEEDER has played a pivotal role in achieving its mission. IFEEDER has:

As IFEEDER looks forward to the next 10 years, you can expect to see it continue supporting the industry by sponsoring other critical research projects that provide valuable data to support AFIA’s legislative and regulatory positions as well as finding new opportunities to share the industry’s positive stories with public and policymaker audiences.

IMPACT OF GM-FREE LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY FEED ON U.S. FEED INDUSTRY

The animal food industry is a major player in the production of a safe, affordable and abundant food supply. There are more than 6,200 feed mills in the U.S., producing over 236 million tons of ready-to-eat or finished feed each year. Feed represents roughly 60 percent—the number one expense—of the total productions costs for farmers and ranchers raising livestock and poultry.

The livestock and poultry industries have been using genetically modified (GM) feed ingredients for more than 20 years. Research to date has shown that these ingredients do not pose any risks to the animals that consume them and that the meat, milk, eggs and fish from livestock, poultry and fish, have the same nutritional quality and safety as products from animals not fed GM ingredients.

Currently, livestock and poultry consume a majority of the GM corn and GM soybeans produced in the U.S., and a number of other GM ingredients (e.g., cottonseed, sugar beets, canola and alfalfa) are also included in the ration that is fed to livestock and poultry. In addition, several feed additives are developed from, or produced with, GM technologies.

IFEEDER recently launched a research project that will conduct a thorough analysis of how policies of changing livestock, poultry and aquaculture feed to non-GM feed ingredients would impact:

- land occupation;
- the environment (particularly impacts on water use and quality, greenhouse gas emissions, soil erosion, etc.);
- use of inputs (e.g., crop nutrients and herbicide and pesticide use);
- shipment of goods;
- energy use;
- manufacturing equipment use and processes (i.e., if any retrofits or clean-outs of equipment would be necessary);
- costs for segregating GM versus non-GM feed at animal food manufacturing facilities;
- costs to producers for livestock, poultry and aquafeed rations; and ultimately; and
- costs to consumers.

The analysis will better inform how to articulate the value and importance of the use of GM feed ingredients in discussions with policymakers and the public. The IFEEDER Board of Trustees awarded the 18-month research project to Iowa State University. IFEEDER will share the results along with other resources once the study is complete.

For questions on IFEEDER projects, contact Robert Cooper, IFEEDER’s executive director, at rcooper@afia.org.
AFIA Committee Working on New Guidance for Equine Feed Manufacturing

One of the American Feed Industry Association’s youngest committees, the Equine Committee, provides a forum for members to represent the regulatory, legislative and trade interests impacting the equine feed and ingredient industry. The committee reaches beyond feed and updates members about the changing regulatory environment and developing issues related to the broader equine sector. Working with other AFIA committees and interested stakeholders (i.e., associations, veterinary groups, universities), the committee targets communications about the equine feed sector’s role as part of the greater equine industry.

The committee is currently developing a draft document to support sound manufacturing practices for equine feed that is intended to provide equine feed manufacturers with guidance on promoting equine-specific feed safety. The project is undergoing review and revision internally by other AFIA committees, with a proposed release date before the end of 2019.

During the fall meeting, the committee heard about several issues impacting the equine industry. Cliff Williamson, director of health and regulatory affairs for the American Horse Council, explained efforts to support access to labor and encouraged the export of U.S.-bred horses. Dr. Lindsey Garber of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, provided the committee with an overview of survey work to assess biosecurity protocols employed by locations housing more than five equids. John Stewart, AFIA’s manager of government affairs, explained the association’s successful effort to keep horses classified as “livestock,” rather than as pets, in ongoing legislation, ensuring their humane treatment and care, while still allowing for the use of the animals.

In the upcoming year, the committee plans to meet with state and federal regulators and will continue to track developing issues within the equine feed sector.

For AFIA members interested in participating in the committee or equine member interest group, or for more information, contact Louise Calderwood, AFIA’s director of regulatory affairs at lcalderwood@afia.org.
What’s Being Done to Ensure the Safety of Rendered Ingredients in Pet Food in Light of Pentobarbital Discovery?

For decades, pet food manufacturers have used rendered animal protein and fats to provide nutrients and flavors in pet foods. While this is a safe and legal practice, recent concerns over the presence of pentobarbital in some pet food products has brought new concerns about the safety of these ingredients. The American Feed Industry Association, and the National Renderers Association, is engaged in a dialogue with the rendering industry and veterinary medical community to address this issue to keep pets safe and provide consumers with more information on their pet food purchases.

Over the past two years, the Food and Drug Administration has detected trace levels of pentobarbital, a chemical used for the euthanasia of livestock (i.e., cows, pigs, lamb, sheep or goats) and horses, in some canned pet foods. FDA regulations prohibit this chemical in pet food as it could have detrimental effects on the animals that consume it. As a result, many renderers have suspended using euthanized animals taken from outside the regular inspected meat production process for use in pet food.

