

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (Department)**

**FEED INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD (FIAB)  
STANISLAUS COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
1201 L STREET, MODESTO CA 95354 / HYBRID**

**March 4, 2025  
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Alejandro Hernandez  
Dan Rice  
Eric Benziger  
Jeremy Banducci  
Dr. Marit Arana, Chair  
Michael DeGroot  
Michael Koewler  
Shay Rambur, Vice Chair

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jed Asmus

**CDFA STAFF**

Alejandro Ramirez  
Amber Hayter  
Angelia Johnson  
Ashley James  
Brandi Alston  
Brittnie Williams  
Cathryn McCandless  
Frankie Aguilar  
Jenna Leal  
KC Gutenberger  
Mike Davidson  
Rachelle Kennedy  
Roberta Franco  
Samantha Moran-Defty  
Shelly King  
Ted Bert  
Valerie White

**INTERESTED PARTIES**

Chris Zanobini  
Ed Depeters  
Hernan Rodriguez  
James Langston  
Jessica Lawrence  
Joey Kingstad  
Katie Swanson  
Rani Youngman  
Tad Bell

**INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Marit Arana, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. Self-introductions were made, and a quorum was established. Jed Asmus was absent.

**APPROVE NOVEMBER 5, 2024, MEETING MINUTES**

Chair Arana requested the FIAB review the meeting minutes from November 5, 2024.

**MOTION:** Michael DeGroot moved to approve November 5, 2024 minutes as presented; Dan Rice seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all members present with a vote of 8 to 0.

**DEPARTMENT / DIVISION / BRANCH UPDATES**

Jenna Leal, Branch Chief, announced a federal fund freeze that prompted the Department to review the Branch's federal funds. The Branch's Commercial Feed Regulatory Program's (CFRP) Food Safety Modernization Act contract and Animal Feed

Regulatory Program Standards (AFRPS) had minimal impact. Other programs within the Division and the Department could have potential greater impacts.

Assembly Bill (AB) 411, pertaining to livestock carcass disposal, impacts the rendering industry. The Branch is co-authoring the bill analysis with the Department's Animal Health and Food Safety Services Branch (AHFSS) and the Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety Branch's Rendering Program. Senate Bill (SB) 725, pertaining to organic byproduct recycling, is a bill also being monitored by Branch.

Midyear budget projections were submitted in March. The Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship (AUS) Program had budget cuts. The budget is anticipated to be signed by the Governor on June 15, but given the recent wildfires in LA county, and the delay on tax reporting for those impacted counties, the actual state of the budget will not be clear until likely October.

Leal announced that Mark Cady, Senior Environmental Scientist (SES) (Supervisory) for the Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP) will be retiring at the end of May. Nicole Nunes, Environmental Scientist for FREP, will also be separating the program at the end of March.

The Department's State Organic Program filed action against a firm in Northern California regarding organic grain fraud. This case is still pending. Another case regarding red seaweed was settled. The Department worked with the Attorney General's Office and Deputy Attorney General who negotiated settlements and terms.

Leal mentioned a fleet issue within the Department regarding the zero-emissions vehicle (ZEV) mandate. This mandate has resulted in an increased cost of vehicles for the programs and a major manufacturing delay in receiving these types of vehicles. CFRP is one of the first programs within the Department to get a ZEV Ford Lightning pickup. The pickup was assigned to one of the Environmental Scientists field staff employees who oversees the Fresno County region. There have been several issues with the Ford Lightning limited to a 200-mile range. The range declines considerably with the telematics device installed in all fleet vehicles, and the electric charge also falls with phone and laptop charge, etc. Leal highlighted that the truck has not been utilized after documentation of data. The assigned field staff employee is unable to perform their duties efficiently in rural counties with limited charging availability for the electric truck; therefore, the Branch has escalated the issue to the Department of General Services and Governor's Office who have been quite responsive. The Governor's Office requests a memo from the program documenting the employee's experience and data collection to potentially make some policy adjustments. Leal reported that the cost of the electric truck, loss of productivity, hours spent charging total to about \$960 a week per employee.

Leal announced the Governor's Executive Order which requires all state employees return to office (RTO) four days a week beginning July 1, 2025. This presents a challenge in the Division's current headquarter office in Sacramento, which is a smaller

space that has allowed employees to rotate two days a week in the office fulfilling the RTO mandate that took effect June 2024. More to come on how the Department will fulfill the new Executive Order.

