

AFIA Urges Congress to Pass the Innovative FEED Act (S. 1842)

On June 8, Senators Roger Marshall (R-Kansas), Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), Jerry Moran (R-Kansas) and Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) [introduced](#) the [Innovative Feed Enhancement and Economic Development \(Innovative FEED\) Act of 2023 \(S. 1842\)](#). The American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) supports this bill, which would amend the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to establish a new category of animal food additives – zootechnical animal food substances – that do not impact animal nutrition, but rather, act in the animal’s gut to provide health benefits, reduce emissions or address human food safety concerns.



AFIA POSITION

For years, the AFIA has been calling on the Food and Drug Administration to update its outdated [1998 Policy and Procedures Manual Guide 1240.3605](#), which has prevented animal food manufacturers from clearly identifying the ways their products may bring about non-nutritive benefits (e.g., reduced greenhouse gas emissions or food safety pathogens like *salmonella*) on the labels, unless they go through the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine’s (CVM) cumbersome drug approval process. **The Innovative FEED Act will bring about the necessary changes to ensure these additives are regulated as food additives, not drugs, and can more quickly come to market for U.S. farmers and ranchers to use.**

KEY POINTS

The AFIA urges Congress to support and take action to move this important legislation yet this fall.

- **Without congressional approval, the FDA lacks the legal authority to regulate these products as feed ingredients.** The CVM would continue to regulate these products as animal drugs, which will further limit innovation and the animal food industry’s ability to provide solutions to public health and environmental challenges.
- **Requiring these products to utilize the food additive petition process ensures they are reviewed to be safe for the animal, the resulting meat, milk or eggs are safe for humans and that the product is effective for that use.**
- **Updating FDA’s policy brings animal food regulation into the 21st century.** Animal food science has progressed in the past 25 years, with many studies proving these innovative feed ingredients act entirely on animals’ gut microbiomes or in the feed being digested to bring about positive changes.
- **U.S. farmers and ranchers need access to these technologies to compete globally.** Dozens of countries have moved ahead and are safely using these feed ingredients on farms, yielding measurable results in terms of improved animal production and well-being, diminished pre-harvest food safety concerns and reduced environmental impact of livestock production. U.S. agriculture is falling behind.
- **Many in Congress and within the administration have voiced support for these ingredients as a means of working toward the United States’ food safety, methane reduction and climate goals.**