



IFEEDER: Celebrating a Busy 10 Years of Research, Education Projects

Looking back at the Institute for Feed Education and Research's last decade, here are 10 "Top Projects" that have made an impact:

- **Benchmarking Global Animal Food Industry's Environmental Impact:** The Global Feed LCA Institute (GFLI) initiative is creating regional databases with data on the environmental impact of feeding livestock and poultry based on the scientifically robust life-cycle analysis methodology for feed, developed under the [Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance \(LEAP\)](#) partnership. LEAP developed the global gold-standard model to accurately measure the impact feed and feed ingredients have on the environment. Combined, these projects will help the U.S. feed industry more accurately measure and explain the industry's environmental impact to both decisionmakers and consumer influencers.
- **Supporting FSMA Compliance through Development of a Literature Search Tool for Hazard Analysis:** IFEEDER co-funded a research project, conducted by the University of Minnesota, to create a one-of-a-kind generic hazard analysis resource for facilities to use as guidance in creating their animal food safety plans as required under the Food Safety Modernization Act. This literature search tool has helped American Feed Industry Association member companies save thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours of employees' time in developing their animal food safety plans.
- **Assessing How Lengthy Regulatory Reviews Hinder Progress on New Ingredients:** IFEEDER funded an independent, in-depth survey on the impact the Food and Drug Administration's ingredient approval process has on animal food ingredient manufacturers, showing how the lack of a cohesive, functioning process for the approval of new technologies affects industry. Results showed an average investment of \$600,000 per product goes toward product approval costs and the average loss in revenue for the submitting company is \$1.75 million annually due to FDA's approval process delays.
- **Preparing the Industry for Another PEDv Outbreak:** IFEEDER partnered with the National Pork Board and other groups to fund research that looks at the virology, pathology and modes of transmission of the porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv). Since the virus had never been found in the U.S. previous to 2013, very little was known about it. Over the past three years, the research project has identified knowledge gaps and opportunities for action so that the industry can be better prepared in the event of another animal disease outbreak.



- **Assessing Amount of Animal Food Consumed Annually:** In 2017, IFEEDER commissioned a [study](#) that quantified the total amount of food consumed by the top nine livestock, poultry and aquaculture species throughout the various stages of their lives. The study found that in 2016, approximately 236.3 million tons of animal food were fed to the nine species in the study.
- **Measuring Animal Food Industry's Economic Impact:** In 2017, IFEEDER completed a [study](#) that found that in 2016, the U.S. animal food manufacturing industry contributed to the U.S. economy: \$297.1 billion in sales, including roughly \$102 billion in value-added contributions; over \$22.5 billion in local, state and national taxes; and over 944,000 jobs.
- **Promoting Careers through EMC Scholars Program:** IFEEDER and AFIA's Equipment Manufacturers Committee have worked together to encourage students to consider careers in the feed and grain sciences via the EMC Scholarship Fund. Four scholarships have been awarded to students annually at [Kansas State University](#), [North Carolina State University](#), [North Dakota State University](#) and [California Polytechnic State University](#).
- **Supporting Liquid Feed Industry Through Kenny Berg Research and Education Fund:** IFEEDER and AFIA's Liquid Feed Committee work together to foster the positive image of liquid feed as a vehicle for nutrient supplementation via the Kenny Berg Research and Education Fund. The Kenny Berg Research and Education Fund has provided more than 15 grants to universities to support research that will benefit the liquid feed industry. The focus of the research is to expand on and improve the use of liquid feed supplements to the beef and dairy industries as well as to non-ruminants.
- **Understanding Consumer Choice:** IFEEDER and other industry partners underwrote a study to explore the impacts that removing antibiotics from animal production would have on animal health and welfare, food safety, consumer demand and the cost of food production. In addition, IFEEDER also supported another consumer preference-focused study to research consumers' beliefs and knowledge on two poultry production practices and gauge their willingness to pay more for these products at the grocery store. Together, these studies are helping understand consumer preferences and their impacts on the animal agriculture industry.
- **Building our Capacity:** Since 2009, IFEEDER has raised over \$3.8 million and invested more than \$1.4 million in research and education projects. Over 80 percent of IFEEDER projects have leveraged dollars and the Institute is proud of the statistic that for every \$1 raised, an additional \$5 is leveraged from other sources. All 100 percent of donations



made to IFEEDER are used to support its projects. Today, more than 290 donors have supported the work of IFEEDER.

What's Next?

- **Guarding against African swine fever:** This research project, co-funded with the Swine Health Information Center, will fill in data gaps related to the industry's response to the recent African swine fever outbreaks and aims to strengthen some potential risk mitigation steps for the feed industry.
- **Studying the Impact of GM-Free Feed on U.S. Animal Production:** The livestock, poultry and aquaculture industries have used genetically modified feed ingredients for more than 20 years. The results of this proposal are likely to underscore the environmental and economic impacts of going GM-free in U.S. feed production. Several other agricultural organizations will be assisting to fund this important project.
- **Analyzing Pet Food Production, Ingredients:** Similar to the animal feed consumption study, IFEEDER is embarking on a project to better quantify and understand pet food ingredient composition and consumption in the U.S.
- **Bridging the Consumer Information Gap:** It is our responsibility to proactively engage consumers through policymakers, consumer influencers and key stakeholders about the proactive contributions the animal food industry is making in providing high-quality, safe and diverse food options. Future education initiatives are focused on preserving consumer choice and protecting the animal food industry's image and license to operate. This requires investing time and resources to continuously provide consumers with fact-based information that promotes a positive image for the industry as a whole.

Interested in learning more? Contact Rob Cooper at rcooper@afia.org.