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.
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.