K-State updates info on feed safety sampling resources

Project relates to safety of feed mills, production facilities

K-State Research and Extension news service

MANHATTAN, Kan. – Kansas State University has released new recommendations for sampling feed that officials say will help meet the agricultural industry’s need to limit the presence of pathogens in feed mills.

The new feed sampling resources website can be found online at www.KSUFeed.org.

“The concept of feed safety -- or applying biosecurity to a feed mill and feed delivery system -- has become more common in the swine industry to limit pathogen introduction into feed mills or production locations,” said veterinarian Grace Houston, who completed the new recommendations as a doctoral student working with K-State’s feed safety team. “These resources were designed with the intent of meeting the industries’ need for sampling resources of pathogens within feed mills.”

Houston said implementing a sampling program to measure the amount of potential pathogen contamination within a feed mill is challenging given the uncertainty of sample size and minimal standardization for sampling techniques. She said there is an industry need for sampling resources for feed mills and production systems if a business is concerned about feed safety.

“The goal was to create resources that could be accessed by anyone who is interested in creating a feed safety sampling program at feed mills,” Houston said. “These resources have also been formatted in a variety of different ways so that a wide range of people can utilize them.”

Houston said the resources are split based on the intended audience:

- **Standard operating procedures** instruct feed mill employees on how to take feed and environmental samples, how to log samples, and how to ship samples to the laboratory.
- **Additional resources** instruct veterinarians, feed mill managers, or nutritionists on sample size, the types of samples, where to collect samples, how to interpret results from laboratory analysis, and strategies to reduce contamination.

Houston noted that most of the resources are in PDF format, but some standard operating procedures are also in video format or excel spreadsheets.
The Kansas State University Animal Sciences and Industry department serves students, livestock producers and the animal and food industries through teaching, research and education. The K-State ASI department prepares students for careers in the animal and food industries. The curriculum includes the study of nutrition, reproduction, genetics, behavior, meat science, food science with production, management, and agribusiness skills. For more about the K-State’s ASI department visit asi.ksu.edu.

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Story by:
Angie Stump Denton
785-562-6197
angiedenton@ksu.edu