Given the animal health and pet food industries’ commitment to sustainability and providing pets with safe and nutritious food, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) convened a meeting last November to discuss drug residues in animals euthanized with pentobarbital with the purpose of facilitating an improved understanding of euthanasia practices across all stakeholders. Stakeholders that participated included AFIA, the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP), the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the Pet Food Institute, the National Renderers Association (NRA) and the FDA. Meeting participants also discussed euthanasia choices made by animal owners, veterinary guidance to animal owners, sources of animal products in rendering and pet food ingredient procurement strategies.

As a follow-up to that meeting, in late 2018, the NRA sent a letter to Dr. Steve Solomon, director of the FDA’s Center for Veterinary Medicine, requesting the agency to consider developing a standardized and validated analytical method for detecting pentobarbital residues in pet food. The NRA also requested that the FDA develop a tolerance, or action level for safety, for pentobarbital since current advances in testing are making it possible to detect smaller and smaller amounts of the chemical in rendered products. In his response to the NRA, Solomon recognized the value of developing such standards, but made no commitment for the FDA to address the issue.

The veterinary community, by way of extension veterinarians, has begun discussing the topic in presentations to veterinary, producer and allied industry groups. The issue has also gained the attention of bovine practitioners, who are suggesting revising guidelines for cattle euthanasia to include stronger statements on the use of pentobarbital. The AABP recognizes that only a small number of cattle are euthanized with the drug, but is committed to increasing awareness among its practitioners on the risks of residues in the euthanasia of all livestock and horses.

At least one state is exploring developing requirements to identify chemically euthanized horses to facilitate the appropriate use of those animals through rendering. Some state veterinarians have also proposed developing regulatory requirements for identifying animals that died other than by slaughter in an effort to support the safe use of rendered animal products.

AFIA is committed to collaboratively communicating practices to maximize the safe and sustainable use of appropriate pet food ingredients. Continued engagement from the many stakeholders across the animal health management, ingredient and manufacturing sectors of the pet food industry is essential as we all work toward providing pets with safe and nutritious foods in a sustainable way.

For more information, contact Louise Calderwood, AFIA’s director of regulatory affairs, at lcalderwood@afia.org.

Rendering is a sustainable way to produce animal feed and pet food. Did you know that it avoids roughly 90% of potential greenhouse gas emissions vs. industrial composting and sequesters 5X the amount of GHG emissions as it emits?
In 2004, the American Feed Industry Association formed the Safe Feed/Safe Food (SF/SF) certification program to establish and promote generally accepted animal food safety guidelines that would ensure the feed industry could continuously deliver a safe and wholesome feed supply. AFIA’s Paul Davis, Ph.D., the program’s technical advisor, sat down with Bobby Brown, manager of Tennessee Farmers Cooperative’s (TFC) LaVergne Feed Mill, on his company’s participation in the program. Beginning in 2007, TFC is one of the oldest, continuous SF/SF program participants.

**What was the driving reason for your facility to pursue the SF/SF certification program?**

**Brown:** For decades, livestock feed manufacturers have been producing safe feed products for consumption by livestock and poultry, whose meat and other food products are later consumed by humans. However, unfounded negative publicity has been slowly, but steadily, changing how the general public views what livestock eat during their production cycles as it relates to the safety of the food on their dinner tables.

We were already taking many precautions in all areas of feed production to ensure a safe product, but the SF/SF certification program presented us with the requirements and guidelines to further enhance our production of safe feed and validate that TFC-fed animals and their food products are safe for human consumption. We anticipated the increase of future government regulations regarding food safety would migrate to the feed industry and compliance with the SF/SF program would be a way for TFC to stay ahead of the curve.

**Given you’ve renewed for 12 years, what has been the biggest benefit to your company?**

**Brown:** Aside from the confidence in knowing we have produced safe products for many years, compliance to the SF/SF program has enhanced our working relationship with the Food and Drug Administration and state regulatory agencies. Having policies and procedures firmly in place was a huge asset toward compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act when the time came. Our long-term commitment to food safety has been an asset in TFC securing premium business opportunities at all three facilities.

**How has this program changed over the years?**

**Brown:** The program is fluid in the sense that as existing federal regulations are amended or new regulations are added, the changes are incorporated into the certification audit language so compliance to SF/SF works hand-in-hand with federal requirements. Full compliance to the SF/SF program will help mitigate the chance of compliance failure issues with federal and state auditors.

**Do you feel the program has helped your facility come into compliance with new regulations?**

**Brown:** Absolutely.

It takes time and resources to pull together the materials for annual renewal. How do you weigh the cost-benefits?