Leal announced the Department's Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation new name is now the Office of Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability (OARS).

### **PROGRAM UPDATES**

Kennedy gave personnel updates, reporting CFRP's new hire, Ryan Kyeremeh, Environmental Scientist (ES). Kyeremeh will perform tonnage auditing and serve as a backup to various duties for the program. Lindsey Collier, ES for Northern California territory, is on maternity leave until the beginning of June. Valerie White, ES, has returned to work from maternity leave. Jessica Lugo, ES for Sacramento County, separated from the program in January. The program received approval of the 120-day hiring freeze exemption to begin recruitment for this position. The ES vacancy has been posted until the position is filled. Samantha Moran-Defty is the newly appointed SES (Supervisory) for Northern California. Moran-Defty will supervise the Northern California field and program staff in Sacramento. The program plans to backfill Moran-Defty's prior SES (Specialist) position.

Kennedy reported the beginning balance as of July 1, 2024, for the Feed and Safe Animal Feed Education Program (SAFE) was \$4,594,061. Revenue for Feed and SAFE was \$2,432,394; expenditures were \$1,594,503 and encumbrances were \$494,827. Kennedy reported the beginning balance of \$765,774 for the Livestock Drugs (LD) Program, noting renewal year in 2024. The ending balance as of December 31, 2024, for Feed and SAFE was \$5,431,951 with an adjusted balance of \$4,937,124. Revenue for LD was \$34,915; expenditures were \$59,071 and encumbrances were \$173. The beginning balance of \$1,230,052 for the AUS program. Expenditure for AUS was \$703,192 and encumbrances were \$128,086. The ending balance as of December 31, 2024, for AUS was \$562,860 with an adjusted balance of \$434,774. Kennedy reported the Feed Safety contract of \$106,549 and AFRPS contract of \$84,874, noting AFRPS amount is higher now than in December due to January billings.

Moran-Defty, SES (Supervisory), is attending the AFRPS Face-to-Face meeting and reported that the program will likely receive some AFRPS money in the coming years. More information will be provided at the next FIAB meeting.

Kennedy presented a table illustrating the months and amount of tonnage revenue in each quarter. The tonnage reporting amount that has been paid to the program as of July 1, 2024, totals \$1,429,447. Kennedy shared tonnage data reporting from the third and fourth quarters, noting that the numbers presented are based on ExtraView database tonnage reported and not what has been paid to date. The program identified 6-7% of the tonnage reported is at the diversion rate or diversion with no fees (under 1,000 tons).

Kennedy presented the program's revenue since bringing in diversion tonnage. Tonnage for fiscal year (FY) 2021-22 at \$0.10 tonnage rate brought in a total of \$2,454,428. Tonnage rate at \$0.10/0.05 FY 2022-23 totaled \$2,448,498 and increased slightly FY 2023-24 totaling \$2,698,702 with tonnage rate at \$0.12/.06. Kennedy noted the total for FY 2024-25 with tonnage rate at \$0.13/0.65 will likely estimate the same amount as previous years. With the numbers appearing similar, the program plans to monitor the tonnage since there has not been an increase or decrease in tonnage.

Ted Bert, SES (Specialist), reported 70 new California licenses were received for FY 2024-25; 23 diversion (\$100 license fee). Aside from the 70 licenses, the program received six from out-of-state. This was due to outreach efforts to creameries and licensed food facilities. Bert reported a total of 1,955 licenses (\$500 license fee) and 90 human diversion licenses.

Kennedy stated at the last FIAB meeting there was discussion on a set flat tonnage rate. It costs minimal to program to process tonnage reports. The majority of reporters pay less than \$250 per year.

Effective January 1, 2025, a late fee of \$100 will be applied for those who do not report any tonnage. A \$200 late fee will be applied if reporting less than 10,000 tons and \$500 late fee if over 10,000 tons. A total of 37 zero reporters did not report timely resulting in a \$100 late fee. The late fee covers the costs and staff's time for follow-ups procedures and issuing notice of warnings.

Bert stated the program conducted audits for five randomly selected firms in 2024, all of which are closed except one. These audits led to new licenses and potential future audits. Tonnage audit documents were developed as guidance for firms through the audit process. Correspondence protocols for audits, audit findings outline and Notice of Warnings specific to audit findings, internal process for recovering tonnage tax from under-reporters and zero reporters, and standard operating procedures for tonnage audit process were also developed by the program. Updates are being made to ExtraView to assist the audit process.

