



EPA's Review of Formaldehyde Puts Food Safety at Risk

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently conducting three risk assessments on the safety of formaldehyde, which could greatly impact the animal feed industry's ability to use this ingredient. Formaldehyde is one of the most well-studied chemicals in use today and has been used safely in the animal food industry for over 40 years to effectively control food safety pathogens in feed. As an approved food additive, formaldehyde is applied to swine and poultry feeds via accurate, automated equipment for *salmonella* control with minimal risk to employees. Emerging research also shows that it may be effective to mitigate the African swine fever (ASF) virus in feed should that foreign animal disease enter the United States.

AFIA POSITION

At every opportunity, the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) has engaged in the process to ensure the EPA is considering all agricultural uses of formaldehyde, including in feed, to not lose access to this important food safety tool. Unfortunately, these calls for a complete public health review have yet to give the agency pause. We support the **Sound Science for Farmers Act (S. 3719)**, which would require the EPA to consult and consider the impact of its review on the agriculture industry. Congress should direct the EPA to consult directly with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration on its review before restricting its use.

KEY POINTS

The AFIA supports the following actions:

- **Sponsor the Senate bill Sound Science for Farmers Act (S. 3719)** to promote accountability, stakeholder outreach and scientific quality for EPA assessments, risk evaluations and regulatory actions for important chemistries used in the agricultural, food safety and manufacturing sectors. We are also seeking a sponsor to introduce companion legislation in the House.
- **Include language in the farm bill that directs the EPA to consult with the USDA and FDA on its formaldehyde review.** Without the ability to continue safely using formaldehyde in agriculture applications, the animal feed industry will be limited in its ability to help the country fight animal diseases, such as ASF, and reduce pathogens in our food supply.