OUR MISSION
To be the voice of the U.S. animal food industry, influencing policy and connecting people.

OUR VISION
A healthier world through advanced animal nutrition.

OUR VALUES
- We value providing America’s domestic livestock, poultry, aquaculture and pets with safe and nutritious food so they stay healthy throughout their lives and reach their genetic potential.
- We value responsible, voluntary programs and science-based regulations that enhance the care of animals, improve the quality, safety and sustainability of the animal food products we manufacture, promote safer workplaces and more efficient business practices.
- We value being transparent about how animal food is manufactured and providing key influencers with more information to make better informed decisions.
- We value scientific research that fosters innovation in agriculture, so more people have access to affordable and healthy meat, milk, egg and seafood products.
- We value fair global trade and mutual respect between trading partners.
- We value working with reliable partners to adopt practices that enhance our sustainability in order to help us protect the environment for our families, neighbors and future generations.
- We value quality training and education for a skilled and knowledgeable workforce.

Learn more about the benefits of AFIA membership at afia.org/join.

The American Feed Industry Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
These two observations, spoken 2,400 years apart by a Greek philosopher and one of the most famous inventors of all time, have never been more applicable than they are today.

Change in the animal food sector is constant, and the only difference is the pace at which it happens. After experiencing several years of change at the AFIA, it was time to conduct a stocktaking of the organization and the industry it serves and develop a strategic plan to tackle emerging challenges.

The result is a three-year strategy to strengthen the voice of the U.S. animal food industry as we work to carry out our new mission of influencing policy and connecting people. In doing so, the AFIA is uniquely positioned to advance our members’ interests as we move toward our vision of achieving a healthier world through advanced animal nutrition.

This effort is built around our organization’s Four Promises to our members. To become recognized as the leading voice for the animal food industry, the AFIA will be working to strategically target our policy communications, ensuring we are in the right place at the right time with the right message that reflects members’ interests, needs and priorities.

To be recognized as the leading animal food industry association providing legislative, regulatory and policy representation, the organization will advocate for a more efficient and modern regulatory review of animal food ingredients, support the resiliency of the U.S. animal food industry through customer and supplier market diversification, and facilitate industrywide solutions for a more sustainable animal food and livestock production sector.

Increasing member access to individual staff expertise as a tool for business success will be realized through Safe Feed/Safe Food certification program growth and expanded member service, enhanced responsiveness to members’ requests for individual guidance and standard procedures for responding to fast-paced news cycles about the animal food industry.

We know demand is growing for excellent engagement opportunities for specialized training, professional education and networking, and we are responding with a focus on providing relevant, timely and quality content to support members’ education and training needs.

With change, comes opportunity, and the AFIA team is prepared to help our members advance the overall health and viability of this vibrant industry.
In recent years, the importance of advanced animal nutrition in ensuring the well-being of animals and human health has gained increased awareness. As consumers become more discerning about the origin and quality of the food they consume, the demand for healthier and more sustainably produced animal products has significantly risen. Our association plays a crucial role in meeting these demands.

It is evident by the impact we have made together that the AFIA is fulfilling its Four Promises to membership of voice, representation, expertise and engagement. However, it is crucial that these promises are not only fulfilled in the short term, but also sustained for the long run.

This is precisely what the AFIA Financial Resiliency Task Force accomplished over the past year. Financial resiliency is more than just ensuring the day-to-day operations of the association. It also provides the necessary resources to drive impactful initiatives, support research and innovation, and advocate for industry interests. This forward-looking approach positions us as a leader in the field and enables the development of long-term strategies to tackle emerging challenges and seize new opportunities.

The establishment of the task force and their results reflect our commitment to ensuring the long-term success of the association. By focusing on financial stability, resource optimization and strategic planning, the task force has taken significant steps to set all of us up for future success. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the task force for their invaluable work.

I also want to express my gratitude to the entire AFIA, both members and staff, for their unwavering dedication to securing a bright future for our industry and fostering a healthier world. I am confident that our association will continue to make significant progress and positive impacts in the years to come.

Best wishes to you for good health and a prosperous future.

