

Insect Farming Info Sheet



What is insect farming?

Raising and breeding insects as commodities or to support other agrifood systems.

What are some primary insect products?

- High-protein animal feed
- Oil for formulated feeds or biodiesel
- Frass* for crop production and nursery plants

*Insect frass, droppings of insect larvae and by-product, is rich in nutrients and can enhance soil productivity.



Producer holding a rearing tray with black soldier fly larvae in hand.



An Emerging Market

Forecasts suggest the insect feed market may **exceed \$8 billion globally by 2030.**

What species are commonly farmed?

Popular species include:

- Yellow mealworm (*Tenebrio molitor*) - High in protein and healthy lipids
- Black soldier fly (*Hermetia illucens*) - High in protein and fat, excellent for poultry and aquafeed
- Crickets (*Acheta domesticus*, *Gryllodes sigillatus*, & others) - High digestibility and balanced amino acid profile
- Housefly (*Musca domestica*) - High in essential amino acids and 80% protein



How can insect farming support food security?

- **Feed Ingredient Diversification:** Mitigates supply chain shocks in traditional protein markets
- **Supports Domestic Producers:** Increases the amount of USA-made animal feed and lowers industry reliance on imported feed ingredients



Did you know?

To meet global demand in 2050, annual meat production must increase by 200 million tons, but the cost of protein-rich animal feed is rising.

What are the kinds of government regulations around insect farming?

Insect protein is approved for use in animal feed in the EU and categorized as Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAs) by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Insect protein is **suitable for poultry, fish, pig and pet food systems**, but there are no insect-specific food safety guidelines for animal feed.



Poultry being fed farmed insects.



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Visit ksu.edu/insectfarming or email entomology@ksu.edu for questions.