Bert reported a total of 656 samples were collected in 2024; 449 were food safety samples and 207 were label compliance samples. The program's goal was 800 samples; however, field staff were also conducting feed safety inspections (31 state; 21 federal) on top of current workload and with Chris Hansen's retirement, the number of samples was lower than anticipated. The program seeks to fulfill 60/40 label compliance with more focus on ingredient sampling for this year.

KC Gutenberger, SES (Specialist) for SAFE, reported types of feed sampled and their percentages. Complete/formula feed made up 34%, vitamin/mineral 19%, corn 11%, almond hull 10%, other single ingredients 10% and other 4% include vitamin, minerals, premixes and liquid feed. An analysis of the feed safety components presents 61 heavy metal screens that include four different individual analysis of heavy metals. Ten different individual mycotoxins are processed. Selenium, calcium, phosphorus, sodium, other minerals, vitamins, medications, and other (pesticide screens and salmonella tests) were included in the analysis. Gutenberger reported 146 were official violative samples, nine investigative samples and 501 non-violative samples. Label violations and crude protein were the two largest violations. Of the 46 label violations, 21 were various citations on inadequate feeding directions, 21 were other label statements or issue with guaranteed analysis, and four were related to medicated feed. Of the 26 crude fiber violations, 20 were almond hulls.

Bert reported a total of 71 notice of warnings were issued for: 16 unlicensed feed firms, 13 expired license/delinquent tonnage, two feed inspection findings, 10 sample violations, one adulteration/unapproved products, two veterinary feed directive (VFD) related, 20 restricted livestock drugs related, and seven certificate of movement/cottonseed. Two compliance meetings were held. Bert reported 12 feed complaints (one salmonella, three nutrient toxicity/deficiency, one noxious weeds in hay, five almond hulls, one mold, one complaint from 2022 the program was unable to assist). A total of 146 sample violation inspection reports were followed up on as of February 26, 2025.

A total of 31 feed safety inspections were conducted, including medicated feed, VFD and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). CFRP has reduced inspection cadence for more in-depth inspections to align more with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspections in the program's work plan and dedicate time to assist with compliance for food safety plans. In 2024, at least 40% of inspections required at least one follow up. A total of 156 commercial feed license inspections were conducted, which include Human Food Addendum, VFD Addendum or BSE Addendum, if applicable. This information is used to collect and reference information from firms on what they manufacture, help set their priority assessment and conduct a tonnage comparison versus what is reported in ExtraView. Additionally, the supplier and toll manufacturer addendums are used to assist in tonnage auditing and feed license verification. There was a total of 301 retail inspections conducted which were at restricted livestock drugs licensees or VFD distributors.

Bert presented among the 31 feed safety inspections completed, 12 follow up visits were conducted with firms for compliance issues with feed safety plans. Firms who do not have feed safety plans are placed on a phased compliance approach. Targets are set with firms for individual components of food safety plan and are moved forward once complete. For example, the program starts with the firm's standard operating procedures/prerequisite program for activities that impact feed safety with a 30–60 day timeframe, then once completed revisits the firm focusing on hazard analysis and risk ranking completed to identify prerequisite programs needed with another 30-60 day timeframe and so on to address all the areas of concern.

Gutenberg presented feed safety inspections total common corrective actions, reporting 18 inadequacies of hazard analysis, seven identifications of products/inventory, six housekeeping, four no written food safety plan, three inadequacies of production records, three inadequacies of supplier programs/testing and two hazards not controlled. Some examples of hazard analysis inadequacies: not all known and reasonably foreseeable hazards have been considered, not all ingredients or products in use at the facility have been evaluated, not all processing/manufacturing steps have been evaluated, not considering all species of animals or the risk to humans, justification is not inadequate to support decisions made, or practices at the facility do not match written procedures and justifications.

Gutenberg gave a contract status of SAFE's incoming funds, reporting the federal contract FY 2024-25 for FDA federal inspections was \$139,008.97. A total of \$19,796.90 was billed for quarter one. Kennedy mentioned that the AFRPS agreement FY 2024-25 of \$525,000 will expire in June 2025. No additional funding options have been shared with the states.

Bert reported the California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) Lab Flexible Funding Model (LFFM) contract took effect in July 2024 and ends June 2025. The program sampling included three dried distillers grains (DDG) and 16 corn. Kennedy added, this sampling is how the program produces a mycotoxin study. The program plans to partner with CAHFS who is reapplying for the LFFM contract to continue this type of sampling.