Mike Gauss
President, Kent Nutrition Group, Inc.
In 2023, **nearly 5,650** U.S. animal food manufacturing facilities will generate:

- **$98.4B** in value-added contributions
- **$18.5B** in local, state & national taxes
- **$55B** in wages
- **80,000** direct employees
- **$267.1+ B** in total sales, including
- **$48.8B** – estimated value of feed in 2025 should business continue without any future major COVID-19 disruptions

- **$6.8B** – value of farm products sold to pet food manufacturers
  to produce **9.8M tons** of dog & cat food
  generating **$30.3B** in pet food sales

---

1. Based on projections from a 2023 economic contribution report. afa.org/economicimpact
2. Based on 2020 data for six categories of domestic livestock production. afa.org/consumptionreport
3. Based on 2019 data. afa.org/petfoodreport
Update on Business Climate

Animal Food Ingredient Approvals

The U.S. animal food industry is on the cutting edge of animal nutrition and scientific breakthroughs that will enhance animal health and productivity, and address public food safety and environmental concerns. Unfortunately, it is stymied by slow, confusing and unpredictable regulatory review processes that deter innovators from bringing their products to the U.S. marketplace. The AFIA has been working to increase resources within the Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) to accelerate the ingredient review process. The result is the creation of the Division of Animal Food Ingredients, intended to focus resources on completing ingredient reviews more quickly – a win for the industry. The AFIA continues to advocate for more timely final CVM animal food product approvals and enhance our longstanding relationship with the CVM and Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) to not only maintain, but improve, this regulatory pathway for new animal food ingredients.

“Our members have been caught between the devil and the deep blue sea over the past few years, having difficulty exporting animal feed, feed ingredients and pet food products that their foreign buyers need, while battling the undercurrent of exorbitant rate and fee increases for containers and logistical nightmares for both imports and exports.”

— Constance Cullman, AFIA president and CEO

Domestic Supply Chain

Persistent supply chain bottlenecks on U.S. highways, railroads and ports continue to increase manufacturers’ business costs, delay essential feed and pet food deliveries and call trade with foreign buyers into jeopardy. The AFIA has worked hard to ease shipping concerns, including supporting the Ocean Shipping Reform Act, signed into law in June 2022, which addresses recent maritime disruptions that stymied the movement of U.S. animal food products at American ports and holds ocean carriers and marine terminals accountable for unreasonably high detention and demurrage fees. As part of the Agricultural Transportation Working Group, the association also called on the Biden administration to intervene in rail and West Coast port labor disruptions to broker deals, which benefit the greater good of America and the food and agriculture community.

4 https://www.afia.org/shippingreformbill
State Issues

The AFIA works alongside state feed and grain associations to monitor and speak up on state bills impacting the animal food industry. Of note, the association protected the animal food industry by working to change Maryland SB 158, a bill that originally limited the presence of per- and polyfluoralkyl substances (PFAS) in pesticides (including those used in animal feed) to a bill that required the state to conduct a health and environmental study of PFAS in pesticides and identify appropriate testing methods for them. Also in Maryland, the association successfully lobbied for a state budget line item for funding spay, neuter and other pet wellness services, rather than increasing fees on pet food products as proposed through HB 365. In South Carolina, the association successfully blocked HB 3266, which proposed to increase fees on equine feed and custom blends to fund an equine promotion board not involved in the regulation of these products. With the AAFCO, the association is working to inform state lawmakers and agricultural leaders on the illegal, yet growing use of hemp products in animal food, yet these efforts did not stop bills in Mississippi (H 1071) and Minnesota (HB 100) from moving forward. With the Grain and Feed Association of Illinois, the AFIA has been pushing back on HB 1290, which proposes that pet food labels are “misbranded” if they do not disclose the presence of major food allergens, even though animal food is exempt from the federal Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act of 2004. Looking ahead, the AFIA will continue to fight state initiatives to fund nongermane, social programs that increase fees and push back against state mandates on items such as PFAS and packaging, not regulated at the federal level.

Pet Food Labels

After nearly eight years of effort to modernize pet food labels, AAFCO has accepted the approved changes. The AFIA, with many of its members, has worked alongside state and federal regulators in the step-by-step process of developing new analysis requirements, packaging narrative and visual prompts to increase consumers’ understanding of pet food labels. The changes will provide consumers with easier to understand information on their pet food packaging, detailing the nutritional aspects of the pet food and treats, how to select pet foods and safely store remaining food. The next steps will require AFIA members to comply with state-by-state adoption of the AAFCO-sanctioned changes, industry application of the new label requirements, and retailer and consumer education about the revised labels.

Did You Know?

