

Securing the U.S. Vitamin Supply Chain Is Critical

Vitamins are essential ingredients in human and animal health, providing key nutrition in ensuring optimal health, growth and, in the case of animals, productivity. U.S. animal food manufacturers rely heavily on a consistent supply of vitamins to produce their products, ensuring the nutritional integrity and effectiveness of their offerings. Lack of specific vitamins in animal diets can lead to deficiencies that can impair these physiological functions and reduce farm profitability. Just like humans, animals cannot synthesize the necessary vitamins, so they must obtain them from feed.

The United States is dependent on China for its vitamin needs for both humans and animals, a concern underscored by the lack of feasible alternative sources. In many instances, even if alternative suppliers exist, they simply cannot match China's vast production capabilities or scale. This reliance becomes palpable when considering that a staggering 94% of vitamin B6 and over 91% of vitamin C is imported from China. Over 78% of all U.S. vitamin imports come from China. Equally concerning is the lack of alternative suppliers. In 2022, China produced 73% and 62% of the world's total feed grade vitamin A and E respectively, and a staggering 94% of the total feed grade vitamin B2. There simply is not enough global production capacity outside of China to meet the demand of the U.S. should there be a disruption in the supply of vitamins from China. This heavy dependence not only raises questions about supply chain vulnerabilities but also emphasizes the critical role that China plays in the nutritional landscape of American animal feed and food security.

AFIA POSITION

The American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) supports efforts to further secure and diversify the country's vitamin supply chain to reduce economic vulnerabilities and strategic risks. To ensure the resilience of both the U.S. animal food and farm sectors, it's imperative that the **U.S. adopts a multi-faceted approach, balancing economic interests with broader strategic considerations, to diversify and secure our vitamin supply chain**. Securing our vitamin supply chain is not merely an agricultural or economic concern, it's a matter of national security interests. As we strive to guarantee food security for our nation, it's essential that we proactively address any vulnerabilities in our animal production sector and fortify our strategic approach.

KEY POINTS

- **China's dominant position in the vitamin market puts the U.S. at a potential economic and strategic disadvantage**, where supply disruptions could have cascading effects on our agriculture and food sectors.
- Opportunities:
 - Investing in domestic vitamin production facilities and research can reduce foreign dependence, bolster the U.S. economy and create jobs.
 - Encouraging public-private partnerships can be pivotal in scaling up domestic production capabilities.
 - Exploring opportunities with other vitamin-producing nations to increase their domestic production capabilities can lead to diversified supply sources and reduce reliance on a single supplier.
 - Establishing an interagency task force to assess the vitamin supply chain and formulate long-term strategies.

VIEW ISSUE



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