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## 2016-17 Annual Report Showcases Renewed Focus on IFEEDER's Mission

This week, the Institute for Feed Education and Research released its [first-ever annual report](#) to donors. The 2016-17 annual report reinforces IFEEDER's "focus" on conducting research and education projects and initiatives that support the animal food industry's legislative and regulatory priorities, protect its license to operate, and preserve consumer choice.

Rob Sheffer, the 2016-17 chairman of the IFEEDER Board of Trustees, said that the institute spent plenty of time over the past year "refocusing" what types of projects to fund in the future, as well as reevaluating how to better communicate with donors. He went on to say that even IFEEDER's logo saw a new focus over the past year, paying tribute to the historical green and black to signify the message of sustainability and growth.

The annual report provides an overview of the institute's financial revenue and expenses and highlights some of IFEEDER's recent accomplishments, including:

- the development of a generic hazard-analysis resource for facilities to use to create an animal food safety plan, as required under the Food Safety Modernization Act.
- the execution of an independent, in-depth survey on the Food and Drug Administration's process for approving new feed ingredients.
- participation in a three-year research project with the National Pork Board and other groups to better prepare the feed industry for a future outbreak of the porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv).
- the development of a new tool that will provide the standard for all livestock and poultry organizations, universities and other organizations to use to assess the emissions generated by species over their total lifecycles.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we would like to thank all of our corporate and individual donors for helping make the past year a success for IFEEDER!

## 1994 Poultry Nutrient Requirement Standards Getting Makeover

Thanks in part to a generous contribution by IFEEDER, an ad hoc committee of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) will soon be updating its 23-year-old “Nutrient Requirements of Poultry” to reflect the latest scientific literature on the nutrition standards for many types of poultry. NAS kicked off the [project](#) at a stakeholder [meeting in July](#), where AFIA’s Nutrition Committee Chair Janet Remus, Ph.D., presented formal comments on the feed industry’s behalf.

The first nutrient requirements for poultry were written in 1920 and since then have been updated roughly every 10-12 years. As the latest report from 1994 is long overdue for an update, the industry is calling on the NAS to examine a number of current, priority nutrition issues that may impact the health of broilers, turkeys, laying hens, ducks and other poultry species over their lifecycles. Some of the issues IFEEDER and AFIA would like to see addressed in an updated report include:

- the use and composition of mineral supplements;
- the effect of feeding on the functional meat quality (i.e., white striping and woody breast);
- amino acid digestibility methodology;
- changes in housing structures for layer hens, which may impact nutrient requirements;
- the use of cocci vaccine versus a chemical coccidiostat program, which may impact the gut health and nutrient flow for young broilers; and
- the lack of administering ionophores or antibiotics to treat sick poultry.

At the July meeting, Remus also asked NAS to clarify the rules the committee will be following to update the report—such as whether global, peer-reviewed research will be considered or only domestic—and encouraged NAS to include the environmental impacts of different feeding management strategies in a final report.

NAS named its [committee members](#) in late September, including some experts who were recommended by the institute. The committee is now analyzing recent research to compile a first draft.

IFEEDER has previously contributed funds to other similar nutrition standard projects for beef cattle, dairy cattle and swine, but this is the first time the institute has contributed to poultry. The project is expected to be wrapped up by end of 2019. For questions, contact [Preston Buff](#), Ph.D., AFIA’s director of regulatory affairs, for more information.

**Wanted: Volunteer Feed Mills to Participate in *Salmonella* Project**

[In September](#), we notified donors of a new research project IFEEDER launched to analyze whether feed for livestock does not contain any of the eight strains of *Salmonella* the Food and Drug Administration considers to be harmful to livestock health. Now, the institute is looking for volunteer feed mills to participate in this project.

The yearlong research project involves the University of Arkansas analyzing 500 commercial feed samples for the presence of *salmonella*. If found, the university will further analyze the sample to determine the specific strain. It is a double-blinded study, meaning the university will not know where the samples are coming from and the mills participating will not receive the results, but an overall report of the data will be provided to IFEEDER and the partners at the conclusion of the project sometime next year.

Mills that are interested in participating must be willing to take two samples of their livestock feed from their bulk shipments in two different seasons, roughly six months apart. They do not need to be AFIA members. If interested, contact [Preston Buff](#), Ph.D., AFIA's director of regulatory affairs for more information.

## **Coming Soon... Report on Amino Acid Absorption in Cattle**

Ensuring that dairy cattle receive a balanced diet is not only important for their overall health, but also for their milk supply. In July 2015, IFEEDER launched a three-year research project with the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University to look at how cattle break down nitrogen in their intestinal tracts as well as the availability of amino acids in several feedstuffs. Existing methods for assessing this information have proven to be expensive, time intensive and, often times, inaccurate, but by using a novel new approach, the university aimed to provide the feed industry with more precise information so that it could make more informed choices on the ingredient supplements that should be used in dairy cattle diets to maximize their performance and efficiency. The research has now concluded and IFEEDER expects to share the results in the next newsletter.