IFEEDER
Institute for Feed Education & Research

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New Research Project Analyzes *Salmonella* Risks in Feed Production

The Institute for Feed Education & Research (IFEEDER) along with several other partners has made a $50,000 grant to the University of Arkansas to research whether animal feed contains any of the eight serotypes from the bacteria *Salmonella* that could pose a health threat to livestock. The yearlong research project, made possible by the foundation, the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) and several partners—the National Pork Board, National Renderers Association, Poultry Protein and Fat Council, U.S. Poultry and Egg Association and the U.S. Soybean Board—will help the animal feed industry better understand if the bacteria is prevalent at feed manufacturing facilities so that it can make more informed decisions on what additional safety measures, if any, should be taken to promote feed safety and protect animal health.

There are more than 2,500 strains, or serotypes, of naturally occurring salmonellae present in the environment and in animals. Although humans who consume contaminated food or practice poor food handling can sometimes contract the foodborne illness Salmonellosis, it is rare for animals to elicit the same response. The biology of many animals typically shields them from most strains of the bacteria; however, the Food and Drug Administration considers eight serotypes to be “hazardous” to five animal species—poultry, swine, sheep, horses, and dairy and beef cattle.

Although the feed industry has long-believed that *Salmonella* is not a threat in food for animals as it is for people due to the types of grains and ingredients used and the stringent regulatory procedures and processes in place to avoid contamination, this research will test that hypothesis.

The University of Arkansas will look at whether the eight serotypes are present by analyzing 500 commercial feed samples from 250 U.S. animal food mills that produce livestock feed. The samples, to be taken from the facilities’ bulk feed shipments, will be conducted in both the fall of 2017 and spring of 2018. Once received, the university’s principal project investigator Steven Ricke, Ph.D., will test for salmonellae and if found, the sample will be further analyzed to determine the specific *Salmonella* serotype.

The university aims to complete the project by end of summer 2018 and will provide a full report to the coalition.

Coming Soon...

IFEEDER's first-ever annual report will be published this fall and will include highlights from 2016 and a look ahead to upcoming projects. It will also include a current list of funders and a financial snapshot of the foundation.

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