

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
FEED INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD (FIAB) MEETING**

**Harvest Hall
3800 Cornucopia Way
Modesto, CA 95358
(209) 525-4730**

**December 19, 2012
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
MINUTES**

MEMBERS

John Kauffman
John Walth
Marit Arana
Michael Koewler
Richard Hoch
Thomas Daly
Thomas Geary
Thomas Prokop
Tim Riordan

CDFA

Adriana Avalos
Asif Maan
Jenna Areias
Killeen Sanders
Lisa Gonzales
Mike Davidson
Gary Castro
Maria Hicks
Natalie Krout-Greenberg
Nirmal Saini
Rick Jensen
Ted Bert

INTERESTED PARTIES

Chris Zanobini
Kelly Covello
Kevin Clutter
Paul Parreira
Tad Bell

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. Chairperson Richard Hoch introduced the two new board members, Dr. Marit Arana and Mr. John Kauffman. Self-introductions were made and a quorum was established. Mr. Thomas Geary arrived at 9:14 a.m.

APPROVE SEPTEMBER 6, 2012 MEETING MINUTES

Chairperson Hoch asked the board to review the meeting minutes from the September 6, 2012 board meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Tim Riordan moved to approve the September 6, 2012 meeting minutes as submitted. Mr. John Walth seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT / DIVISION / BRANCH UPDATES

Mr. Rick Jensen provided the board with Department updates highlighting that new legislation is expected to be introduced to address water quality issues, and to assist in resolving long standing issues around certified farmers markets in their activities with farm to school programs.

Mr. Jensen stated the Division of Inspection Services hired an analyst, Ms. Jennifer Leidolf, to assist the Division's Special Assistant with budget oversight and appeals.

Mr. Gary Castro provided the board with branch updates. He introduced Mr. Ted Bert as the new Agricultural Technician for the Feed Program, and is working in Fresno and Kern. Mr. Castro informed the board that Mr. Kent Kitade and Ms. Gail Jones recently retired and the program is looking to fill their positions.

PROGRAM REVIEW WORK GROUP REPORT

Chairperson Hoch stated the work group had a teleconference regarding the Feed and Safe Animal Feed Education (SAFE) program's future direction. The group decided a comprehensive plan was needed to strategically review the programs. This item was combined with Agenda Item 7.

LABORATORY COST ANALYSIS REPORT

Mr. Nirmal Saini informed the board that Ms. Elaine Wong was unable to attend today's meeting. He provided the board with general laboratory information, informing the board that the lab is staffed with scientists having a minimum of a bachelor's degree and are trained to analyze animal feed samples. Routine samples are processed within 21 days, and rush samples for several assays can be turned around in less than 24 hours. The lab has been International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 17025 accredited since 2004, and all methods used are approved by the Association of Analytical Chemists International (AOAC), American Oil Chemists' Society (AOCS), and American Association of Feed Control Officials (AAFCO). Mr. Saini explained that 55 percent (\$544,948) of the feed lab budget is allocated to personal services and 45 percent (\$449,998) is allocated to operating expenses and equipment and overhead.

He provided the board with a summary of feed lab samples by year and key factors impacting the costs, including the number of assays performed per sample. Additionally, the Center for Analytical Chemistry (CAC) has other sources of revenue from the Department of Boating and Waterways, CDFA's Integrated Pest Control Program, CDFA's Pest Detection and Eradication Program, CDFA's Inspection and Compliance Branch, and CDFA's State Organic Program.

Mr. Saini informed the board that the lab often receives letters from the industry requesting to see the lab and its functions and abilities; the lab always accommodates those requests. He showed the board a letter from Central California Almond Growers Association in which they requested a tour of the lab as an example.

Mr. Saini reviewed special projects conducted by the lab, including mixer studies. He highlighted that the lab provides a huge variety of analytical services. Mr. Tim Riordan asked if the reduction in samples over the past few years was due to specialized testing. Mr. Saini stated that samples are driven by the needs of the program, due to what is going on in the industry.

PROGRAM UPDATE – CORN SURVEY AND MID WEST CORN

Mr. Mike Davidson stated because of the drought in the Midwest, a corn survey is being conducted to ensure no corn over 20 parts per billion (ppb) is entering California. To date, no tested corn has been over 20 ppb. Additionally, California corn has been tested and there has been no tested corn near the 20 ppb threshold. Results of the corn survey will be posted on the Department website. To date, there has not been a spike in any mycotoxins. Mr. Davidson stated over 85 percent of corn fed to animals in California comes from out-of-state via railcars. The program will sample various railcars and have them analyzed for mycotoxins known to cause production loss or health concerns for livestock. All firms receiving trains of corn are requested to have the railcars tested and sampled by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) at origin.