**Brown:** Evaluating cost versus benefits is more of a risk analysis exercise. The cost of renewal and certification is microscopic compared to the savings associated with risk reduction of monetary payouts and brand reputation loss that could result from the production of unsafe or contaminated livestock feeds. Certification is verification that TFC employees are adhering to food safety policies and procedures on a continuous basis.

**Do your customers understand what it means for your facility to be SF/SF certified?**

**Brown:** Each year, we conduct numerous tours of our feed mills for our members, local ag educators, ag students and other potential new customers. We focus on TFC’s commitment to food safety, our SF/SF certification and the procedures we follow – from receipt of raw ingredients to the sale of the finished product. TFC has promoted our SF/SF certification in many publications. Our customers are aware and understand what it means and their response has always been positive.

**How do you think the SF/SF program compares to other certification programs?**

**Brown:** I personally believe that the SF/SF program is a more complete program for the feed industry than other food safety certification programs. Some of the other programs contain requirements that are very good, but are not always practical or necessary in the production of livestock feeds.

**What would you tell a company considering pursuing SF/SF certification?**

**Brown:** If the company is seriously wanting to enhance their brand reputation as a manufacturer of safe, quality feeds, I would recommend the SF/SF program. It was developed by leaders of our industry that fully understand our business.
The American Feed Industry Association and Feedstuffs named Famo Feeds of Freeport, Minn., as the 2018 Feed Facility of the Year (FFY). Gary Huddleston, AFIA’s director of feed manufacturing and regulatory affairs, made the announcement, along with recognizing the winners of each FFY category, during AFIA’s Feed Education Program, held as part of the International Production & Processing Expo in February.

The FFY award recognizes overall excellence in feed manufacturing operations, from the company’s commitment to safety, quality and regulatory compliance to employee development to overall operating efficiencies. To date, only 33 facilities have received this esteemed industry award.

“Famo Feeds was selected as our winner because they do a fantastic job of serving the needs of their customers, while investing in improvements,” said Huddleston. “Famo Feeds is a family-owned business, the first-ever to win this award, and I think that shows in how they treat their customers.”

**FAMO FEEDS – 2018 FEED FACILITY OF THE YEAR + COMMERCIAL DRY FEED CATEGORY WINNER**

Famo Feeds has served livestock producers in the Midwest since 1903. It is an animal nutrition business that manufactures and markets a full-line of livestock and poultry feeds. As a family-owned business, Famo Feeds treats its dealers and producer clientele like family.

In the last few years, the company has made a number of improvements and upgrades to the plant, including adding a new automation system, rebuilding a pellet mill and mixer and upgrading a boiler. The new automation system has allowed Famo Feeds to increase its production efficiency while at the same time, improving its working environment. Famo Feeds’ Vice President Tom Beste has seen almost a 10 percent improvement in capacity while making individuals’ jobs easier.

“Every day we build upon Famo Feed’s commitment to creating quality nutritional solutions for livestock and poultry,” said Beste.

**Koch Foods – Integrator Category Winner**

Koch Foods’ plant in Morton, Miss., produces more than 700,000 tons of poultry feed each year. The plant has to be extra careful with good housekeeping practices and biosecurity measures, given their location along the Mississippi Flyway, where wild birds that could be infected with avian influenza spend their winters. To address this issue, the plant added a biosecurity spray station in the fall of 2015.

“The stakes are just too high for us not to be protected from disease,” said Frank Garczynski, feed mill manager.
QUALITY LIQUID FEEDS – LIQUID FEED CATEGORY WINNER

Quality Liquid Feeds (QLF) is a full-line liquid feed organization that serves the animal food industry nationwide. The Clovis, N.M., plant, one of 17 in the QLF network of manufacturing facilities, is focused on continuous improvement and providing excellent customer service. The facility has three separate mix lines to prevent any potential contamination. When building the plant, every dairy person QLF consulted wanted assurance related to contamination.

“QLF is always looking for ways to improve our feed and help the consumer,” said Jason Brawley, QLF plant manager.

TROUW NUTRITION – PREMIX CATEGORY WINNER

Trouw Nutrition’s Highland, Ill., plant manufactures vitamin, mineral and base premixes for companion animals. The plant produces premixes that range from fine-powdered products to dry whole fruit trail mix-type products to peas, carrots, apples, sweet potatoes, pumpkin and more.

“The pet food industry is a very confidential business and very competitive. Required are a lot more layers of validating and testing,” said Monty Barker, plant manager. “We have to make it baby-food safe.”