America’s railways move about one-quarter of all U.S. grain products, including those used in animal food production.5

5 https://www.afia.org/railagreement
Legislative Solution Needed on Label Claims

In 2020, the AFIA alerted the CVM to 25-year-old policy guidance that has prevented animal food manufacturers from clearly identifying on their product labels the non-nutritive benefits (e.g., reduced food safety pathogens or emissions) their animal food ingredients can produce in animals, unless they are reviewed through the agency’s cumbersome drug approval process.

This request spurred action, leading the CVM to hold a listening session and comment period for stakeholders in late 2022. Many organizations joined the AFIA in calling for the agency to regulate these products as feeds, not drugs, given they act primarily in animals’ gut microbiomes and are already safely used on farms in other countries.

By 2023, the CVM began working with Congress to modernize its policy to keep pace with scientific innovation and proposed statutory changes to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act that would establish a new regulatory category – zootechnical animal food substances – to review these novel ingredients. The agency said it needed the legal authority of congressional approval to make this change, so the AFIA took its advocacy efforts to Capitol Hill.

Now, Congress is considering a legislative solution – the Innovative Feed Enhancement and Economic Development (Innovative FEED) Act – to bring about the necessary changes to put U.S. agriculture on par with its international counterparts and move the United States closer to achieving its public health and environmental challenges.

“Since the feed industry doesn’t have a pathway to bring certain feed products to market, innovation that could be happening here is instead happening with our competitors abroad. I thank Senators Baldwin, Moran and Bennet for working with me to develop a bipartisan solution that will bring new products to America’s ranchers.”

— U.S. Senator Roger Marshall, R-Kansas

SAFETY

875+ = facilities certified in one of AFIA’s Safe Feed/Safe Food certification programs

284M tons = amount of food consumed by domestic livestock & pets

Top U.S. Animal Food Consumers

Beef Cattle

Hogs

Broilers

Top Animal Food-Consuming States

Iowa

Minnesota

Texas

North Carolina

California

Dried Distillers’ Grains with solubles account for 75% of the ingredients in compound feed

Corn & Soybean Meal

Based on AFIA data as of June 2022.

Based on 2019 data. afia.org/consumptionreport
Update on Feed & Food Safety

Routine FDA Inspections

Routine animal food safety inspections continued in 2022 after being disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The FDA implemented its comprehensive inspection program, where state and federal inspectors combine multiple inspections in a single visit, improving the efficiency of inspections and reducing facility down time. The AFIA also saw the agency cease pre-announcing facility inspections. In January, the FDA published final guidance for industry on Foreign Supplier Verification Program (FSVP) requirements for human and animal food importers. The AFIA continues to offer training resources to members, including the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA) Preventive Controls for Animal Food training, designed to help industry understand how to comply with regulations.

Viruses in Feed

The United States is working to prevent and prepare for an African swine fever outbreak. The AFIA provides input for consideration to the U.S. Swine Health Improvement Program – a voluntary program for pork producers intended to demonstrate pigs’ health status across farms, supply chains, states and regions to facilitate the trade and movement of pigs during an outbreak. The association also supports industry research at the Institute for Feed Education and Research (IFEEDER) to evaluate methods for disinfecting feed manufacturing facilities in an outbreak, particularly equipment not meant for disinfection. IFEEDER also analyzed risk factors for virus transmission between pig farms, which showed that 94% of disease outbreaks were attributed to local transmission, close farm proximity, pig movement and vehicles used for feed or pig transport, not feed ingredients. The AFIA continues to promote best biosecurity practices and work to prevent a foreign animal disease introduction.

“African swine fever is like the armored tank of all viruses we have to work with.”

— Cassandra Jones, Ph.D., Kansas State University professor 

https://www.afia.org/biosecurityplansinfeedfacilities
Protecting Use of Formaldehyde

A primary active ingredient in effective antimicrobials, formaldehyde, has safely been used in animal food for over 40 years to control pathogens in feed and prevent viruses and bacteria, such as Salmonella and E. coli, from entering the food chain. Recently, the Environmental Protection Agency has been on a path that may effectively ban the manufacture and use of formaldehyde. The AFIA is part of an animal agriculture coalition working to protect formaldehyde’s use and has spoken in public forums – at the National Academy of Sciences’ (NAS) and the EPA’s Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee – to communicate the importance of formaldehyde as a safety tool and call for the scientific literature to be reviewed adequately and transparently. The AFIA is also urging the EPA to engage in meaningful discussions with the FDA and U.S. Department of Agriculture on the topic.

