

CDFA SAFE Program's "Safe Animal Feed Formulation Educational Registry" (SAFFER)



Program Overview

California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Safe Animal Feed Education Program (SAFE) is funded by a portion of the California feed industry's inspection tonnage tax dedicated to research and education regarding the safe manufacture, distribution, and use of commercial feed. SAFE provides educational resources under advice of the Feed Inspection Advisory Board (FIAB), which is comprised of 9 members of the feed industry. The FIAB has recognized a need to increase awareness of feed laws and regulations among custom formulators (nutritionists, consultants), as they are vital to ensuring animal health, food safety, and safe use of commercial feed within California's production animal agriculture systems. In 2025, the FIAB formed an ad hoc committee to strategize CDFA's role in bridging this gap. Based on the recommendations of the FIAB Nutritionist Ad Hoc Committee, SAFE is launching an educational pilot program; the Safe Animal Feed Formulation Educational Registry (SAFFER). This will be a voluntary and free program available to individual formulators of commercial livestock feed which is distributed and fed in the state of California. SAFFER has two goals:

1. Develop and deliver focused educational materials regarding feed and food safety laws and regulations that are specifically applicable to formulators and nutritionists.
2. Foster connection between formulators/nutritionists and SAFE as a resource for questions and a trusted source for relevant updates, such as feed industry notices and changes to laws and regulations.

SAFFER is not a certificate or license and does not endorse the qualifications or compliance of those individuals registered.

Launching SAFFER

2026-2027

SAFE will host scoping sessions and collaborate with the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) and the California Grain and Feed Association (CGFA) to spread awareness and receive feedback for program development.

May 2026 Scoping Session at the California Animal Nutrition Conference:

- Collaborate with Feed Inspection Advisory Board Nutritionist Subcommittee members, CGFA, feed licensees, and ARPAS to encourage participation in the scoping session.
- Present a 15-minute overview of the program proposal and goals.
- Facilitate a question and answer session.
- Provide a survey to collect feedback.

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Additional scoping sessions may be held, depending on interest. After reviewing feedback, SAFE will develop and finalize a program registration form, educational materials, training content and format.

2027-2028

- SAFE will open registration and host the initial training sessions.
- SAFE will continue to work collaboratively with ARPAS, feed licensees, and CGFA to spread awareness of the new program.

Proposed Program Materials

Scoping Session

1. PowerPoint
 - a. What is SAFE
 - b. Why FIAB, CDFA, and the Feed Industry Support SAFFER
 - c. Real-life Examples
 - d. Overview of SAFFER
 - e. SAFFER Goals
 - f. Proposed Registration Process
 - g. Proposed Acknowledgment Form
 - h. Proposed Training Topics
 - i. Q&A Session
2. Survey
 - a. Please identify your primary role in the feed industry:
 - i. Nutritionist
 - ii. Feed Manufacturer
 - iii. Livestock Producer
 - iv. Other
 - b. Do you think there is a need to educate formulators and nutritionists about the laws and regulations in place which safeguard animal health and food safety?
 - c. Do you see value in the proposed SAFFER to benefit the feed industry, producers, and consumers?
 - d. Do you have any concerns with the proposed SAFFER?
 - e. Are there any additional educational topics or resources that you think should be covered?
 - f. What training format is preferred?
 - i. In person, stand-alone event.
 - ii. In-person, in collaboration with another industry meeting, such as ARPAS.
 - iii. In person with a virtual attendance option.
 - iv. Online training platform only.

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- g. Do you think SAFFER should work to expand collaboration with other organizations, such as ARPAS or UC Cooperative Extension, to provide trainings that will count toward continuing education credits?

Registration Process

1. Complete a short registration form to provide a contact email address and sign acknowledgement of registration (Exhibit A).
2. Participate in one of SAFFER's training sessions offered in the next six months.
3. Confirm contact information and sign acknowledgement of registration annually to continue participation.

Proposed Educational Topics

Training materials will not be drafted until after feedback from the scoping session.

- A. Ingredients
 - a. Feed Ingredient Laws and Regulations
 - b. Pathways to Feed Ingredient Approval
 - c. Resources to Determine Ingredient Status
- B. Regulated Substances
 - a. Medicated Feed
 - b. Selenium
 - c. Non-Protein Nitrogen
 - d. Insect Growth Regulators
 - e. Methane Reducing Feed Additives
 - f. Others
- C. Understanding Manufacturer/Guarantor Label Requirements
 - a. Basic Label Requirements for Commercial Feed
 - b. Adequate Directions for Use
 - i. Likely and Capable of Being Followed
 - c. Required Caution and Warning Statements

Additional educational resources will be available for those seeking further information.

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Exhibit A

Safe Animal Feed Formulation Educational Registry Acknowledgement Form

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please answer and initial the following statements:

I am an individual person that formulates livestock feed that is distributed within or into California and/or fed to livestock in California. Yes / No

If yes, I formulate feed for the following species of animals:

In the next 6 months, I will participate in SAFE's initial SAFFER training program to learn about applicable feed and food safety laws and regulations.

Initial _____

I understand that SAFFER is a voluntary educational program, and does not endorse my qualifications as a professional, or guarantee compliance with laws and regulations.

Initial _____

I understand that SAFE will use the above email address to provide important updates regarding feed and food safety notices, proposed law and regulation changes, and guidance materials.

Initial _____

I understand that I will need to annually renew my voluntary registration with SAFFER to continue participation.

Initial _____

Understanding all of the above, I acknowledge my voluntary registration with SAFFER.

Signed: _____ Date: _____