

Securing the U.S. Vitamin and Amino Acid Supply Chain Is Critical

Vitamins and amino acids are crucial for the health and growth of both humans and animals, ensuring productivity and profitability in the agricultural sector. The United States heavily relies on imports for these essential nutrients, particularly from China. At an estimated 78% of total vitamin imports, the United States is dependent on China for its vitamin needs, a concern underscored by the lack of feasible alternative sources. Where alternative suppliers exist, they simply cannot match China's vast production capabilities or scale. China holds a commanding position in global vitamin production, exclusively manufacturing key vitamins such as B1, B3, B7, B8, B11, B12, D3 and K. This dependency poses significant risks, as demonstrated by the recent trends in the amino acids market, which follow a similar pattern to what has been observed with vitamins. Dependency on Chinese amino acid production now dominates over 85% of the global capacity for certain amino acids such as threonine.

There simply is not enough global production capacity outside of China to meet U.S. demand should there be a disruption in the supply of vitamins and amino acids 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 agriculture and food security.

AFIA POSITION

The American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) supports efforts to further secure and diversify the country's vitamin and amino acid supply chain to head off risks before they cause catastrophic animal welfare, food security or economic repercussions. 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 and amino acid supply chains.** Securing these supply chains is not merely an agricultural or economic concern, it's a matter of national security. 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 animal well-being, our food supply and the farm economy.
- **Congress should support the Securing American Agriculture Act (H.R. 8003)**, which would require the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study global supply chain markets for U.S. agricultural inputs, including feed ingredients like vitamins and amino acids, to provide decision-makers a better understanding of how intrinsically linked the food and feed supply is with China.
- **Congress and the Biden administration should leverage opportunities to:**
 - Invest in domestic vitamin and amino acid production facilities and research, which will reduce foreign dependence, bolster the U.S. economy and create jobs.
 - Encourage public-private partnerships to quickly scale up domestic production.
 - Explore opportunities with other producing nations to increase their domestic production, which can lead to diversified supply sources.
 - Establish an interagency task force to assess the vitamin and amino acid supply chains and formulate long-term strategies.