Mr. Davidson stated many almond hulls did not meet the standard of less than 15 percent crude fiber this year. He discussed the protocol for violations; discussion ensued regarding almond hulls and violations.

Mr. Davidson reviewed the proposed text of Section 2736 of the California Code of Regulations; Supplemental Corn and Corn Product Controls. The proposed regulations would require a Certificate of Corn Products to be completed for corn products entering California; this would be an extra level of safety to ensure everything has been tested before it enters California.

Mr. Tad Bell asked what issue is trying to be addressed by promulgating these regulations. Dr. Asif Maan stated there is concern because of the drought in the Midwest and how this could affect California; the corn may have high aflatoxin levels. The proposed regulation would enable the department to regulate this emerging issue and ensure feed safety.

Chairperson Hoch suggested the proposed regulations be discussed at the next board meeting after the board has reviewed the proposed language and the form that will be required. Dr. Maan stated this issue should be moved forward as an emergency and recommended the board review it at today's meeting. Mr. Jensen commented this issue was deemed an emergency and was moved forward by the Department because it is unknown what will happen with the corn while it is in storage.

Chairperson Hoch stated that he does not believe it is an emergency at this point. Ms. Natalie Krout-Greenberg stated the Feed Program is always mindful of the food safety aspect of the program. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed regulation and the appropriate course of action to take if corn entering California from the Midwest becomes a matter of concern. The board decided that they would like to review the proposed text and the urgency in more detail at the next board meeting.

PROGRAM UPDATE – SAFE PROGRAM

Ms. Jenna Areias provided the board with an update of the SAFE program. She highlighted that 120 industry members attended the California Feed Industry Workshop on November 15, 2012. There were two great speakers, and positive feedback was received from attendees. The industry requested to hold additional sessions at different locations next year. On November 8, 2012 Mr. Davidson and Ms. Areias attended the California Grain and Feed Association (CGFA) board meeting to discuss SAFE's three-tier approach matrix for obtaining Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) compliance and to discuss the matrix timeline. Ms. Areias informed the board that by January 2013, the matrix will be complete and submitted to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Veterinary Medicine. Additionally, Mr. Davidson will take the three-tier approach matrix to the Feed Alliance meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

FEED AND SAFE PROGRAM'S FUTURE DIRECTION

Dr. Maan stated at the past board meeting, the board wanted to explore the future direction of the program. Dr. Maan provided the board with the program history and background, stating the California commercial feed law was established in 1924. A program review was conducted in 2007 in consultation with CGFA and the board. The recommendations were to focus 50:50 on feed safety issues and label compliance, reorganize the branch, change the license fee and the license renewal cycle, develop a web-based database, and establish sampling goals. Dr. Maan informed the board there is a need to review the program again and suggested what aspects of the program should be reviewed. He included FSMA, new and unconventional feed ingredients, medicated feed, livestock drugs, the program's collaboration with FDA, reevaluating the program's capacity, and what the program is not doing now that would be beneficial to the state and the industry. He recommended the board form a working group to assist the program with the review; the goal is to complete the review by May 15, 2013. The first meeting will be the first week of February 2013, and Ms. Krout-Greenberg has kindly agreed to facilitate this process.

MOTION: Mr. Michael Koewler moved that a working group be formed with Ms. Natalie Krout-Greenberg as the facilitator. The members of the working group are: Mr. Thomas Geary, Mr. John Walth, Mr. Thomas Daly, Mr. Thomas Prokop, Dr. Marit Arana, Mr. Tad Bell, Mr. Chris Zanobini, Mr. John Kauffmann, Ms. Elaine Wong, Mr. Mike Davidson, and Ms. Jenna Areias.

Discussion ensued in regards to the goals of the working group. Mr. Zanobini commented that CGFA sent a letter to the secretary of CDFA praising the progress that the SAFE program has made in conjunction with CGFA and encouraged the Department, through the Feed Inspection Program, to allocate significant resources to insure the Department, through the FIAB, can meet the needs of the industry under FSMA.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS / NEXT MEETING

MOTION: Mr. Michael Koewler moved that Mr. Kent Kitade be formally recognized for his service in the feed industry and his efforts with American Association of Feed Control Officials. Mr. Tim Riordan seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Hoch stated he believes a group needs to be formed to discuss future board applicants since four members terms will be expiring next year. Mr. Michael Koewler, Mr. Thomas Geary, and Mr. John Kauffmann volunteered to review future board members applications and provide feedback to the board.

The next board meeting will be in Sacramento in April 2013. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. by Chairperson Hoch.

Respectfully submitted by:



Asif A. Maan, Ph.D., Chief
Feed, Fertilizer and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services

12/19/12

Date