Kennedy gave a regulations and regulatory subcommittee meeting update. The emergency rulemaking, pertaining to Article 14 ingredient definitions, took effect on November 12, 2024 – May 13, 2025. Regular rulemaking added a few selenium provisions and the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) updates. Gutenberg added, streamlining label requirements for selenium from the Department, Code of Federal Regulations of approved selenium ingredients, and AAFCO is the focus in the regular rulemaking packet. Kennedy mentioned there have been legislative discussions on integrator licensing and tonnage, data protection on tonnage auditing and costs of certificates of free sale. There is no legislative mandate for certificate of free sale, but it is a service provided by the program. Potential fees for administrative costs are in discussion. More discussion on this topic will occur in the future.

Chair Arana suggested revisiting the certificate of free sales in detail. Kennedy stated the program can present different language options at the next FIAB meeting.

Vice Chair Shay Rambur stated conversation regarding the existing language for the integrator licensing tonnage was held at the California Grain and Feed Association (CGFA) Board meeting. Leal stated the Feed program can propose different language options to meet industry needs and present to the upcoming regulatory subcommittee to then bring to the next FIAB meeting.

FIAB was presented with the existing language. Kennedy suggested rewording the section for transparency to those who are subject to inspection. Existing language states firms who distribute commercial feed to a consumer buyer in the state, the distributor shall pay an inspection tonnage tax for purchased commercial feed fed to distributor's own animals. CFRP proposed a section indicating if firms were under management of the distributor whether they owned the animals in hopes the integrators who are.

Tad Bell, CGFA, commented, recognizing the language is a bill regarding a tax and expressed the importance of CGFA and FIAB support. Bell agreed with Kennedy's suggestion in rewriting the language for transparency and how it should be addressed.

Dan Rice stated there may be confusion with commercial feed and integrated operation manufacturing and proposed that CFRP not go down the commercial feed path.

Kennedy advised CFRP to propose language or reword the section to present to the regulatory subcommittee. Mike Davidson, CFRP/AUS Supervising Special Investigator I, commented, suggesting an integrated operation that produces feed or animals to offer as food that is being processed to the consumer-buyer should pay the fee if it is being inspected. Leal agreed with this suggestion for those operations going from manufacturing to offering consumers the end product would help narrow the language. CFRP will work on capturing the suggestion in the language.

Gutenberger presented the next rulemaking packet to modernize label requirements in alignment with AAFCO. The packet will include the reorganization of bulk/packaged, pesticide residue tolerance, labeling (NPN, feed through pesticides, free-choice), updates for AAFCO consistency (definitions, fluorine, heavy metals, purpose statement, guarantees, feeding directions), mineral guarantees of supplements and premixes, and collective terms industry survey. The survey indicates 71% of priority 1-3 firms state packaged livestock feed offered to the public at retail feed stores in California are allowed to have collective terms in the list of ingredients. Other firms stated the same rule should apply as it is for bulk and custom feeds. Collective terms do not align with the growing emphasis on food, safety, and transparency to the consumer. Gutenberger asked for FIAB discussion on the option to use collective terms.

Chair Arana commented that the addition of more collective terms is not necessary.

Rice added, stating his team supports collective terms as an option which will allow for flexibility.

Discussion ensued regarding the necessity of collective terms as an option.

Kennedy suggested further discussion on collective terms at the next regulatory subcommittee meeting. The program will be moving forward with drafting the next rulemaking packet that will modernize label requirements in alignment with AAFCO including species specific labeling.

Davidson stated that CFRP is looking into guidance for sampling of cottonseed for multiple car trains coming into California. The only reference is with the GIPSA of the grain inspection for corn. Samples are taken from five rail cars per unit train for analysis representing one analysis for every five cars. Comments from industry are if cottonseed comes from region with no history of issues with aflatoxin like San Joaquin Valley, CFRP does not require testing with exception of Riverside and Imperial Valley. CFRP accepts hazard analysis and history as consideration of representation of train loads. Davidson stated there is nothing in regulation or industry practice. Leal asked FIAB preference on program's approach to cottonseed sampling.

Bert added that corn has always been stated but cottonseed never has had a requirement on reporting. Chair Arana commented on potentially referencing the corn model and that if cottonseed is not coming from an area with problems but maybe half the amount required for sampling. Davidson stated that the approach is not uncommon to other programs like fumigation. It is not required in regions that do not have issues with pink bollworm but if it is a problem then sample testing is required.

