



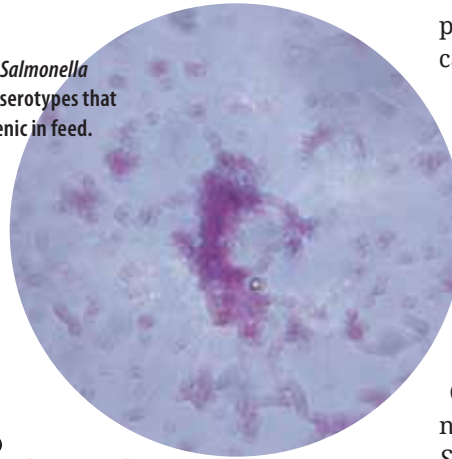
IFEEDER

INSTITUTE FOR FEED EDUCATION & RESEARCH

IFEEDER helps fund the *Salmonella* in Feed Research Coalition to aid in developing sound policies.

Industry Pushes for Science-Based *Salmonella* Regulations

The FDA's new CPG on *Salmonella* distinguishes specific serotypes that are considered pathogenic in feed.



In August 2010, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published a long-awaited Compliance Policy Guide (CPG) on *Salmonella* in feed. CPGs provide to FDA's field staff interpretations of laws and regulations and represent current thinking on enforcement and compliance. For the first time since 1975, the agency completely overhauled its stance and agreed to separate human food from animal feed with respect to enforcement of *Salmonella* regulations.

animal and human health. However, additional research is needed to confirm this approach and further develop regulatory policies surrounding *Salmonella*.

To help the industry and government reach a science-based consensus, the Institute for Feed Education & Research (IFEEDER), a 501 (c)(3) charitable foundation formed to address future challenges to the feed industry, has made a charitable donation to the *Salmonella* in Feed Research Coalition. Their donation will leverage additional funding to support surveys, lab tests and field tests at the Food and Feed Safety Research Unit at the Southwest Plains Area lab in College Station, TX.

FDA updates *Salmonella* guidelines

For nearly 35 years, the FDA has stated that feed found to have any *Salmonella* serotype (a distinct variation within a subspecies of bacteria) present would be deemed adulterated.

However, according to Richard Sellers, corporate secretary, IFEEDER, the common *Salmonella* serotypes found in

feed are generally not pathogenic in animals and are even less likely to be pathogenic in humans.

The agency's former stance, a no-holds-bar approach to regulating *Salmonella*, was neither science based, nor good for industry.

"In 2008 the FDA detected [a non-pathogenic] *Salmonella* in several canola meal shipments from three of the largest suppliers in Canada," Sellers says. "The FDA seized and held those shipments, costing our dairy industry \$127 million in New England alone."

Unfortunate situations due to poor policy-making, like the dairy example, prompted the FDA to issue a new *Salmonella* CPG last summer, taking a brand new approach to regulating *Salmonella* in feed.

"There are some *Salmonella* strains, as outlined in the new CPG, that are more of a human food safety concern than an animal feed safety concern," says Steve Traylor, global director of regulatory affairs, Alltech. "It's taken years of education, both by the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) and other trade associations, for FDA to consider a serotype-specific *Salmonella* regulation, and it's a huge victory for the industry and for science."

Now, *Salmonella* is appropriately broken into allowable serotypes by species, clearly outlined for poultry, beef, dairy, horse and sheep feed.

The FDA is close to finalizing the CPG, but although it's viewed as a victory for the feed industry, there is still more research needed to fully understand *Salmonella*'s impact on the safety of our food supply.

"We're pleased with the outcome of this policy, but as it was developing, we realized we needed more information on *Salmonella* to make truly sound regulations," says Sellers. "The data on *Salmonella* in feed over the last 15 years is pretty

IFEEDER Recognizes Founding Donors

The Institute for Feed Education and Research (IFEEDER) held a ceremony recognizing its founding members at the American Feed Industry Association's (AFIA) annual Purchasing and Ingredient Suppliers Conference (PISC) in Las Vegas on March 3.

"Without the first year pledges from the founding donors, IFEEDER would not be the success that it is in just two short years, already making a difference through a number of research donations," explained Richard Sellers, corporate secretary, IFEEDER.

Leveraging the other contributions of \$250,000, IFEEDER donated \$75,000 in support of the National Academies' Nutrient Requirements of Domestic Animals Series. The Foundation has also approved a \$45,000 two-year grant to the National Research Council, to help fund a Beef Requirements Committee. This grant leveraged additional contributions of \$225,000 and will allow the NRC to start the committee. IFEEDER will also contribute \$15,000 to the AFIA to



Above: IFEEDER Chair AI Gunderson (l) presents an award recognizing AFIA's platinum level donation to IFEEDER president Joel Newman. Below: Gale Nicely (r), director of North American feed sales, Mosaic Feed Ingredients, accepts an award recognizing his company's platinum level donation to IFEEDER.



fund the *Salmonella* in Feed Research Coalition.

