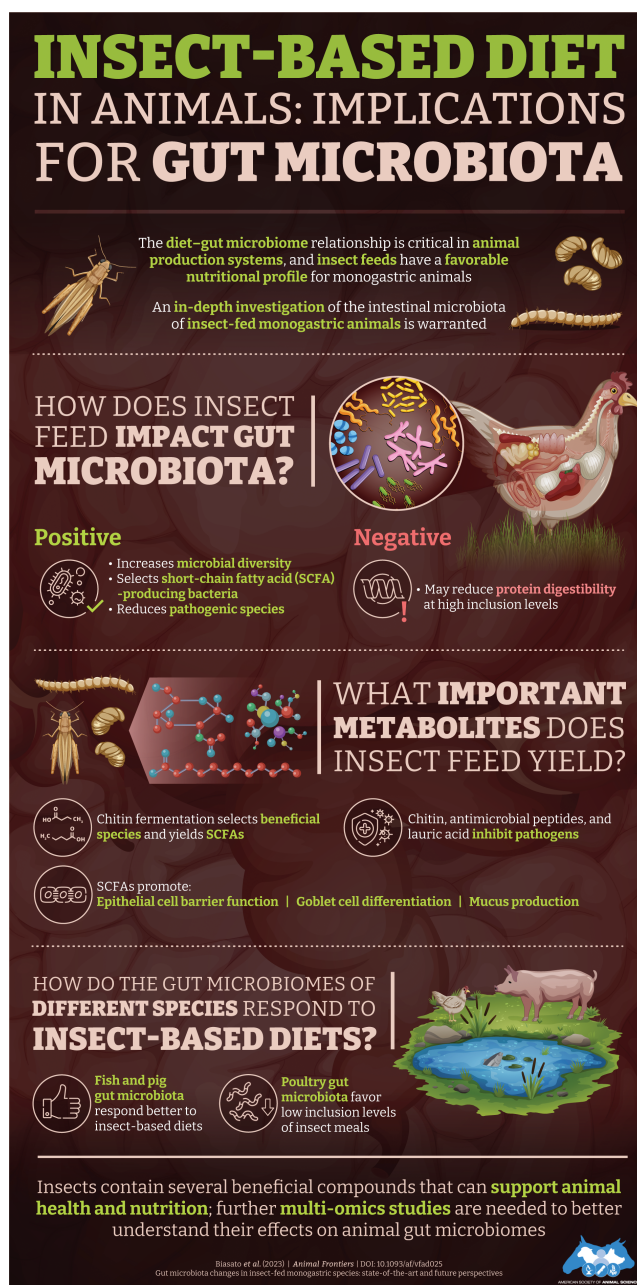


Infographic

Insect-based diet in animals: implications for gut microbiota



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Identification of novel protein sources for use in animal feeds may allow for more traditional protein sources to be used for human consumption. Insects contain essential amino acids and bioactive components that may positively impact the gut microbiota and overall health of animals (Smola et al., 2023; Bovera et al, 2016). *Hermetia illucens* (Black soldier fly) and *Tenebrio molitor* (Mealworm) are among the insect options for inclusion in animal feeds. In particular, in pigs and fish, insect-based feeds increase the number and diversity of microbial species in the gut and promote the expansion of beneficial bacteria. The presence of pathogens was also decreased, likely through antimicrobial properties of insect-based feeds. In contrast to pigs

and fish, poultry may only tolerate feeds with lower inclusion rates of insect-based products.

References

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