Safe Feed/Safe Food Certification

Beginning in 2004, AFIA’s Safe Feed/Safe Food (SF/SF) certification programs have supported manufacturing excellence by going beyond existing regulations to bolster feed and food safety. With almost 900 facilities certified in at least one of its four programs, these voluntary programs are recognized and valued by companies and customers alike. Certification is seen as an aid in regulatory compliance, differentiation in the marketplace, a way to speed business-to-business transactions and a spotlight on a firm’s dedication to food safety. Over the past year, the SF/SF programs have grown, thank to strong industry commitment, AFIA staff dedication, features in trade publications and the program’s refreshed website at safefeedsafefood.org.

Update on Worker Health & Safety

Safe Workplaces

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published its Final Rule to Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses in April 2023. The rule requires establishments with 100 or more employees in the highest-hazard industries to electronically submit their form 300 logs and their 301 incident report forms annually, in addition to their 300A summary report forms electronically through the Injury Tracking Application. OSHA listed animal food manufacturing as a “highest-hazard industry.” In 2022, the AFIA filed comments on the new rule, registering industry’s concerns that OSHA’s intention to publish the collected data could potentially expose sensitive worker information. OSHA also continued work on the Heat Injury and Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings Rulemaking, with anticipated publication for comment in late 2023 or early 2024. The AFIA will continue to monitor this rulemaking and keep members informed of new requirements.

Did You Know?

Having multiple trained, preventive controls qualified individuals at a facility can help realize the vision and carry out the strategy of a facility’s animal food safety plan.
$7.5B = total value of U.S. animal food exports\(^\text{10}\)
- 9 MMT* = total volume of exports
- **Top 5 Exports (by Value):**
  - Dog & cat food
  - Feed additives, premixes & compound feeds
  - Alfalfa/hay
  - Meat & bone meal, poultry meal & porcine meal
  - Fishmeal

*MMT = million metric tons

**COMPETITIVENESS**

\[\uparrow14\%\]
U.S. animal food\(^\text{11}\) export value year over year (YOY)

\[\uparrow10\%\]
U.S. animal feed additive, premix & compound export value YOY

\[\uparrow20\%\]
U.S. pet food export value YOY

\[\uparrow10\%\]
Total U.S. animal food exports to China YOY

**Top 5 Export Destinations (by Value)**

1. Canada
2. China
3. Japan
4. South Korea
5. Mexico

\(^{10}\) https://www.ofa.org/feedfacts/feed-industry-stats/trade-data/

\(^{11}\) When including products such as feed additives, premixes, distillers dried grains with solubles, soybean meal, alfalfa and hay products, animal meals and pet food.
Meeting Customer Demands

**Animal Disease Trade Impacts & APHIS Export Certificates**

After years of urging the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to modify its export certificate for animal products (Veterinary Services Form 16-4), the AFIA successfully averted a potential trade crisis when APHIS agreed to update its form. Specifically, the unmodified certificate verified products were free of listed animal diseases that are currently not present in the United States. As such, in the event of an animal disease outbreak, all U.S. animal food products would have been barred for export, regardless if they contained ingredients associated with the infected species. Through industry collaboration, the AFIA succeeded in convincing APHIS to make subtle changes to the form that will permit the agency to quickly pursue necessary certificate changes in the event of an outbreak, circumventing the Office of Management and Budget's time-consuming and arduous approval process. With the immediate crisis averted, now, the AFIA is working with APHIS to review all country-by-country, product-by-product export certificates to remove diseases not relevant to those products.

"As the world gets more chaotic, trading partners gravitate toward U.S. products. … Trading partners want reliability, they want a reliable source."

— Daniel Whitley, USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service administrator

**U.S. Agricultural Trade Policy**

The United States is a global leader in high-quality, agricultural products, yet its leadership falters as competitors lock in free trade agreements (FTAs) in key markets while it sits on the sidelines. The AFIA has urged the Biden administration to engage in bilateral and multilateral discussions that include agricultural trade and welcomed the confirmation of critical administration officials to advocate on the industry’s behalf. The association continues to seek renewal of the now-lapsed Trade Promotion Authority to give the U.S. Trade Representative stronger FTA negotiating authority. FTAs serve as a vehicle for the United States to reduce tariffs and enforce trade measures critical to lowering farmers’ feed prices and diversifying U.S. suppliers amid ongoing geopolitical tensions. Absent traditional FTAs, the AFIA is pursuing opportunities for agriculture to be included in nontraditional frameworks and dialogues, such as the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.