Alejandro Hernandez suggested the sampling requirement be based off origin and the facilities food safety plan then figure out how firms are mitigating the origin. Davidson stated program is proposing that it be part of hazard analysis and food safety plan, which would have sampling history and verification testing included.

Gutenberger presented SAFE program updates. A new mixer study guide and a new feed label guarantees guide were published. Updates to current outreach material were made due to Article 14 changes. For the last few years, SAFE surveys have been used to assess industry needs. The toptrending interests continue to be knowledge of feed, safety hazards, feed ingredients safe for use, label requirements, food safety plans and prerequisite programs. SAFE will focus on preventive controls qualified individual (PCQI) refresher training for 2025 and a PCQI training. Gutenberger announced Dr. Robert Poppenga, University of California Davis (UCD) Veterinary Medicine, and Jennifer Heguy, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources, reappointments to TASC.



Hernan Rodriguez, graduate researcher from UCD, presented the project assessment of byproduct feedstuffs to livestock and the environment in California. This project was funded by the FIAB. The purpose of the project was to begin the process of creating an inventory of various byproduct feedstuffs produced and used in feeding livestock in California.

The project conducted a survey to obtain preliminary information and identify pitfalls for gathering data and utilize the Department's annual reports and county crop reports to get an estimate on byproducts produced in California. The results allowed UCD to determine the top 10 byproducts in California and obtain annual byproduct amounts by utilizing the Department's data. The main contact groups in the survey were nutritionists, brokers and food processors. Feeding byproducts to livestock converts human inedible nutrients to human edible nutrients (milk, meat, eggs) and human usable products (leather, feathers, wool). Availability, price and value are the top three reasons nutritionists use byproduct feedstuffs in rations fed to livestock. Survey information identifies byproduct feedstuffs utilized in livestock feeding; however, a survey is not adequate at providing quantity estimates. If possible, future research should have the Department's staff involvement as it might make it easier to approach certain contacts. Rendered products were not evaluated in the current survey; however, they make up a large amount of the byproducts in California. Rodriguez concluded that UCD is finishing the discussion on top 10 byproducts and references and revising the latest draft of research paper.

Dr. Katie Swanson, post doc at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, thanked FIAB and the Department for their support in this research project.

Jeremy Banducci requested a copy of the research paper. Kennedy responded, stating the program will post and send out the final research paper via blog post.

**CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD / OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL FARMING  
AND INNOVATION UPDATES**

No updates were provided from CARB.

Cathryn McCandless, SES (Specialist) for OARS, gave an enteric methane update and an overview of methane programs. Through the Department, OARS is working on mitigating methane from dairy and livestock operations. McCandless reported that greenhouse gas emissions from California's agriculture are substantial. Methane, enteric methane and manure management make up 36% and 35% of the total agricultural sector's emissions of greenhouse gases. California's approach to methane reduction is legislative and regulatory and voluntary measures. AB 32, SB 32 and SB 1383, pertaining to reduction in manure emissions, methane and enteric methane to 40% below 2013 levels by 2030. SB 1383 has led to regulations for methane reduction on or after 2024. The Department has several programs including the anaerobic digester program called Dairy Digester Research and Development Program, a non-digester based approach through the Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP) and Dairy Plus Program for advanced manure management and nutrient surplus strategies. In addition to the manure management and nutrient surplus strategies, OARS has enteric research programs.

In enteric reduction efforts, two research programs funded to help mitigate enteric methane, the California Livestock Methane Measurement, Mitigation and Thriving Environments Research Program (CLIM3ATE-RP) and Livestock Enteric Methane Emissions Reduction-Research Program (LEMER-RP). CLIM3ATE-RP was awarded 4.7 million to research projects with 6 projects and received 1.4 million in matching funds. Research included verification of methane reduction strategies, alternative methane reduction strategies and manure recycling and innovative products development. LEMER-RP was awarded \$9.2 million specific to enteric methane emissions reduction projects, funded six projects and received 2.14 million in matching funds. The administration of feed additives for one full and/or multiple lactations, dual intervention studies, cow-calf grazing system studies and dietary modifications intended to reduce methane emissions from livestock.

In addition to these research programs, OARS is looking at how to incentivize enteric methane emissions reductions through their California Reduction of Enteric Methane Emissions Program.