SEMI-FINALISTS

AFIA also recognized the semi-finalists of each program category, including for:

• Commercial dry livestock feed: Kent Nutrition Group of Marshall, Mo., ADM Nutrition of Cordele, Ga., and Kent Nutrition Group of Columbus, Neb.;
• Premix: Trouw Nutrition of Neosho, Mo., Animix of Juneau, Wis., and Bellstra Milling of Demotte, Ind.;
• Integrator: Sanderson Farms of Oakwood, Texas, Wayne Farms of Newton, Ala., and Sanderson Farms of Collins, Miss.; and
• Liquid feed: Performix Nutrition Systems of Nampa, Idaho. ■

More information on the FFY program can be found at afia.org/FFY or by contacting Gary Huddleston, director of feed manufacturing and regulatory affairs, at ghuddleston@afia.org.

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The U.K.-based medical journal The Lancet declared 2019 “The Year for Nutrition,” announcing plans to release several reports tackling myriad nutrition issues, from healthier diets to hunger, undernutrition and obesity, to climate change. With each report comes a long list of radical policy recommendations that seek to reduce meat and dairy consumption globally, while eliminating consumer choice.

While we agree with the research commissions that we all must do our part to protect the health of people and the planet and address global issues such as food security and food waste, the American Feed Industry Association believes these reports are doing a disservice to the public dialogue.

For example, on Jan. 17, the EAT-Lancet Commission on Food, Planet, Health – which is comprised of more than 20 experts, such as Walter Willett from Harvard University and Marco Springmann from Oxford University, who have centered their careers around using science to promote vegetarian lifestyles – released a report that called for people to reduce their meat and dairy consumption to benefit their health and the environment. The report also suggested that the land used to grow feed for animals should be used for other purposes.

The authors were proud that for the first time, national leaders would have access to “specific, numerical targets for national dietary guidance” that aligned “optimal nutrition with planetary boundaries.” They urged the adoption of several policy recommendations to achieve the dual goal of a healthier people and cleaner environment.

Unfortunately, like many other organized attacks on animal agriculture, the EAT-Lancet Commission suggested policy changes that are not reflective of the current science, are misrepresentative of the nutritional value of protein and dairy products and does not account for the agriculture industry’s technological and sustainability advances.

For decades, the animal food industry has been working with researchers, nutritionists and veterinarians to develop more efficient diets and bring new ingredients to market that allow the animal agriculture industry to conserve natural resources while providing animals with optimal nutrition and health.

Over the past few months, AFIA has teamed with others within the meat and dairy industries through the Animal Agriculture Alliance to set the record straight. Learn more about this effort at afia.org/ResponsetoTheLancet. For more information, contact Sarah Novak, AFIA’s vice president of membership and public relations, at snovak@afia.org, or Victoria Broehm, AFIA’s director of communications, at vbroehm@afia.org.

GET INVOLVED!

Get the facts about animal agriculture, the environment and the nutritional value of meat and dairy products on Animal Agriculture Alliance’s website at bit.ly/2FrkTRf. Follow the conversation on Twitter via the hashtag #ClimateFoodFacts.

WHAT ARE EXPERTS SAYING ABOUT THE EAT-LANCET REPORT?

The EAT-Lancet Commission claims that its report reflects scientific consensus, but many leading environmental and food researchers disagree.

“The report’s recommendations do not reflect the level of scientific uncertainties around nutrition and health. The evidence is not as strong as it seems to be.”
– John Ioannidis, M.D., Stanford University

“…EAT-Lancet’s own analysis shows the Commission’s recommended diet has almost no environmental benefit over business-as-usual scenarios. While EAT-Lancet claims its reference diet would decrease greenhouse gas emissions, the Commission’s fundamentally flawed data fail to account for methane reduction that occurs naturally … The carbon emissions from all the flights required for the Commission’s global launch tour will have a much longer impact than that of methane from livestock animals.”
– Frank Mitloehner, Ph.D., UC Davis, Twitter: @GHGGuru

“They say ‘you are what you eat’ and that must be true, because this is nuts. Most people will look at these demands – concocted by activist-academics and taxpayer-funded UN bureaucrats – and laugh, but I welcome this report because it reveals the full agenda of nanny state campaigners. They are making no secret of their desire to tax and ban their way toward a near-vegan diet for the world’s population.”
– Christopher Snowdon, Institute of Economic Affairs, Twitter: @cjsnowdon

Read more at meatpoultrynutrition.org/Eat-Lancet-Report.
The 2019 International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE) was the largest show on record with approximately 33,000 poultry, meat and feed industry leaders attending from all over the world. The show had over 1,420 exhibitors with more than 600,000 square feet of exhibit space. It also featured more than 200 hours of educational programming.

Sponsored by the American Feed Industry Association, U.S. Poultry & Egg Association and the North American Meat Institute, IPPE is the world’s largest annual poultry, meat and animal food industry event of its kind.

“The expanded trade show floor and attendee and exhibitor numbers continue to complement IPPE’s comprehensive education sessions, valuable networking opportunities and extensive exhibits showcasing the latest innovative technology, equipment and services for our industries,” said the show organizers.