12 https://www.afia.org/untappedmarkets
Mexico GM-Free Corn Dispute
In 2020, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador pledged to prohibit genetically modified (GM) corn imports by 2024, a clear violation of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), in which Mexico agreed to science-based decision making on agricultural issues. The AFIA is concerned that this presidential proclamation sends a negative message to the United States’ trading partners that science-based standards are subjective, and the association has encouraged the Biden administration to hold Mexico accountable to its USMCA obligations or face serious consequences. While industry and U.S. government pressure has resulted in Mexico temporarily delaying its GM import ban on yellow corn, its overall lack of adherence to science-based policies poses a greater long-term threat for U.S. animal food exports. The AFIA continues to support the USTR’s dispute settlement actions against the country’s agriculture biotech measures.

International Standard Setting at Codex
The AFIA is actively involved with the U.S. and International Feed Industry Federation delegations to the Codex Alimentarius to preserve the science-based standards and processes on which the U.S. animal food industry depends. In February 2023, the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food (CCRVDF) met to discuss the criteria for establishing action levels for the unintended and unavoidable carryover of veterinary drugs from feed to food of animal origin. The AFIA supports the CCRVDF’s work on this subject but joined the committee in agreeing that the document was not ready to move forward and needed more time to collect stakeholder comments and achieve consensus among Codex members. The AFIA will continue participating in this work to ensure it does not hinder trade and remains focused on Codex’s primary role – that of promoting human food safety.

AFIA’s Global Strategy in Key Countries
AFIA’s global policy team works to demonstrate how innovative U.S. animal food ingredients and additives, coupled with on-farm best practices, are the foundation for good animal nutrition, leading to maximum animal production and reduced feed costs for farmers and better pet health for pet owners. Below is a snapshot of the team’s strategic efforts to support the U.S. animal food sector’s resiliency abroad.

China
Since 2020, U.S. feed additive, premix and compound feed exports to China have increased $91.5 million, making it the United States’ second largest animal food export destination. This is, in large part, attributed to the AFIA’s efforts in establishing, and later improving, the facility registration process that allows new products to enter the Chinese market. Since January 2023, when the U.S. Agricultural Marketing Service took over the process, 21 new facilities and 42 new products have been listed. The AFIA continues to monitor the submission process to ensure new facilities and products can complete the necessary requirements.

Vietnam
After much urging from the AFIA, APHIS released new international regulations for exporting dry pet food to Vietnam, providing U.S. exporters comprehensive guidelines to ensure their products meet foreign standards. With its growing middle class and savvy pet owners, Vietnam is a key market for AFIA members manufacturing complete and balanced pet food. In the past five years, Vietnam’s total pet food imports grew 69%. The AFIA is working to capture this growing market for members by building trust with Vietnamese consumers and differentiating high quality U.S. products from local and other imported brands.

Brazil
Leveraging USDA Emerging Market Program (EMP) funds, the AFIA conducted a market assessment of Brazil’s animal feed industry. The assessment showed that Brazilian manufacturers are interested in high quality and well-priced feed ingredients and diversifying their suppliers away from China. In-country regulatory constraints, including confusing and inconsistent product registration, however, are limiting the U.S. animal feed industry’s entry into this promising marketplace. The AFIA has applied for additional EMP funds and if awarded, will focus in the next year on creating business-to-business opportunities for members and tackling regulatory barriers.

Did You Know?
Since 1977, an average of $9.6 billion annually has been added to the value of U.S. agricultural exports, equal to nearly $6.5 billion, or 13.7%, in additional export revenue.13

13 https://www.afia.org/chinablog
Over 40% of ingredients used in feed are coproducts from other industries,"14 which means roughly 113.6M tons of materials are diverted from landfills annually, avoiding approximately 61.3M metric tons of carbon dioxide & 7.4M metric tons of methane emissions,15 all while helping to produce billions of servings of protein annually!16

Today’s hens are living longer and producing 27% more eggs per day, thanks in part to better nutrition. Although they produce more eggs, they are using 50% less feed than it took to produce a dozen eggs in 1960.17

In 1959, it took 8 pigs to produce 1,000 pounds of pork, but today, it only takes 5 thanks to feed management practices and better nutrition.17

