

Fast facts

- Adisseo company endows poultry professorship in Division of Agriculture
- Michael Kidd named to Adisseo Endowed Professorship in Global Sustainable Poultry Nutrition
- Adisseo also funds three research projects in poultry health and nutrition

(780 words)

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FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Adisseo, a France-based company and a world leader in animal nutrition, has endowed a professorship and funded three poultry science research projects for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

Michael Kidd, professor of poultry nutrition, was named to the Adisseo Endowed Professorship in Global Sustainable Poultry Nutrition. The endowed position is a research professorship in the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, the Division of Agriculture's research arm.

The company also provided grants to fund three research projects in the Division of Agriculture's Center of Excellence for Poultry Science.

"The close collaboration we began with Adisseo in 2018 established a partnership that promises to be highly beneficial for independent research and its translation into industry application," said Mark Cochran, vice president-agriculture for the Division of Agriculture.

"We're very proud that Adisseo selected Dr. Kidd for an endowed professorship that will support a broad view of poultry health and nutrition research with meaningful impact for the poultry industry and global agricultural sustainability," Cochran said. "The research grants, as well, demonstrate Adisseo's commitment to important independent research that will benefit animal health and well-being, and the poultry industry as a whole."

Jean François Meullenet, senior associate vice president for agriculture-research and director of the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, said the ongoing collaboration joins the assets of two research powerhouses in animal health and nutrition.

"The endowment for Dr. Kidd and support for other important poultry research benefits both the Experiment Station and Adisseo," Meullenet said. "The industry benefits when product development and testing for improved poultry health and nutrition is built upon a foundation of unbiased, basic research."

David Caldwell, poultry science department head, said the division's agreement with Adisseo is unique.

"Adisseo's support for faculty and graduate students to work directly on research with immediate impact is impressive," Caldwell said. "It identifies their commitment to commercially relevant research programs, and we're thrilled to be a partner with them."

Caldwell also praised the choice of Mike Kidd for the endowed professorship.

“As a poultry nutritionist, Dr. Kidd is highly valued in the industry,” Caldwell said. “Recognition with this professorship supports that value, and he’s certainly deserving of such honor.”

Kidd said he is honored to have been chosen and grateful for Adisseo’s support.

“This professorship encompasses a broad view of poultry nutrition,” Kidd said. “There are major challenges in feeding a growing world population, and this endowment takes a global view of sustainability in the poultry industry.”

Meeting those challenges will require new approaches to improve efficiency in agricultural industries, Kidd said.

“It’s going to require collaboration overdrive,” he said. “We need everyone working on a different piece of the broader puzzle to get it done.”

Kidd said an endowed professorship provides more flexibility for research than typical grants for single projects. “This endowment is not tied to a specific project, but to an overall program,” he said. “It allows flexibility for research, and also for teaching because graduate students will be involved in the research.”

Research by graduate students in the University of Arkansas’ Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences is conducted within the Agricultural Experiment Station’s research programs.

Kidd’s research program will include poultry nutrition investigation in the areas of amino acids, energy, minerals and vitamins.

“We’re looking at multi-disciplinary approaches to increase feed efficiency, reducing nitrogen and carbon footprints and water use, and other areas of poultry health and nutrition,” Kidd said.

The research projects for which Adisseo has provided grants support the “collaboration overdrive” Kidd anticipates. The grants have been awarded to key projects led by widely respected Division of Agriculture researchers:

- Walter Bottje, professor of poultry physiology
- Byungwhi Kong, professor of poultry functional genomics and molecular virology
- Sami Dridi, professor of avian endocrinology and molecular genetics

Stefan Jakob, director of research and innovation in nutrition and animal health at Adisseo, said, “Adisseo is proud that we have teamed up with the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, having developed a model that is going far beyond usual industry-academic relations. Both partners share responsibilities, governed by a common steering body, and thus it is a truly unique model and a science and business accelerator.”

“We consider this partnership as a cornerstone in our research and innovation programs, which contribute strongly to Adisseo’s vision of feeding the planet in a qualitative, affordable, safe and sustainable way.”

Cochran and Jakob signed a memorandum of understanding in October 2018 to establish an endowed professorship in the division’s department of poultry science.

A second agreement to expand collaborative research in poultry health and nutrition was signed in February 2019. Meullenet, Jakob and Jean-François Rous, executive vice president of research and innovation for Adisseo signed that agreement.

To learn more about Division of Agriculture research, visit the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station website: <https://aaes.uark.edu>. Follow us on Twitter at @ArkAgResearch and Instagram at ArkAgResearch.

About Adisseo

Adisseo is one of the world's leading experts in feed additives. The group relies on its 10 research centers and its production sites based in Europe, the United States and China to design, produce and market nutritional solutions for sustainable animal feed. With more than 2,200 employees, it serves around 3,900 customers in over 110 different countries through its global distribution network.

Adisseo is one of the main subsidiaries of China National BlueStar, leader in the Chinese chemical industry with nearly 23,000 employees and a turnover of \$60 billion US. Adisseo is listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

Adisseo Corporate websites: www.adisseo.com; www.bluestar-adisseo.com

About the Division of Agriculture

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture’s mission is to strengthen agriculture, communities, and families by connecting trusted research to the adoption of best practices. Through the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service, the Division of Agriculture conducts research and extension work within the nation’s historic land grant education system.

The Division of Agriculture is one of 20 entities within the University of Arkansas System. It has offices in all 75 counties in Arkansas and faculty on five system campuses.

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs and services without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

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