Below is a recap of some of AFIA’s events at the show. Photos and videos are available on AFIA’s Facebook page.

AFIA PET FOOD CONFERENCE DISCUSSSES ONGOING PET HEALTH ISSUES

AFIA’s Pet Food Committee hosted its 12th annual Pet Food Conference, bringing together approximately 340 industry leaders to discuss everything from regulatory issues to the technical aspects of pet food production to product claims, marketing and nutrition, helping attendees tackle the latest challenges in the evolving marketplace.

“The AFIA Pet Food Conference provides a dynamic opportunity for pet food manufacturers and ingredient suppliers to gain cutting-edge information and network on all aspects of the industry,” said Louise Calderwood, AFIA’s director of regulatory affairs. “The participants had many questions about global trends, product traceability and pet food diet formulation – it was a great dialogue on issues impacting the pet food sector.”

Seven experts from associations, private entities and universities discussed a range of topics, including: domestic and global industry trends, a legal perspective of blockchain management of pet food, canine dilated cardiomyopathy, several updates on pet food from the Association of American Feed Control Officials, animal health and more. One of the highlights included an overview of policy development and programming in support of service dogs for military veterans.

AFIA DEBUTS NEW EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ON IMPROVING SOW PERFORMANCE

The AFIA Nutrition Committee debuted its first nutritional program focused on sow health at IPPE: “High-Performance Sow – Rethinking Nutrition and Health Interactions.” The program brought together nearly 100 industry leaders to discuss everything from sow productivity to gut health.

“It is encouraging and rewarding to see such a strong interest in novel information on sow nutrition and health,” said Paul Davis, Ph.D., AFIA’s director of quality, animal food safety and education. “AFIA’s Nutrition Committee put together an outstanding scientific program with industry-leading speakers. We look forward to fostering more educational programs like today’s in future years.”

The program included four academicians who discussed a range of topics, including: understanding sow health challenges in today’s production systems, high efficiency nutrition for maximal lifetime production, mycotoxins, and nutrition and the gut microbiome interaction on sow and progeny productivity.
AFIA’S FEED EDUCATION PROGRAM OUTLINES GOOD EMPLOYEE CULTURE

More than 70 feed facility managers, operations personnel and mill personnel heard from industry leaders on the latest federal regulations impacting their businesses at AFIA’s annual Feed Education Program.

The half-day program provided attendees with an overview of the latest transportation, environmental, food safety and workplace safety rules and regulations in effect, including any regulatory changes or guidance from the agencies. AFIA announced the winners of the Feed Facility of the Year program (see page 25 for more details).

In addition, attendees heard from a panel of experts about creating the right employee culture at their facilities.

“It is critical that you are treating your people well, and that it is happening at all levels,” said panelist Mike Gauss of Kent Nutrition Group. “Culture starts at the top, but people at every level can help build the culture too.”

For more information, please contact Sarah Novak, AFIA’s vice president of membership and public relations, at snovak@afia.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JAN. 28–30, 2020, FOR THE NEXT IPPE!

AMERICAN FEED INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION MEETINGS CALENDAR

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<th>MAY 13–16</th>
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| Spring Committee Meetings and Purchasing & Ingredient Suppliers Conference  
Orlando, FL  
Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress | Liquid Feed Symposium  
Omaha, NE  
Omaha Marriott Downtown | |
| NOV. 2–4 | | |
| Equipment Manufacturers Conference  
Marco Island, FL  
Hilton Marco Island Beach Resort | | |
| JAN. 28–30 | | |
| International Feed Expo at IPPE  
Atlanta, GA  
Georgia World Congress Center | | |

2020
AFIA ‘Strikes Liquid Gold’ at Liquid Feed Symposium

The American Feed Industry Association brought together the country’s largest gathering of liquid supplement leaders, hearing from experts on the latest news, research and innovation happening in the field and recognizing outstanding individuals, at its 48th annual Liquid Feed Symposium (LFS), held in September 2018, in San Diego, Calif.

Paul Davis, Ph.D., AFIA’s director of quality, animal food safety and education, said this year’s LFS brought “163 highly engaged people within the liquid feed industry together to learn about ways to improve their businesses and the entire industry.”

In a presentation on committing businesses to “agvocacy,” Kim Bremmer, of Ag Inspirations, highlighted ways for people to communicate with consumers about agriculture with EASE:

- Engage;
- Acknowledge all questions and concerns, even if they are not the same as your own;
- Share the basics; and
- Earn trust.

“People don’t buy what you do, they buy WHY you do it,” she said. “Make every conversation count!”

LFS covered a number of other hot topics, including updates on regulations and legislation affecting the liquid feed industry, ingredients and nutrition, customer service, the environmental impact of livestock and more.

