

Can Ginkgo Bioworks' synthetic biology venture reduce mycotoxins in animal feed, cut antibiotic use?

Mycotoxin mitigation, antibiotic reduction and improved feed crop production are some potential areas of interest for the biotech company as it considers work with companies in the agricultural sector.

The Boston-based Ginkgo Bioworks designs custom microbes for use in multiple areas including producing cultured ingredients, improving strain production and developing novel enzymes, the company reported.

The firm wants to use engineered biology to achieve the largest benefit, said Leigh Fritz, director, business development at Ginkgo. To address this goal it has been partnering with companies to help build the technology they need to bring products to market.

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The reduction of antibiotic use remains a challenge for animal producers as they examine ways to improve animal health and productivity, said Fritz.

"Synthetic biology also has great potential to help facilitate a reduction in antibiotic use through the production of a diverse range of feed ingredients that can support healthy gut function and immune health, such as bioactive peptides, prebiotics, and components of essential oils," she added.

Similarly, accounting for the presence of mycotoxins in feed, or reducing their production could be an area of future focus, she said.

Read full, original post: [US company Ginkgo Bioworks talks feed innovation](#)