Insights From the Road

By: Lara Moody, IFEEDER executive director

With in-person meetings in full swing and sustainability maintaining prominence as a ‘hot topic’ in the food supply chain, opportunities to listen, learn and speak abound. From the annual meeting of the U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef to the Distillers Grains Technology Council Symposium, I’ve been hitting the road and the virtual scene to listen to stakeholders and share insights gained from the path the Institute for Feed Education and Research (IFEEDER) is charting for feed system sustainability efforts.

Engaging with industry members as well as our peers across the animal food value chain is important as IFEEDER begins to develop tools and resources to support industry sustainability efforts. While directly benefiting the animal feed and pet food industry, IFEEDER can also serve the important purpose of being a trusted resource among stakeholders up and down the food supply chain who are making decisions that will impact the future of food production. Increasing our presence and engagement with them will ensure we have a good pulse on what customers want, which informs our future research and education initiatives.

Insights from the road (and the Sustainability Road Map) include:
The animal feed and pet food value chain is complex and feed exists in between many sustainability influencers.

Feed significantly impacts sustainability targets being set by livestock and poultry organizations and animal protein consumer product companies.

Our downstream stakeholders welcome and desire animal food industry engagement and support to help address the complexities of sustainability accounting.

The pursuit of **Scope 3** emissions by downstream stakeholders (both voluntary and potentially regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission) will require data from the animal food industry, much of which we’ll need to work with commodity production stakeholders to obtain.

Many animal food industry members desire resources to help launch and advance their sustainability journeys.

Identifying and prioritizing a collective set of material issues for the animal food industry relative to those of our downstream stakeholders is needed. Governance and societal related indicators are likely as important as environmental ones.
IFEEDER and WWF Collaborate for Fall Feed Systems Sustainability Summit

On Sept. 28-29, IFEEDER and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) are bringing together the full feed value chain, including upstream and downstream entities to discuss four critical components of sustainable feed systems: circularity, innovation, regenerative agriculture and responsible sourcing. Hosted by Chr. Hansen’s facility in Milwaukee, Wisc., the summit will convene 30-40 diverse stakeholders to catalyze action around a shared vision for sustainable feed systems. We are not creating a new multi-stakeholder roundtable or attempting to define sustainability for the feed sector, but we are enabling a pre-competitive environment of feed sustainability to support animal supply chain needs.

Through case studies curated to inform the discussion and virtual sessions held in advance of the summit, we'll engage feed manufacturers, ingredient producers, protein companies, researchers, nongovernmental organizations and others along the feed value chain to help inform a sustainable feed system vision. Summer virtual sessions and some virtual portions of the live summit will be free and open to all stakeholders.

**We are looking for sponsors!** By sponsoring the summit, including the virtual events leading up to it, your organization will gain exposure and direct access to animal feed supply chain actors looking to move the needle on sustainability in feed systems. And, it will ensure you have a seat in the room as this is an invite-only event.

Case study submission information and additional details will be available soon. For more information or to claim a sponsorship opportunity, please contact IFEEDER’s Executive Director [Lara Moody](mailto:laurencem@ifeder.org) or World Wildlife Fund’s Senior Program Officer for Sustainable Livestock Systems [Sam Wildman](mailto:swildman@wwf.org).

IFEEDER Seeks Funds to Support Updated Nutrition Requirements for Swine
This year, the National Academy of Sciences is coordinating the development of the 12th edition of Nutrient Requirements for Swine. Given its importance to the feed industry, IFEEDER is supporting the update in collaboration with the National Pork Board, United Soybean Board and National Corn Growers Association. Swine nutritionists use the report to make critical feed program decisions and it serves as the formulation basis for U.S. commercial and research swine diets.

The revisions will incorporate:

- Expanded knowledge of next generation coproducts from the corn distilling industry and amino acid roles and functions in swine diets;
- Integration of improved modeling capacity toward the ability to assess the effect of simultaneously changing multiple inputs, including considerations for environmental impact (e.g., carbon footprint) to impact producer sustainability scores; and
- Utilization of a net energy model to replace the metabolizable energy model to more precisely meet the energy needs of the animal.

If your organization is interested in contributing to this effort, please contact Lara Moody.

IFEEDER Announces New Board Members and Thanks Outgoing Ones
As part of its recent business meeting, the IFEEDER Board of Trustees recognized Scott Druker, Ph.D., of Arm & Hammer Animal Food and Production, for his leadership as Board chair for the 2021-22 IFEEDER fiscal year, which ended April 30, and installed Mike Schuster, of Laidig Systems, Inc., as the new chair for the 2022-23 fiscal year. John Metzger, of Elanco Animal Health, will serve a second term as vice chair for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

With the installation of four new trustees (noted with asterisks*), the IFEEDER Board of Trustees now includes: Gisele Santos-Bin* of BASF Corporation; Partha Bora of Wilbur-Ellis; Leah Dorman, D.V.M., of Phibro Animal Health Corporation; Kevin Halpin, Ph.D., of International Ingredient Corporation; Steve Lerner, Ph.D., of Chr. Hansen Animal Health and Nutrition; Scott Lovin* of Agstate; Joe Lucas of CJ Bio America, Inc.; Ashley McDonald of the National Pork Board; John Metzger of Elanco Animal Health; Paul Philips* of Maxi-Lift Inc./Southwest Agri-Plastics, Inc.; and Mike Schuster* of Laidig Systems, Inc.

IFEEDER would like to recognize and thank the following outgoing trustees for their service: Tim Belstra of Belstra Milling Company; Druker; and Mark Lueking of Cargill Animal Nutrition.

Need a speaker at an upcoming meeting to discuss feed industry sustainability? Contact Lara Moody.

Donate Now!

For every $1 IFEEDER invests in research and education projects, $5 is leveraged from other sources. All donations go directly toward projects, as IFEEDER’s administrative costs are borne by American Feed Industry Association, so your donations go even further. Help us maximize our reach by donating today! Click the link below to make a gift. For questions, contact Lara Moody, IFEEDER executive director.

MAKE A DONATION

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. If you would like to photocopy, otherwise reproduce, or publish any of the foregoing material, please contact AFIA’s Sarah Novak or Victoria Broehm at (703) 524-0810 for permission.