

IN-PERSON EVENTS

All AFIA in-person events offer ARPAS continuing education credits, providing attendees with valuable opportunities to fulfill their professional development requirements.

Equipment Manufacturers Conference

Annual Event

The Equipment Manufacturers Conference (EMC) focuses on updating the equipment sector of the animal food industry on current issues and trends, bringing the industry together to network and hear from industry leaders. Conference attendees include equipment manufacturers, installers, contractors and equipment users. Popular at the event is the annual golf tournament, which raises scholarship funds for individuals pursuing careers in the animal food industry. Proceeds from the conference and its programs support the Equipment Manufacturers Committee Scholarship Fund. This event also qualifies as an American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) credit.

Event Great For:

- Chief Officers
- Operations and Sales Directors
- Presidents
- Sales and Operations Managers
- Vice Presidents

Sectors of Industry:

- Association
- Consultant
- Equipment Manufacturer
- Feed Manufacturer Commercial
- Feed Manufacturer Integrator

Learning Objectives / Outcomes:

- Identify current trends, challenges and innovations impacting the equipment sector of the animal food industry.
- Describe emerging technologies and solutions used in feed manufacturing equipment and systems.
- Evaluate best practices in equipment design, installation and operational efficiency
- Understand the perspectives and needs of key stakeholders, including manufacturers, contractors and end users.
- Apply insights from industry leaders to improve business strategies and technical decision-making.
- Strengthen professional networks to support collaboration and industry advancement.
- Recognize the importance of workforce development and industry support through scholarship initiatives .

Date & Time:

- November

Duration:

- Three Days

Format:

- In-Person

Location:

- Varies

Feed Industry Institute

Biennial Event

The Feed Industry Institute (FII) is held every other year and brings together industry newcomers, professionals transitioning into new roles and those seeking to strengthen their foundational knowledge of the animal food industry. The program provides a comprehensive introduction to U.S. animal food production, beginning with the fundamentals of manufacturing processes and key feed ingredients and concluding with an overview of supply chain logistics and the federal regulations shaping the industry today. Led by highly regarded industry experts, FII offers participants insight into current trends affecting the feed and ingredient sectors, including broader developments in animal agriculture and evolving consumer influences. In addition to its robust educational program, FII creates valuable opportunities for networking and collaboration with peers across the feed, pet food and ingredient industries in a welcoming, engaging environment. This event also qualifies as an American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) credit.

Event Great For:

- Regulatory and Procurement Specialists
- Sales and Business Development Directors
- Sales and Logistics Coordinators
- Sales and Quality Managers
- Vice Presidents

Sectors of Industry:

- Associations
- Commercial Feed Manufacturers
- Industry Support
- Ingredient Suppliers
- Integrators

Learning Objectives / Outcomes:

- Describe the structure, scope and key segments of the U.S. animal feed industry.
- Explain how feed ingredients are sourced, traded, processed and utilized.
- Understand the fundamentals of animal nutrition across major species.
- Identify key nutrients (carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, minerals) and their roles in animal performance.
- Evaluate the use and impact of feed additives (medicated and non-medicated).
- Recognize regulatory, safety and quality requirements in feed manufacturing.
- Understand feed formulation, logistics and supply chain considerations.
- Apply knowledge to support business, technical or operational roles within the industry.

Date & Time:

- Biennially (Even Years)

Duration:

- Four Days

Format:

- In-Person

Location:

- Varies

Preventive Controls Qualified Individual (PCQI) Training

Annual Event

This 20-hour, in-person course provides the standardized curriculum, which is recognized by the Food and Drug Administration as adequate for PCQI training, as required by the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The AFIA offers this course annually to a limited number of students interested in obtaining PCQI certifications, and it tends to fill quickly. This event also qualifies as an American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) credit.

Event Great For:

- Feed Mill and Plant Managers
- Laboratory and Quality Assurance Technician
- Production and Quality Assurance
- Regulatory and Quality Assurance Specialist
- Regulatory and Operations Directors
- Supervisors

Sectors of Industry:

- Commercial Feed Manufacturers
- Industry Support
- Ingredient Suppliers
- Integrators
- Pet Food Manufacturers

Learning Objectives / Outcomes:

- Overview of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) requirements for animal food
- Current Good Manufacturing Practice requirements
- Animal food safety hazards
- Overview of the food safety plan
- Hazard analysis and preventive controls determination
- Preventive control management components
- Process preventive controls
- Sanitation preventive controls
- Supply chain applied controls
- Recall plans

Date & Time:

- Summer

Duration:

- Three Days

Format:

- In-Person

Location:

- Nashville, TN

FSPCA PCQI Training Refresher

Annual Event

The AFIA is hosting a Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance Preventive Controls (FSPCA) for Animal Food Refresher training. This concise refresher course is designed for individuals who have previously completed PCQI training and wish to reinforce their knowledge and stay up to date on FSMA requirements. While not a full recertification course, this session revisits key concepts from the standardized curriculum recognized by the FDA as meeting PCQI training requirements. Ideal for professionals looking to refresh their understanding and ensure compliance with FSMA, this course offers a streamlined review tailored to those already familiar with the core material. This course is perfect for individuals who have already completed PCQI training and want to stay sharp on FSMA requirements. This event also qualifies as an American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) credit.

Event Great For:

- Laboratory Technician
- Quality Assurance Leads
- Quality Control and Quality Managers
- Technical Services and Quality Directors
- Vice Presidents

Sectors of Industry:

- Associations
- Commercial Feed Manufacturers
- Ingredient Suppliers
- Integrator

Learning Objectives / Outcomes:

- Reinforce core principles of the FSMA Preventive Controls for Animal Food rule.
- Review the role and responsibilities of a PCQI.
- Revisit key components of a food safety plan, including hazard analysis and preventive controls.
- Identify updates and current expectations from FDA regarding FSMA compliance.
- Strengthen understanding of monitoring, corrective actions and verification activities.
- Refresh knowledge of Current Good Manufacturing Practices (CGMPs) for animal food.
- Recognize common compliance challenges and how to address them.
- Apply best practices to maintain and improve food safety programs.
- Evaluate readiness for inspections and regulatory audits.
- Maintain confidence in implementing and overseeing FSMA requirements in daily operations.

Date & Time:

- Summer

Duration:

- Two Days

Format:

- In-Person

Location:

- Nashville, TN

Liquid Feed Symposium

Annual Event

The Liquid Feed Symposium (LFS) has been held for more than 50 years and is the only nationwide event bringing all segments of the liquid feed industry together. IIn addition to three days of programming and networking, the symposium inducts an industry leader into the Liquid Feed Hall of Fame and and hosts a fundraising auction to support the Kenny Berg Research and Education Fund. This event also qualifies as an American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) credit.

Event Great For:

- Business Development and Sales Directors
- Operations and Sales Vice Presidents
- Presidents
- Sales and Account Managers
- Technical and Account Specialists

Sectors of Industry:

- Associations
- Commercial Feed Manufacturers
- Industry Support
- Ingredient Suppliers

Learning Objectives / Outcomes:

- Describe key trends, innovations and challenges within the liquid feed industry.
- Understand the roles and contributions of different segments across the liquid feed sector.
- Evaluate best practices in liquid feed production, application and performance.
- Apply insights from industry experts to improve operational and business outcomes.
- Exchange knowledge and experiences to enhance problem-solving and industry collaboration.
- Recognize leadership contributions and advancements within the industry.
- Identify opportunities to support research, education and future workforce development through industry initiatives.

Date & Time:

- September

Duration:

- Three Days

Format:

- In-Person

Location:

- Varies