UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2026 Resolution

130th Annual Meeting
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RESOLUTION NUMBER: 20 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON FOOD AND FEED SAFETY

SUBJECT MATTER: Protecting Animal Health Through Secure Vitamin and Amino Acid Supply Chains

RESOLUTION

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), in coordination with relevant federal agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Health and Human Services, designate essential vitamins, amino acids, and their critical precursors as materials critical to national defense under the Defense Production Act and pursue appropriate authorities to strengthen the security and resilience of their supply chains.

The USAHA further urges USDA to work across the federal government and with animal agriculture, state departments of agriculture, and the animal food industry to assess supply vulnerabilities, preserve and expand domestic manufacturing capacity, support research and development, diversify supply sources through trusted trading partners, and establish coordinated monitoring and contingency plans. These efforts should ensure reliable and affordable access to essential nutrients while additional domestic production capacity is developed.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Vitamins and amino acids are essential to animal health, growth, reproduction, and productivity. Reliable access to these nutrients is necessary to produce nutritionally adequate feed and maintain a secure United States (US) food supply.

US animal agriculture relies heavily on imported vitamins and amino acids, with production concentrated in China and limited domestic capacity for many essential inputs. Research conducted by the Institute for Feed Education and Research found that, from 2020 through 2024, 76.5 percent of US vitamin imports originated in China. In fact, the US is entirely dependent on China for vitamin D3, lysine, and many precursors. Any disruption to these supplies could negatively affect the health, welfare, and productivity of production animals and companion animals. This dependence creates a vulnerability that requires proactive federal and state attention.

Strengthening domestic production, diversifying reliable sources, and preparing for potential shortages would help protect animal health and US food security.