WANTED: Enteric Emissions-Reducing Ingredients & Additives for On-Farm Trials

By: Lara Moody, IFEEDER executive director

Innovative feed management strategies, including feed additives and ingredients, have the potential to reduce the enteric methane emissions of U.S. dairy herds. As part of a project led by The Nature Conservancy and in collaboration with Dairy Management, Inc. (DMI), IFEEDER is looking for enteric emission-reducing ingredients and additives to be considered for upcoming on-farm trials.

The research will inform two programs within the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Results will help the NRCS evaluate the economic and social aspects of enteric emissions-reducing ingredient and additive use. Supporting literature will inform the efficacy of a product’s ability to reduce enteric emissions, and the on-farm trials will focus on documenting and assessing the impact of the ingredients or additives on milk production.
If your organization is interested in having its product considered for use in the on-farm trials, please review DMI’s “Feed Additive Evaluation Guidance for Enteric Methane Mitigation” and complete the supporting “Evaluation Tool for Enteric Methane Mitigation.” Submit the completed evaluation tool to me via email by Tuesday, Aug. 1, for consideration.

Information submitted using the evaluation tool will be utilized by dairy nutritionists working with each of the on-farm trial participants to determine what product could work best for them.

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**Gathering Input for the Swine NRC Update**

As the primary reference for formulating swine diets, the 12th edition of Nutrient Requirements for Swine is being developed. As a sponsor of the National Academies’ effort, IFEEDER and other sponsors will join the expert panel for a virtual session. In preparation for that discussion, IFEEDER contributors supporting the update are meeting Monday, July 24, to discuss desired outcomes and available resources to be conveyed for consideration.

It’s not too late to make a contribution! We’re halfway to our fundraising goal on this effort, with generous support from Berg + Schmidt, DPI and Novus International.

If the Nutrient Requirements for Swine are an important resource for your organization’s product portfolio, isn’t it worth an investment to support it? Simply [click here to donate](mailto:donate) and specify “Swine NRC Update” for the project, or send me an email.

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**Innovation and Feed: How Animal Ag Can Reduce Its Environmental Footprint**

During the June 2023 [Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable](https://www.fieldtomarket.org)
Agriculture Plenary and General Assembly Meeting, I moderated a panel exploring the path to sustainable feed, where three industry stakeholders representing different areas of the value chain spoke about innovation in feed. As the agrifood sector seeks opportunities to use feed to reduce the environmental footprint of animal production, the discussion focused on the importance of innovation in its many forms — linking solutions from feedstuff production to the rations consumed by the animals.

What I’m Reading: Environmental Impact of Lab-Grown Meat Potentially Worse Than Beef

Interest in animal-cell based meat (ACBM), or “lab-grown,” as the environmentally conscious replacement for livestock production may not provide the answer some initially believed. Last month, researchers at the University of California, Davis released a study indicating that the environmental impact of near-term ACBM production is likely to be orders of magnitude higher than average beef production.
The authors note that their assessment of the environmental impact of emerging technologies is a relatively new concept, but it is highly important when changes to societal-level production systems are being proposed, and that evaluation of these potentially disruptive technologies from a systems-level perspective is essential for those seeking to transform our food system.

Their findings showed that existing life cycle assessments of ACBM are insufficient for assessing the environmental impact of this emerging food technology. At issue with preexisting studies is that the previous models did not accurately reflect current practices utilized to produce these products. The U.C. Davis assessment is grounded in the most detailed process systems available, representing current state-of-the-art methods in this emerging food technology sector. Their model generally contradicted previous studies by suggesting that the environmental impact of cultured meat is likely to be higher than conventional beef systems, as opposed to more environmentally friendly.

READ THE REPORT

Animal Food Industry Sustainability Toolkit

No matter where your company is at on its sustainability journey, we have tools for you.

Visit ifeeder.org to learn more!

DOWNLOAD TOOLKIT
Where You’ll Find IFEEDER Next

Looking for someone to speak to your team about IFEEDER’s work around industry sustainability, research or education? Contact Lara Moody.

Find IFEEDER at these upcoming events:

- Sept. 20-21: Minnesota Nutrition Conference - Mankato, Minn.
- Oct. 18: Iowa State University Colloquium Course on Sustainable Agricultural – Ames, Iowa
- Oct. 31 - Nov. 2: Pet Food Association Canada Conference - Banff, Alberta, Canada
- Nov. 7-9: Distillers Grains and Product Diversification Summit at the World Ethanol and Biofuels Conference - Brussels, Belgium
- Dec. 6-7: Sustainable Agriculture Summit – Charlotte, N.C.

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.

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