The symposium also raised over $2,100 through a silent wine auction for the Kenny Berg Research and Education Fund, which supports feed industry-specific projects conducted by land grant universities and colleges.

AFIA RECOGNIZES 2018 LIQUID FEED HALL OF FAME

AFIA’s Liquid Feed Committee inducted Kirk Bowman into the Liquid Feed Hall of Fame.

“With more than 33 years in the liquid feed industry, Bowman is a highly regarded leader in designing facilities and systems for specialized feed production and transportation,” said Davis.

Bowman is the director of operations for PerforMix Nutrition Systems, where he is responsible for overseeing the operations of three liquid suspension facilities and one dry mineral premix plant. Throughout his career, he has been instrumental in designing and building four facilities from the ground up in Idaho and Washington as well as redesigning an existing plant in Kansas.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
The 49th annual Liquid Feed Symposium will take place in Omaha, Neb., Sept. 9-11, 2019.

When it comes to feeding the world, you have a partner who works as hard as you.

Meeting the world’s growing demand for food is no easy task. The future will require even more hard work, innovation, and safe high-quality animal nutrients, and we’ll be there to help every step of the way.

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AFIA’s EMC Focuses on Building Next Generation of Leaders in Equipment Manufacturing

The American Feed Industry Association’s annual Equipment Manufacturers Conference (EMC) brought more than 60 attendees to San Antonio, Texas, last November. The event, hosted by the AFIA Equipment Manufacturers Committee, examined the future of the industry with discussions on how to recruit, train and retain qualified people pursuing careers in this industry segment, while providing opportunities to network and raise money for a fund to support students pursuing feed industry-related careers.

Attendees heard from a diverse lineup of speakers on policy issues being discussed in Washington, D.C., creating the right employee culture and more. Joanne Loe, of Fortify Leadership Group, gave the keynote address on “Keeping What You Need to Succeed.”

“One of the biggest challenges facing our industry today is the recruitment and retention of qualified staff,” said Gary Huddleston, AFIA’s director of feed manufacturing and regulatory affairs. “This year’s Equipment Manufacturers Conference tackled this issue head on, from examining opportunities to offer real-world experience through apprenticeship and training programs to supporting scholarships, such as the EMC Scholarship Fund, which support college students pursuing degrees in the feed industry.”

The event raised more than $3,600 for the EMC scholarship fund through its annual four-person scramble golf tournament. Testifying to the scholarship fund’s benefits, the committee debuted a short video (which you can watch on AFIA’s YouTube channel) that provided a history of the fund along with testimonials from young professionals and students who have benefitted from the scholarship.

AFIA invests in future leaders through the Mark Cornwell scholarship, administered by the Institute for Feed Education and Research and the Milling4Life charity. The charities aim to raise $75,000 to provide financial assistance to students pursuing careers in the food and feed manufacturing sectors.

The Mark Cornwell scholarship is named after the late Mark Cornwell, a leading voice for the food and feed industries, who passed away in 2017. It will provide scholarships to students from around the world taking advanced courses in grain storage, handling or processing, and/or food and feed manufacturing.

To learn more or donate to this fund, visit ifeeder.org/education.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The next AFIA Equipment Manufacturers Conference will take place Nov. 6-8, 2019, in Marco Island, Fla.
...pure, natural MgO...
The American Feed Industry Association is gearing up for another great Purchasing and Ingredient Suppliers Conference (PISC). The 2019 PISC will be held May 14-16 in Orlando, Fla. PISC is moving to May for 2019 only and will be back to its normal March dates in 2020.

The one-of-a-kind event attracts more than 600 feed ingredient buyers and sellers and is truly “where business gets done!” PISC offers industry experts the chance to exchange ideas and learn about issues affecting the industry.

This year’s program will include member favorites such as the golf and sporting clays tournaments and the suppliers showcase. Conference attendees will hear presentations on myriad topics, including: the current trade and political landscape, revolutions in supply-chain management, the industry’s efforts on managing the African swine fever crisis and other foreign animal diseases, an economic outlook for the industry, and more.

As an added bonus, attendees will have the option to purchase discounted tickets to Walt Disney World for registrants and their family members to visit the parks May 10-18. Visit AFIA’s event website to learn more.

AFIA would like to thank the planning committee for its hard work:
- Justin Bzura, Old Bridge Chemicals
- Kara Cagle, Tyson Foods, Inc.
- Jennie Cameron, Phibro Animal Health
- Renae Cunningham, Purina Animal Nutrition, committee secretary
- Ladd Hanacek, Sumitomo Chemical
- Quintin Honerman, Great Plains Processing, committee past chair
- Evan Ibach, The Scoular Company, committee chair
- Tanya Lansing, ADM Animal Nutrition, committee chair-elect
- Ryan Millett, Zoetis
- Lisa Norton, BioZyme Inc, Board sponsor
- Will Rock, Bill Barr & Co.
- Kasia Rzepecki, Cargill Animal Nutrition
- Ken Schurter, Devenish Nutrition LLC
- Phil Tunbridge, Mars Petcare
- Steve Wilson, Zinpro Corporation
- Brad Wittig, Fondel Chemicals

The PISC Committee has put together a fantastic agenda for 2019 that includes additional networking opportunities. We hope to see you in Orlando!