The Department received \$2 million to develop a framework for future programs to encourage voluntary use of products or strategies, such as feed additives scientifically proven and safe for enteric emissions reduction in the state's livestock sector. OARS has held focus groups to be engaged in administrative work bringing together stakeholders and has hosted public meetings. OARS is creating tools and models estimating enteric methane emission reductions by available practice in support of those efforts with counterparts at the CARB. OARS will continue to pursue other opportunities to have a fully funded incentive program to help offset costs of enteric methane reduction of feed additives or other strategies.

Rice asked if there is potential for recommendations on how animals should be fed to achieve methane goals. McCandless responded, stating the primary way of measuring enteric methane emissions is the measurement of attrition and loss of animals in the state. McCandless commented, stating any way that can be quantified to show a decrease in enteric emissions will be on the table but that it is for CARB to decide what is scientifically proven and for OARS to support those efforts in obtaining the research.

#### **UPCOMING BOARD MEMBER VACANCIES**

Chair Arana announced three upcoming board member terms expiring on April 30, 2025, for Alejandro Hernandez, Jed Asmus and Jeremy Banducci.

Koewler commented, stating that after consideration of applications and qualifications provided by each applicant, Alejandro Hernandez, Jed Asmus and Jeremy Banducci be recommended for reappointment to the board. Koewler emphasized the importance for interested individuals to attend future FIAB meetings as board member vacancies come up.

**MOTION:** Michael Koewler moved to approve Jed Asmus, Jeremy Banducci and Alejandro Hernandez for recommendations to the secretary; Dan Rice seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all members present with a vote of 6 to 0. Jeremy Banducci and Alejandro Hernandez abstained. Jed Asmus was absent.

#### **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DAVIS LABORATORIES UPDATE**

Jim Langston, Toxicology Lab Manager, the LFFM model/Food Emergency Response Network grant will end June 2025. UCD plans to apply for another five-year cycle. This grant includes the Food Animal Feed testing program for corn samples and DDGs. The Retsch Ultracentrifugal Mill has been fully implemented for grinding samples. UCD CAHFS lab is working to replace a high-performance liquid chromatography system that is obsolete at the end of the year. The 3-nitrooxypropanol (3-NOP) analytical method for Bovaer 10 has been validated. Langston stated the method is working in place with some technical issues on some feeds that were part of an experimental study.

Rani Youngman, An Lab Director, reported the Foss Hydrotec 8000 is a great addition to the lab that provides faster turnaround times for FAT testing. It provides consistency with a system that performs automated acid hydrolysis without sample transfer. The method was developed, the system was verified and placed in operation on January 24, 2025. A technician visited the lab on February 2025 to perform diagnostics and perform maintenance on the Karl Fischer titrator. Unfortunately, it is an old unit that cannot be revived. However, another Department had a titrator that is now in An Lab's possession. Youngman announced that the Anlab has an advertisement to backfill one position and an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) audit on March 6-7, 2025, as part of ISO accreditation maintenance.

#### **CALIFORNIA GRAIN AND FEED ASSOCIATION / ALMOND ALLIANCE UPDATES**

Bell stated the FIAB/program covered the discussion about the legislative change. Bell suggested the SAFE program stay up to date on AHFSS Branch updates on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and reach out to Donna Boggs, CGFA, to emphasize biosecurity regarding this issue.

Leal stated FFLDRS was instructed to have all communications come from AHFSS Branch, however, the program can ensure that publications regarding HPAI from AHFSS be forwarded to Donna Boggs, CGFA.

Chair Arana asked for Almond Alliance updates. Bell commented, stating crop year was good, however, the latest storm might have put the most crops at risk. Bell stated there are no updates received from the almond huller side but, if the program is aware of any issues, Bell requested the program inform Bell to ensure that communication is out to the field.

Bell announced Alexi Rodriguez is the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer for Almond Alliance. Rodriguez plans to attend a future FIAB meeting to introduce herself to the board.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Kennedy stated updates to the legislative language regarding the integrator tonnage licensing and proposed language options for the certificate of free sale. Regulatory subcommittee members will be polled to select a date for the next regulatory subcommittee meeting in May.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next FIAB meeting will be at the end of July or beginning August 2025 in Sacramento, California. Members will be asked to select a date.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Michael Koewler moved to adjourn the meeting; Shay Rambur seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 PM.

#### **ORIGINAL SIGNED BY RACHELLE KENNEDY**

Rachelle Kennedy, Environmental Program Manager I  
Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services

03/04/2025  
Date