

FDA Allows Formic Acid in Poultry Feed

By Christine Haughney

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The Food and Drug Administration announced today that effective immediately, it would allow formic acid in poultry feed to fight salmonella.

But unlike European regulations, which bar the use of formic acid in egg-laying chickens to avoid any residue in the eggs, the U.S. regulations will allow it to be used in both egg-laying hens and broiler chickens.

The FDA published the [final rule](#) today seeking public comment over the next 30 days. The acid appears to be benign enough that the FDA is not seeking an environmental assessment. The agency was petitioned by [BASF](#), a Florham Park, N.J.-based company and proponent of the product.

For the most part, the news was welcomed by experts because formic acid is naturally occurring. Steve Roach, food safety program director at the Chicago-based nonprofit [Food Animal Concerns Trust](#), noted that it's "fairly safe and noncontroversial." Roach noted that it had already been approved for swine.

"It does seem to be effective of reducing salmonella on feed. It's like a preservative in the feed," said Roach. "If it helps get rid of salmonella and reduce salmonella, that would be a good thing." He pointed to Europeans' [thoughts](#) on the safety of formic acid in 2015. Their one concern was the use of formic acid in egg-laying hens.

"It's a lot less drugs you can put into their feed," said Roach about egg-laying hens instead of broilers. "There is a concern about a residue."

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