"The goal for next year is \$1.25 million," says Sellers. "As of March we've taken in \$630,000 and now we've raised over \$650,000. In the long run, donating to IFEEDER benefits the feed industry and its future sustainability. We're funding initiatives that will keep this industry vibrant and growing to meet both the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow."



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— Richard Sellers, corporate secretary, IFEEDER

This conclusion is consistent with long-standing science documenting that pathogenic *Salmonella* in feed is rare for both

Special thanks and congratulations to our Founding Donors!

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Crowds gathered at IFEEDER's second annual silent auction during AFIA's 2011 Purchasing and Ingredient Suppliers Conference (PISC). IFEEDER raised \$11,395 from the 30 items donated by individuals and companies, exceeding the amount raised at the 2010 silent auction. "Although only in its second year, the IFEEDER silent auction is already becoming one of the premier events at PISC. I have no doubt that the 2012 silent auction will exceed the previous two," said Veronica Rovelli, AFIA manager of meetings and events.

lean, so we'd like to leverage some funding to research *Salmonella* and its various serotypes."

Feed industry seeks answers

In 2007, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO) released an experts meeting report titled *Animal Feed Impact on Food Safety*. The report noted there was not sufficient data to draw conclusions about the carryover of *Salmonella* from feed to food.

Much of the uncertainty revolves around the pathogenicity of different *Salmonella* serotypes. Although the FDA's CPG lays out the specific serotypes that will be regulated in feed, there are many lesser-known *Salmonella* characteristics yet to

learn about. The main questions are which serotypes pose a risk to human health and at what level does the risk become serious.

"One of our objectives is to find the distinction between pathogenic *Salmonella* and nonpathogenic *Salmonella*," says Sellers.

"But it's going to take work because pathogenicity depends on level of exposure, duration of exposure and other factors. Additionally, *Salmonella* is an incredibly adaptive bug and mutates rapidly, therefore different genetic variations — even within a serotype — may be pathogenic at one farm and harmless at another."

IFEEDER starts coalition

In response to the need for more *Salmonella* data, IFEEDER and other industry organizations including the National Grain and Feed Association, Canola Council of Canada, the National Renderers Association and U.S. Poultry and Egg Association, formed the *Salmonella* in Feed Research Coalition.

This summer, the coalition will hold its first meeting among FDA, academia and other industry stakeholders to identify the most crucial gaps in information and formulate ways to gather the data.

"When you work with salmonella and you start to look for data, it usually raises more questions than answers," says Sellers. "We'll likely start by taking an anonymous survey of feed and feed ingredients from around the United States to find out what types of *Salmonella* are actually in the marketplace. IFEEDER's \$15,000 donation will leverage another \$60,000, and that funding will carry the project for about two years."

Using the data from the survey, a research team within the coalition consisting of scientists from academia, USDA-Agriculture Research Service (ARS) and industry will collectively decide a research protocol, collect the necessary samples, analyze the data and decide what should be done with the results.

World looks to U.S. for policy guidance

Alltech's Traylor hopes the results lead to more effective regulations for the industry and consumers, both domestically and abroad.

"The work being done by the *Salmonella* in Feed Research Coalition will lead to more effective regulating that doesn't disregard the scientific knowledge available," says Traylor. "The amazing thing is this is also going to reach out into the international market because a lot of foreign regulatory bodies are looking to the FDA for guidance, as the United States is one of the leaders in food and feed safety."

IFEEDER and the rest of the *Salmonella* in Feed Research Coalition will remain dedicated to securing the safety of the world's food and feed supply through its donations to the project. ★

AFIA Elects New IFEEDER Trustees, Seeks Project Funding

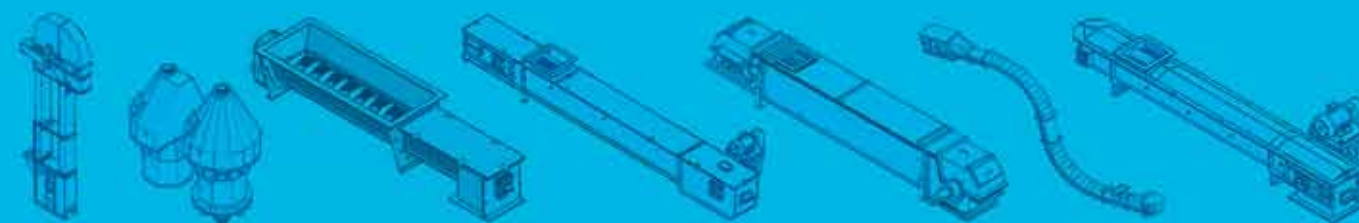
Nearly 60 of AFIA's board of directors met to discuss food and agricultural issues of concern and elect new IFEEDER trustees during its annual spring meeting in Washington, D.C. in early May.

The newest members of the IFEEDER Board of Trustees are Mark Lyons, international projects manager, Alltech, Inc. and Eddie Wells, president, Milk Specialties Global.

The Board approved a proposal that AFIA support the formation of a Life Cycle Assessment modeling consultancy to be formed by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization. AFIA will provide part funding for the project and ask IFEEDER to fund half of the project.

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