



CENTER FOR VETERINARY
MEDICINE

FDA
FOOD AND DRUG
ADMINISTRATION

ANIMAL FEED SAFETY SYSTEM



7519 Standish Place, Rockville, MD 20855

www.fda.gov/cvm/AFSS.htm

Keeping America's Animals Safe and Healthy

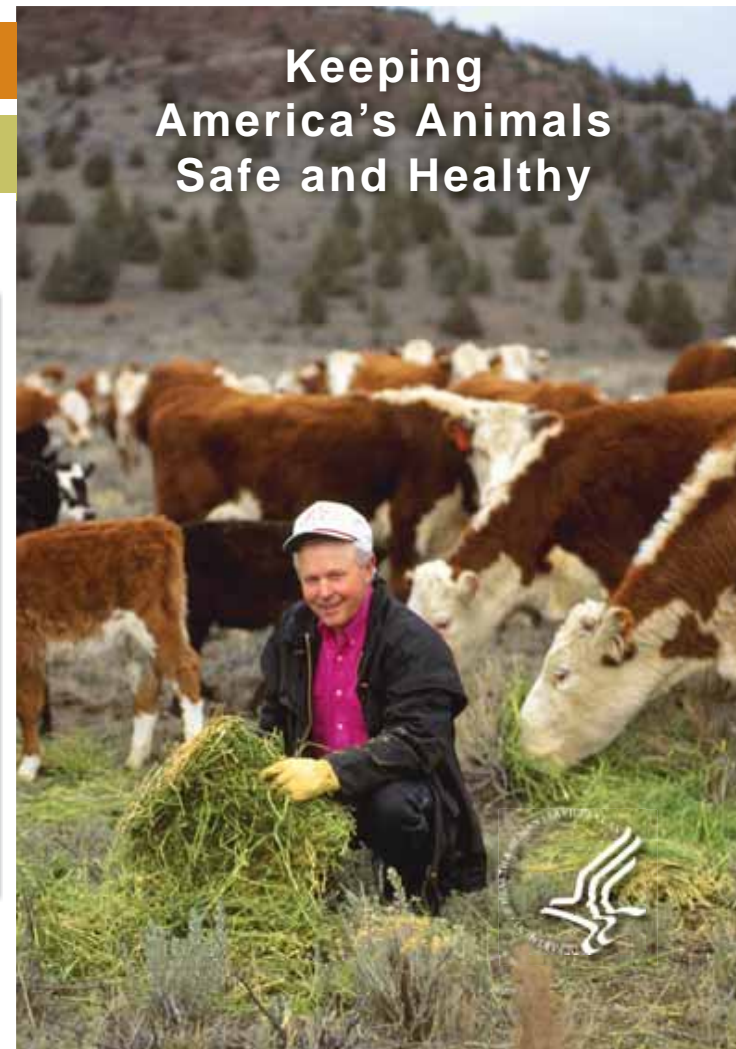
WHAT AFSS WILL MEAN TO YOU

You can expect changes in feed safety rules and programs – some required, some voluntary – and all based on scientific and risk-based approaches to preserving the safety of animal feed and pet food.

A goal of AFSS is to help all parts of the feed and pet food industries use the best tools and techniques possible to protect all people and animals and to make sure state and federal regulators get the most use out of the resources they have to help the feed industry. In short, at FDA, we are working with industry members and all stakeholders to improve food and feed safety.

So, what this means to you is increased assurance of the safety of ingredients, feed, and pet food.

For more information, go to CVM's AFSS page at <http://www.fda.gov/cvm/AFSS.htm>.



FDA'S ANIMAL FEED SAFETY SYSTEM: ADDRESSING THE NEED FOR FEED SAFETY

One of the best ways we have of protecting and enhancing the health of our food-producing animals and pets is by making sure the feed and food we give them is safe. Feed safety is also important for human health, because it will help to ensure the safety of food derived from animals. Pet food safety will help protect the health of people who handle pet food.

The Food and Drug Administration has begun an initiative – the **Animal Feed Safety System (AFSS)** – designed to modernize and strengthen the feed safety program in the United States.

FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine has been leading the Team working on the initiative. The Team was formed in 2003 with the goal of developing a comprehensive system with a broad focus – not just focusing on a few areas of concern (i.e., BSE, medicated feed, isolated feed contamination incidents) as the current system does – so that it would have the greatest effect on feed safety.

In addition, the Team's proposed new feed safety system will focus on prevention, not just responding to problems.

AFSS will:

- Apply to production, distribution, labeling, and administration of all feed, at all stages – the entire spectrum of FDA activities.
- Cover commercial sales of feed as well as on-farm mixing of feed.
- Cover manufacturers, transporters, distributors – everyone who handles feed.
- Combine voluntary with mandatory programs.
- Focus on preventing problems.
- Be risk-based, making sure significant risks are addressed appropriately.



ANIMAL FEED SAFETY SYSTEM

KEEPING AMERICA'S ANIMALS SAFE AND HEALTHY

FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT

One principle the Animal Feed Safety System Team is using to the full extent possible is transparency. The Team has always included stakeholders in the discussions. As part of that transparency, the Team has drafted an "AFSS Framework Document" describing the "gaps" the Team identified in the current system and the solutions the Team is recommending to address those gaps. For example, the expanded approach the Team is suggesting under the new AFSS could create a gap in that the inventory of facilities would be too large for FDA to inspect with current resources. The solution suggested in the Framework Document is that FDA would use a scientific and risk-based approach to target those establishments posing the greatest risks to animal or human health.

That proposed solution is just one of many in the Framework Document. The AFSS Framework Document is divided into several sections, and each has gaps and solutions identified.

The sections cover:

- The safety of ingredients used to produce feed and pet food.
- A systematic way to distinguish among feed hazards based on risk, to determine when FDA needs to conduct additional research and establish limits.
- Process controls standards on manufacturing, packaging, storing, and distributing feed ingredients and mixed feed.
- Ways to collect information about feed problems.
- How to prioritize and allocate inspection resources by targeting establishments, facilities, products, and process posing the greatest risks to animal or human health.
- Outreach and education. Our plans won't work well unless all FDA partners and stakeholders know about the plans and how to implement them.