For more information on PISC, visit afia.org/PISC2019 or contact Veronica Rovelli, AFIA’s senior director of meetings and events, at vrovelli@afia.org.
The American Feed Industry Association welcomed Lacie Dotterweich to the communications team in January. As the communications coordinator, Dotterweich is responsible for writing, editing and distributing AFIA's print and electronic communications materials, including the AFIA Journal and biweekly FeedGram, and developing and disseminating content across AFIA's social media and web platforms. She also assists the Institute for Feed Education and Research in its communications efforts.

Dotterweich previously served as a policy program assistant at the Center for Rural Affairs in Iowa and has experience interning for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and for Iowa State University Extension. Hailing from Monticello, Iowa, she holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture and society and public relations from Iowa State University. She can be reached at ldotterweich@afia.org.

NEW RESOURCE

Learn more about your industry organization in the American Feed Industry Association’s new culture book, "The AFIA Way." Available on AFIA’s website at afia.org/culturebook, the culture book takes a deep dive into the origins of the association, where AFIA is going, who AFIA serves and how we work together as a team to achieve success. For questions, contact Victoria Broehm, AFIA’s director of communications, at vbroehm@afia.org.
CHECK OUT THE NEW AFIA.ORG!

POLICY ISSUES
Organizes the association’s policy issues into 5 areas:
• the access and availability of technology;
• feed and food safety;
• the availability and cost-effectiveness of ingredients;
• global competitiveness; and
• health, safety & the environment.

RESOURCES CENTER
Quickly search through hundreds of AFIA news updates, advisories, reports, guidance documents and more.

#FEEDFACTS
Find facts and stats on the industry and all of AFIA's multimedia content.

MY AFIA
The AFIA member dashboard allows members to easily search the member directory, customize their communications preferences and pay invoices.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AFIA Member Companies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ag Partners</strong> has signed a letter of intent to purchase DFS Inc.’s operations in Newell and Nemaha, Iowa, as well as the company’s Market 1 brand.</td>
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<td>Congratulations to Deidre Lyons, co-founder of Alltech, on being named “Business Person of the Year” by Southeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.</td>
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<td>Congratulations to Archer Daniels Midland Company for its “Together We Grow” consortium, which received the 2018 Innovations in Diversity Award by the Profiles in Diversity Journal. The consortium is focused on educating, recruiting and retaining a more diverse workforce.</td>
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<td>Cal-Maine Foods Inc. has reached an agreement to acquire the assets of Featherland Egg Farms Inc. relating to commercial shell egg production, processing, distribution and sales business.</td>
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<td>Consumers Supply Distributing, LLC is opening a new distribution and logistics warehouse in Rogers, Ark.</td>
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<td>Cooper Farms celebrated its 80th anniversary. The family-owned and operated company released a video highlighting its philosophy and people.</td>
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<td>Fornazor International has received Halal certification for its vegetable protein concentrate.</td>
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<td>The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research awarded 17 Fellows with stipends for three years of research and interdisciplinary training. Bayer, Elanco, Mars, Novozymes and Vetagro sponsored one or more fellows.</td>
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<td>George’s Inc has acquired Ozark Mountain Poultry. The combined, fully-integrated poultry company has operations in four states.</td>
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<td>Thanks to a donation from Hill’s Pet Nutrition, Kansas State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine will construct a new Pet Health and Nutrition Center, which will feature clinical training, classroom and increased research space.</td>
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<td>Huvepharma has acquired T-HEXX Animal Health.</td>
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<td>Indiana Packers Corp. is acquiring Specialty Foods Group LLC.</td>
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### AFIA Member Companies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>News Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jefo</td>
<td>Plans to build a new 200,000 square feet production plant in Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada, to produce animal feed additives.</td>
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<td>Kemin Industries</td>
<td>Has partnered with CRVAB Biotechnology Co. Ltd. to gain enzyme fermentation and production capacity in China.</td>
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<td>Kent</td>
<td>Mike Gauss has been named the new president of Kent Nutrition Group, effective Jan. 1, 2019. Gauss replaces John Thorpe, who has been promoted to president and chief operating officer of Kent Corporation.</td>
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<td>National Corn Growers Association</td>
<td>Corn Board has named Jon Doggett as its new chief executive officer.</td>
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<td>OFW Law</td>
<td>Congratulations to John Dillard on being named a principal at OFW Law. Dillard and OFW represent AFIA and other clients on federal regulatory issues.</td>
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<td>Tyson Foods</td>
<td>Has acquired Keystone Foods, a supplier of meat, chicken and fish to the global food service industry.</td>
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<td>Vets Plus Inc.</td>
<td>Has acquired Merrick’s Inc. The wholly-owned subsidiary will be known as Merrick’s Animal Health LLC.</td>
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<td>Wilbur-Ellis Nutrition LLC</td>
<td>Has acquired the assets of Ameri-Pac Inc., including Ameri-Pac’s Oxygen and Oxyblock antioxidant products.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoetis</td>
<td>For the fifth consecutive year, Zoetis has been named one of the “100 Best Companies for Working Mothers” by Working Mother magazine.</td>
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### DID YOU KNOW?

