



For Immediate Release

International Production & Processing Expo

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Safeguarding a Growing Pet Food Industry

ATLANTA, Ga. – Jan. 26, 2022 – The American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) wrapped up its 15th annual [Pet Food Conference](#) (PFC) yesterday, informing nearly 300 pet food professionals of the latest news within this growing industry and providing tips for how to face upcoming challenges. The daylong conference also included the announcement of two [Friend of Pet Food Award winners](#).

“Our industry changes and presents new challenges and opportunities by the second – from the discovery of novel ingredients like green banana flour to the trickle-down effects of a Mexico genetically modified organism ban,” said Louise Calderwood, AFIA’s director of regulatory affairs. “Staying ahead of these issues is key to a prosperous and evolving pet food industry.”

The sessions covered the regulatory and trade outlook for the U.S. pet food sector; the importance of cybersecurity and ransomware in the pet food industry; the latest updates on pet food nutrition and labeling from the Association of American Feed Control Officials; challenges and opportunities of human-grade pet food labeling; and human resource issues within companies. In addition, participants learned about emerging issues in the pet food industry from current graduate and undergraduate students.

“With food and ag representing one-sixth of the U.S. economy, these hackers know where the money is,” said Col. John Hoffman, senior research fellow at the Food Protection and Defense Institute in the University of Minnesota. “Why risk your life robbing a bank when you can rob a company? This is the world we live in now.”

The AFIA thanks its platinum sponsor ADM; gold sponsors Alltech, Kemin Animal Nutrition and Trouw Nutrition; silver sponsors Darling Ingredients, DSM, The Poultry Protein & Fat Council, WellPet and Zinpro Performance Minerals; and media sponsors Pet Food Industry and Pet Food Processing.



Todd Renner (left), supervisory special agent at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Hoffman (right) speaking on cybersecurity at the 2022 AFIA Pet Food Conference.

The 2023 AFIA Pet Food Conference will take place Jan. 24 in Atlanta, Ga. For more information, visit afia.org/events.

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ABOUT IPPE

The International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE) is a collaboration of three shows - International Feed Expo, International Meat Expo and the International Poultry Expo - representing the entire chain of protein production and processing. The event is sponsored by the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA), North American Meat Institute (NAMI) and U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY).

ABOUT AFIA

Founded in 1909, the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA), based in Arlington, Va., is the world's largest organization devoted exclusively to representing the business, legislative and regulatory interests of the U.S. animal food industry and its suppliers. The organization's membership is comprised of more than 650 domestic and international companies that represent the total feed industry—manufacturers of commercial and integrated feed and pet food, ingredient suppliers, pharmaceutical companies, industry support and equipment manufacturers. AFIA's members manufacture more than 75% of the feed and 70% of the non-whole grain ingredients used in the country. AFIA is also recognized as the leader on international industry developments and holds membership in the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF).

ABOUT NAMI

The North American Meat Institute (NAMI) is the leading voice for the meat and poultry industry. Formed from the 2015 merger of the American Meat Institute (AMI) and North American Meat Association (NAMA), the Institute has a rich, century-long history and provides essential member services including legislative, regulatory, scientific, international and public affairs representation. NAMI's mission is to shape a public policy environment in which the meat and poultry industry can produce wholesome products safely, efficiently and profitably. Together, the Institute's members produce the vast majority of U.S. beef, pork, lamb and poultry and the equipment, ingredients and services needed for the highest quality products.

ABOUT USPOULTRY

U.S. Poultry & Egg Association (USPOULTRY) is the All Feather Association progressively serving its poultry and egg members through research, education, communications and technical services. Founded in 1947, USPOULTRY is based in Tucker, Georgia.