---

14 Based on 2019 data. afia.org/consumptionreport
15 Based on rough AFIA member estimations.
17 https://bit.ly/3DJCz7s
Update on Animal Nutrition’s Role in Sustainability

**Feed Management Standard**

Feed management has been the least used practice within the USDA National Resources Conservation Service’s (NRCS) conservation programs. Now, the NRCS is prioritizing climate mitigation along with its traditional conservation goals, including targeting practices and programs aimed at providing quantifiable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. While the AFIA is making progress to modernize the regulatory process for novel, emissions-reducing ingredients, it is now turning attention toward getting these ingredients into the hands of farmers and ranchers. In 2022, the AFIA submitted comments to the NRCS asking the agency to support the use of the feed management standard within the cost share-based Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Going forward, the AFIA will collaborate with the NRCS to better utilize the feed management standard to raise awareness and utilization of novel feed ingredients and ration innovation with farmers and advocate for sufficient NRCS staffing to fully implement the program.

**Industry Sustainability Toolkit**

In early 2023, IFEEDER unveiled tools for AFIA members to launch or amplify their sustainability journeys. The AFIA partnered with IFEEDER to develop the Animal Food Industry Sustainability Toolkit, which provides members with resources for developing and advancing their internal sustainability programs, responding to stakeholders’ requests and communicating their sustainability stories. The AFIA will continue to partner with IFEEDER, along with its growing list of partners, as it launches phase two of the project to define data needs to support feed industry customers, quantify and communicate environmental benefits of ration innovation and support life cycle assessment (LCA) development and use.
Global Feed LCA Institute
The AFIA continues collaborating in an international consortium, the Global Feed LCA Institute (GFLI), to establish a globally accepted framework for calculating the LCA for animal feed. Animal feed accounts for a large portion of animal agriculture’s environmental impact, as most global references estimate 42% to 78% depending on the species. As part of GFLI, the AFIA continues to educate members and industry stakeholders on current LCA tools, based on the latest scientific approaches in environmental footprinting and other technologies. These efforts will enable and accelerate the contributions of feed to reducing the overall environmental impact associated with the production of animal-sourced foods.

COP27
Formal negotiations within the United Nations (U.N.) on climate change take place at the Conference of the Parties (COP). In 2022, the AFIA attended COP27 in Egypt to represent the U.S. animal food industry, ensuring policymakers made accurate statements and supported innovation and flexibility and to support industry customers from the meat, dairy and aquaculture industries. Animal feed continues to be touted as a solution to animal agriculture’s impact on climate, given the ability for novel products to reduce emissions and the carbon footprint of animal production. The AFIA also informed government and stakeholders on how feed and feed ingredients can provide sustainable solutions to global environmental and food security concerns. Looking forward, the AFIA is requesting official U.N. observer organization status for COP28, which will take place in late 2023.

“Leaders in the feed industry have been implementing innovative and environmentally responsible practices for a while, but they just have not been getting attention for it. Now, we have the opportunity to elevate feed’s potential positive impact and show it can make a big difference”

— Ellen Dierenfield, World Wildlife Fund’s lead specialist in sustainable feed innovations
Did You Know?

Coproducts and byproducts from human foods that would otherwise go to waste become nutritious feed for many animals.
Every year, the AFIA has the honor of thanking those who have greatly impacted our industry in a positive way. Below are awards given during AFIA’s 2022-23 fiscal year. Visit afia.org/awards for a complete collection of awards.

**Member of the Year 2022**
Eric Altom, Ph.D.
Balchem Corporation

**Distinguished Service Award 2022**
Al Gunderson
Formerly with Vita Plus Corporation

**AFIA/Kansas State University Feed Manufacturing Lifetime Achievement Award 2022**
Keith Epperson
Formerly with Kent Feeds and AFIA

**Friend of Pet Food Award 2022**
Steve Thomas
Formerly with Darling Ingredients
Feed Facility of the Year
In coordination with Feedstuffs, the AFIA conducted its Feed Facility of the Year program for 2022. The program recognizes excellence in the industry’s manufacturing sector and includes individual awards (e.g., highest scores for worker safety, quality and food safety, production efficiency, and sustainability) as well as the top facility for each category.