Feeding hay to cattle keeps them warmer, longer in cold weather. Hay is typically less digestible than grains, keeping it in the GI tract longer, thus producing more body heat.
MEMBER NEWS

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W: ziwipets.com
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✓ FSC36 SAFE FEED/SAFE FOOD

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MEMBER NEWS
ENGAGEMENT

WE WILL PROVIDE ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPECIALIZED TRAINING, PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND NETWORKING

A FIA provides your company unique opportunities for education and industry networking forums. These services are based on member demands and are self-supporting.

• Training and Education Programs
  • AFIA offers training programs, webinars and conferences in conjunction with prominent universities and industry experts
    o Equipment Manufacturers Conference
    o Feed Industry Institute
    o Food Safety Modernization Act trainings
    o Liquid Feed Symposium
    o Regulatory Training Short Course

• Networking Programs
  • AFIA facilitates opportunities to engage with the best resources in the industry—your peers!
    o Executive Leadership Summit
    o International Feed Expo at the International Production & Processing Expo
    o Purchasing and Ingredient Suppliers Conference

To learn more about AFIA’s 4 Promises, visit afia.org/4promises.
Since 2015, the American Feed Industry Association has actively been participating in an International Standards Organization (ISO) committee that is developing voluntary international standards for feed machinery. AFIA is working to ensure the U.S. feed equipment industry’s concerns and interests are heard and well represented, but needs your help!

ISO is a nongovernmental organization that brings together groups of international experts to develop consensus-based standards that ensure the quality and safety of products, which further facilitates trade. The work is performed within ISO’s Technical Committees (TC), which comprise representatives from industry, non-governmental organizations, governments and other stakeholders. ISO/TC 293 is the technical committee working on writing feed machinery standards for all stationary equipment used to process formulated feed in an industrialized feed processing mill where the feed materials are received, cleaned and, after a series of processing, become the finished, bulk or packaged products ready for delivery.

ISO/TC 293 has held two plenary meetings since its creation. During the first plenary meeting, held in May 2015 in Yangzhou, China, the committee set goals for developing standards in the areas of terminology, safety and hygiene. At its second plenary meeting, in January 2019 in Winterthur, Switzerland, the U.S. delegation successfully helped the committee make progress toward the goal of an achievable and usable set of standards for this industry sector.

Initially, the Chinese delegates proposed nine different standards for equipment terminology; 30 standards for safety; and 17 standards for hygiene. The eight U.S. delegates, along with other international delegates, successfully convinced the international committee to adopt a strategy of just creating one standard in each of these three main areas. As a result, users of the standards would only need to monitor three targeted and specific documents, which seemed like a more manageable approach to the U.S. feed equipment manufacturers participating in the meeting, as opposed to 56 standards.

Gary Huddleston, AFIA’s director of feed manufacturing and regulatory affairs, serves as the U.S. Technical Advisory Group (TAG) chairman, which develops the U.S. positions in advance of votes and other activities, and many AFIA members are also involved.

ISO/TC 293’s next plenary meeting is set for April 2020 in Switzerland. If all goes well, all three new work item proposals will be approved and working groups will have begun their work by this meeting. For more information on this work or to get involved, contact Huddleston at ghuddleston@afia.org.

The U.S. TAG needs experts from U.S. feed equipment companies to assist with its work on ISO/TC-293. It is incredibly important for U.S. feed equipment manufacturers to be involved with the development of ISO’s international standards, as they will ultimately be decided for the industry if we don’t participate.

AFIA thanks all members of the AFIA Equipment Manufacturers Committee for remaining engaged and extends a special thank you to Tom Barber of Bühler Aeroglide, John Wheat of 4B Components and Pete Calderon of Scott Equipment Company for attending recent meetings on the U.S. feed industry’s behalf.

GET INVOLVED WITH THE U.S. TAG!
SAVE THE DATE

2019 LIQUID FEED SYMPOSIUM

SEPTEMBER 10–12

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