

Formaldehyde is essential to safety and economic stability in food, agriculture sectors

Formaldehyde is a naturally occurring substance found within human bodies and all living things, including fruits, vegetables, and meats. Across the agricultural industry, formaldehyde helps American families access safe meat, poultry, and aquaculture products.

Formaldehyde helps protect livestock against diseases capable of causing catastrophic economic losses for farming operations across the United States.

Federal agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, oversee formaldehyde's agricultural applications, improving safe use practices. While these conditions of use involve limited application of formaldehyde and formaldehyde-based products, these products provide critical applications for crop production, veterinary medicine, animal agriculture, and aquaculture.

American agriculture relies on formaldehyde



Egg producers rely on formaldehyde during incubation to help protect hatching eggs against bacteria like Salmonella, which can cause [poor chick quality, growth, and performance](#) and cost farmers [millions of dollars](#). Farmers follow specific guidance on formaldehyde's concentration so it is high enough to effectively kill bacteria, yet safe enough for chick embryos.

Pork farmers use formaldehyde to [reduce virus infectivity](#) in pigs and as a [barn disinfectant](#) to protect against [Salmonella](#). [Ongoing research](#) suggests that formaldehyde could be used in the future as an effective risk mitigation tool against the spread of African Swine Fever (ASF), one of the most dangerous diseases to pigs. This would help keep the U.S. pork industry protected against a catastrophic outbreak.



Poultry producers rely on effective disinfection methods to ensure bird health and food safety. The safe application of formaldehyde continues to be an important disinfection tool to protect against viruses and bacteria, including Salmonella, E. coli, and staph, among others, that can present significant disease challenges greatly impacting the health and well-being of poultry.

Animal feed can become contaminated with bacteria that are capable of [causing diseases](#). To mitigate risks, animal agriculture producers use formaldehyde-based feed additives that [fight bacteria](#), improving healthy end-products for consumers and safe operations for animals and farm hands.



Formaldehyde-based products increase crop yields, can help optimize agricultural production worldwide while reducing runoff. Fertilizer and crop protection manufacturers rely on formaldehyde solutions, urea formaldehyde concentrate, and liquid and solid slow release nitrogen.

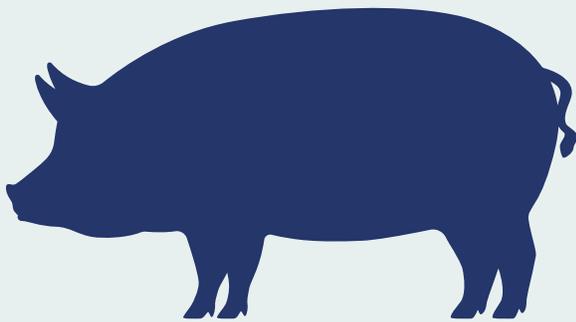


The aquaculture industry relies on formaldehyde to control fungi in finfish egg hatcheries and to treat external infections that can be [incredibly deadly](#), like [Columnaris disease](#), a common bacterial disease that impacts almost all finfish, including catfish, rainbow trout, tilapia, and more. As a water additive, formaldehyde [helps kill](#) parasites that impact finfish and shrimp.

Scientifically unjustified regulation of formaldehyde would cost the U.S. food system billions

Formaldehyde regulations that do not consider the full body of scientific evidence could result in scientifically unjustified regulation, jeopardize the safety of critical food products, and send ripple effects across the U.S. economy.

Research suggests formaldehyde could be a risk mitigation tool against African swine fever in U.S. pork



In recent years, ASF outbreaks in China, the world's largest pork producer, have had far-reaching economic consequences, including a [20 percent drop](#) in the country's pork output that significantly impacted global pork prices.

Estimates indicate a similar outbreak in the U.S. could decimate the U.S. pork industry, reducing live hog prices by [40 to 50 percent](#) and resulting in [nearly \\$50 billion](#) in economic losses to America's farmers. Shortages caused by such an outbreak would strain the U.S. food system and dramatically raise prices for consumers.

Beyond ASF, formaldehyde helps protect against substantial, disease-induced economic losses across U.S. animal agriculture:

Poultry Production

\$3.7 billion

lost to [Salmonella](#) each year.

Aquaculture

\$40 to \$50 million

lost to [Columnaris disease](#) each year.

Pork Production

\$1.9 billion

lost to [Salmonella](#) each year.

Without formaldehyde's critical applications in these industries, losses could dramatically exceed these figures and catastrophically damage not only U.S. farmers' livelihoods but also the broader domestic economy.

For additional information, see comments from the [American Veterinary Medical Association](#), [American Feed Industry Association](#), [National Chicken Council](#), [National Pork Producers Council](#), [National Turkey Federation](#), and [U.S. Poultry & Egg Association](#), and [Rep. Sanford Bishop \(GA-02\)](#), Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies.

Learn more: AmericanChemistry.com/formaldehyde