Innovative FEED Act Will Modernize FDA Ingredient Review Process (S.1842/H.R.6687)

The American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) supports the Innovative Feed Enhancement and Economic Development (Innovative FEED) Act (S.1842 / H.R. 6687). This bill would modernize the Food and Drug Administration's review process for feed ingredients by amending the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to establish a new category of animal food additives that do not contribute to 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For years, the AFIA has been calling on the FDA to update its outdated 1998 Policy and Procedures Manual Guide 1240.3605, which has prevented animal food manufacturers from clearly identifying on the labels the ways their products may bring about non-nutritive benefits (e.g., reduced greenhouse gas emissions or reduced incidences of food safety pathogens), unless they go through the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine’s (CVM) cumbersome drug approval process. While the CVM has indicated it will rescind the policy memo, the agency still needs this legislation. The Innovative FEED Act will bring about the necessary changes to ensure these novel feed ingredients are more appropriately reviewed as food additives, not drugs, and can more quickly become available to U.S. farmers and ranchers.

KEY POINTS

The AFIA urges members of Congress to cosponsor S. 1842 and H.R. 6687 and support legislative action to move this important legislation forward.

- **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, further limiting innovation that could provide solutions to meet U.S. food safety, public health and environmental challenges.

- **Requiring these ingredients to utilize the FDA's Food Additive Petition process ensures they are reviewed appropriately,** promoting safety to the animal and the people who eat the resulting meat, milk products, eggs or fish.

- **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 are safely using these feed ingredients on farms, yielding measurable results in 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.**

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