



IFEEDER NEWSLETTER

March 29, 2022 | Vol. 7; No. 2

New Projects Getting Started With Outreach Efforts Underway

By: Lara Moody, IFEEDER executive director

As you'll read below, the research phase of two projects, funded by the Institute for Feed Education and Research, has wrapped up, which means the education and outreach phase has now begun!

Next week, we'll release findings from the Iowa State University and Decision Innovation Solutions report exploring the implications that producing genetically modified (GM) free feed would have on the U.S. feed industry (more on that below) North Carolina State University (NCSU) also recently completed a disease transmission modeling study, led by the North American Renderers Association (NARA) with IFEEDER as a partner, that looked at how swine diseases of interest can move from a feed mill to a farm (more details below).



As for new projects, this month we will kick off efforts on the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) project that will assess dietary interventions to mitigate enteric methane emissions in dairy cattle. Led by The Nature Conservancy in partnership with Dairy Management, Inc., and IFEEDER, this project combines on-farm trials and demonstrations, interviews and surveys of key stakeholders and targeted communication activities to catalyze broader adoption of the NRCS

Feed Management Practice Standard 592. IFEEDER will develop and manage an expert panel to provide technical review and insights into project plans and actions. IFEEDER will also coordinate an on-farm trial economic assessment of the dietary interventions and expanded ration cost evaluation across a broader set of national geographies.

We're also initiating fundraising to update the National Research Council (NRC) Swine Feed Composition report. The National Academy of Sciences will coordinate the update with funding support from the National Pork Board, United Soybean Board, National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) and IFEEDER. Pork producers 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 energy needs of the animal.

If you are interested in contributing to either of these efforts, please [contact me](#).



Understanding the Implications of GM-Free Feed

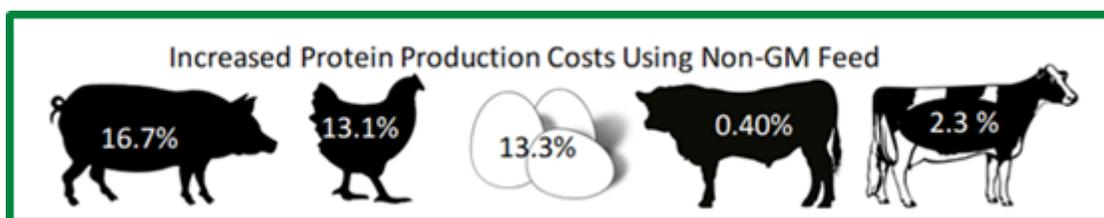
In recent years, an increasing number of foods are being marketed and labeled as free of GM ingredients. For milk, meat or eggs, this means the animals these foods come from are fed exclusively non-GM feed. Though GM-crops have [safely been used in food and feed for over 20 years](#), there is still interest in non-GM food stuffs. We spearheaded a research project that

examined: if non-GM feed production were to expand to meet the needs of the marketplace, then it's important for the U.S. food industry to understand the implications of GM-free feed production.

In a recent report funded by IFEEDER, along with partners Dairy Management Inc., MFA, NCGA, the United Soybean Board, and U.S. Poultry and Egg Association, researchers from Iowa State University and Decision Innovation Solutions explored the potential economic and environmental impacts that increasing GM-free feed production could have on farms, at grain elevators and in feed mills. [More details available here.](#)

Please join us for a [member webinar](#) on April 11 at 11 a.m. ET to learn about this report and ask questions of the researchers.

[Register Now](#)



EMC – IFEEDER Partnership Funds New Scholarship at WVU



The American Feed Industry Association's (AFIA) Equipment Manufacturers Committee (EMC) is proud to partner with IFEEDER and West Virginia University (WVU) on a new scholarship that will support WVU students pursuing careers in the feed or grain sciences industries. Named in honor of Joel G. Newman, previous AFIA president and CEO and 1971 graduate of the Davis College's program in animal and nutritional sciences, the EMC scholarship will provide \$3,000 annually in financial assistance to students.

“When we look at the future of food and agriculture in the United States, we know the challenges that lie before us are many, but not beyond our reach,” said Mike Schuster, AFIA Board chair and IFEEDER chair elect. *“By reaching out a hand and supporting the next-generation workforce through the EMC scholarship program, we enable today’s best and brightest to be tomorrow’s changemakers.”*

[Read More](#)

Vehicles Play Important Role in PRRSV Transmission

In 2020, IFEEDER co-funded a study organized by NARA and the North American Spray Dried Blood and Plasma Producers to better understand the role feed could have on swine disease transmission. The modeling effort, undertaken by NCSU, found that animal byproducts and feed itself had little effect on porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV) transmission. PRRS, the syndrome caused by the virus, causes respiratory disease and decreased reproduction in pigs and is the most economically significant disease currently affecting U.S. swine production.



NCSU’s Dr. Gustavo Machado and Dr. Jason Galvis created a model to study nine different potential transmission routes for PRRS that haven’t been previously explored in depth. Their findings show that trucks used to move not only animals, but also farm workers and feed, can be carriers for disease spread. [The model is open access and can be found here.](#) They also investigated the transmission of porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv) with the model. Those results will be published separately.

While pig movements and farm proximity were still the leading causes of disease transmission, the researchers found that the vehicles used to transport pigs were a major contributor to the spread of PRRSV - contributing up to 20% of infections. [Read the news release here.](#) The full research paper was published in the journal Emerging and Transboundary Diseases and can be found [here](#).

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.

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