The AFIA congratulates the following 2022 award recipients:

Liquid Feed Facility of the Year
Quality Liquid Feeds | Comstock Park, MI
Plant Manager: David Schnicke

Commercial Dry Feed Facility of the Year
Kent Nutrition Group | Marshall, MO
Plant Manager: Chris Igo

Premix/Ingredient Feed Facility of the Year
Animix | Juneau, WI
Director of Operations: Randall Boldt

Integrator Feed Facility of the Year
Mountaire Farms | Maxton, NC
Plant Manager: Hector Pacheco

*Offered with support from the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association

2022 Nutrition Awards

- AFIA/American Dairy Science Association’s Nutrition Research Award
  Lance Baumgard, Ph.D., Iowa State University

- AFIA/Equine Science Society’s Nutrition Research Award
  Burt Stanier, Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University

- AFIA/American Society of Animal Science’s Award in Ruminant Nutrition Research
  Todd Callaway, Ph.D., University of Georgia

- AFIA/Poultry Science Association’s Poultry Nutrition Award
  Martin Zuidhof, Ph.D., University of Alberta

- FASS-AFIA
  Frank Dushea, Ph.D., University of Leeds
EDUCATION

BY THE NUMBERS

Liquid Feed Symposium
September 2022 | New Orleans, LA
166 attendees
25 sponsors

Equipment Manufacturers Conference
November 2022 | St. Petersburg, FL
57 attendees
31 sponsors
RAISED $31,000 for the EMC Scholarship Fund

International Production & Processing Expo
January 2023 | Atlanta, GA
27,000+ attendees
125 countries

Feed Education Program
January 2023 | Atlanta, GA
72 attendees

Animal Agriculture Sustainability Summit
January 2023 | Atlanta, GA
100+ attendees

Pet Food Conference
January 2023 | Atlanta, GA
413 registered attendees
12 sponsors

Biosecurity: Preparedness Must Be Perpetual
January 2023 | Atlanta, GA
153 registered attendees

Facility Inspection Package Training by USDA-APHIS
January 2023 | Atlanta, GA
80 attendees
Partnered with North American Renderers Association & Pet Food Institute

Purchasing & Ingredient Suppliers Conference
March 2023 | Orlando, FL
535 attendees
23 sponsors

AFIA/KSU 500 Fundamentals of Feed Manufacturing
Online 2022–23
264 attendees

AFIA/KSU 500
On-Demand Modules
82 modules viewed in 2022

Upcoming Events

EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS CONFERENCE
Nov. 8-10, 2023 | Tucson, AZ

INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTION & PROCESSING EXPO
Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2024 | Atlanta, GA

PET FOOD CONFERENCE
Jan. 30, 2024 | Atlanta, GA

FEED EDUCATION PROGRAM
Jan. 31, 2024 | Atlanta, GA

FEED YOUR ESG: HOW FEED WILL HELP HIT SUSTAINABILITY TARGETS
Jan. 31, 2024 | Atlanta, GA

USDA-APHIS: A DIALOGUE & DIGEST
Jan. 31, 2024 | Atlanta, GA

PURCHASING & INGREDIENT SUPPLIERS CONFERENCE
March 12-14, 2024 | San Antonio, TX

LIQUID FEED SYMPOSIUM
Sept. 10-12, 2024 | Salt Lake City, UT
Defending Feed Industry on Social Media

In early 2023, social media and news outlets began posting stories from backyard chicken farmers that falsely claimed commercial chicken feed manufacturers were manipulating the marketplace, leading to decreased availability and increased prices of eggs. Given the negative accusations against the feed industry, the AFIA quickly alerted allied animal agriculture organizations and worked with the AFIA Nutrition and Marketing and Communications Committees to prepare a public response grounded in scientific information from industry experts. Some of the media outlets the AFIA interviewed with work with Facebook and TikTok to debunk online misinformation, and many of the videos were later blocked or labeled with a disclaimer, “False information, checked by independent fact-checkers.” The AFIA continues to work with its members to monitor misinformation on animal food in the media and social media and respond as necessary to ensure the industry’s voice is heard.

Giving Back

Volunteering at the local food bank has become a special tradition among the AFIA staff with 2022 marking the association’s third year of volunteering at the Arlington Food Assistance Center. The AFIA thanks its members who regularly support their communities with donations to local food banks and animal shelters.

AFIA Feed Bites: Blogs You Loved the Most

- No, There Isn’t a Conspiracy Theory Around Chicken Feed and Reduced Egg Production
- Vietnam: A Country on the Rise
- FDA Told Its Regulation of Animal Food Ingredient Claims Must Follow the Science on Animal Nutrition
- A Reflective Conversation With Brian Rittgers