

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (Department)

**FEED INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD (FIAB)
STANISLAUS COUNTY FARM BUREAU / HYBRID**

**April 15, 2024
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS

Alejandro Hernandez
Dan Rice
Jed Asmus
Jeremy Banducci
Dr. Marit Arana
Michael Koewler
Paul Parreira
Shay Rambur

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael DeGroot

CDFA STAFF

Amadou Ba
Angelia Johnson
Ashley James
Brittnie Williams
Elizabeth Moseby
Erika Lewis
Jenna Leal
Jessica Lugo
KC Gutenberger
Maria Tenorio Alfred
Mike Davidson
Natalie Krout-Greenberg
Rachelle Kennedy
Samantha Moran-Defty
Ted Bert

**INTERESTED
PARTIES**

Eric Benziger
Jessica Lawrence
Steve Riggs
Tad Bell
Trisha Youngdale

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Marit Arana, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Chair Arana informed attendees that the majority of FIAB members do not need to be present in one location for a quorum to be established, beginning January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. Self-introductions were made, and a quorum was established.

APPROVE NOVEMBER 1, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Chair Arana requested the FIAB review the minutes from the November 1, 2023, FIAB meeting.

MOTION: Michael Koewler moved to approve the November 1, 2023 minutes as presented; Jed Asmus seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all members present with a vote of 8 - 0.

DEPARTMENT / DIVISION / BRANCH UPDATES

Natalie Krout-Greenberg, Inspection Services Division Director, announced the Governor's return-to-office mandate begins June 17, 2024. The Division is working to

make this a smooth transition for employees to return to the Sacramento office two days per week with a smaller office space.

Krout-Greenberg reported budget changes for the Division. The Division's Office of Farm to Fork's (F2F) California Nutrition Incentive Program's \$35 million was eliminated, resulting in the program's inability to apply for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program. Funds were also removed for the Food Hubs and Healthy Refrigeration Program. With the budget shortfall, the Division has been monitoring its 19 vacant positions closely. Approximately half of the vacancies are in the recruitment phase, and some have been kept vacant due to lack of funds to support the positions. Krout-Greenberg mentioned the importance of FIAB guidance for program planning, while considering the appropriate time of when to fill them and if funds are available to conduct the body of work.

The California Budget Acts of 2021 and 2022 appropriated a combined \$60 million from the General Fund to the Department for the California Farm to School Incubator Grant Program in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24. The request for the grant application deadline for the Farm to School Program closed. Over 500 applications will be reviewed and those selected will begin grant terms in the fall. F2F will award up to \$52.8 million in grant funding to farm-to-school projects across California.

One Health, an approach that recognizes the health of people is closely connected to the health of animals, and our shared environment has become more important in recent years. Produce safety outbreaks in 2018, 2019 and 2020 led to conversations of adjacent land on livestock production, compost production or vineyard operation that may affect produce and produce safety. A 2020 longitudinal study in Salinas will be completed in the fall of 2024. Arizona's longitudinal study and findings will be presented in the summer. Healthy People 2030 set benchmark goals with metrics to keep healthy populations - salmonella in poultry and E. coli O157:H7 in livestock. Actions were set to achieve this goal. Krout-Greenberg announced her attendance at a One Health meeting at the University of Texas' Medical Branch to speak on what California has been doing related to these research studies. A F2F meeting, One Health focused, will be held in Washington D.C. where the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States (US) Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will be in attendance.

Dr. Amadou Ba, Branch Chief, discussed Bagley-Keene law changes that allows for hybrid meetings for 2024. However, board members must notify the program of remote attendance for proper information to be shared in the meeting notice.

Dr. Ba announced Dr. Martin Burger, Senior Environmental Scientist (SES) (Supervisory) for the Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (FMIP), retired on April 1, 2024. The vacant SES (Supervisory) position will be advertised until the position is filled. Patrick Barbree, Environmental Scientist (ES) for FMIP's registration staff, is retiring on May 30, 2024, and Mike Gingles, Special Investigator for FMIP, is retiring on August 1, 2024. Liam Erskine, newly appointed ES for the FMIP registration staff, starts today. Joseph Donohue, Fertilizer Research and Education Program's (FREP)

Agricultural Aide, starts on June 19, 2024. Kelsey Dodd, Staff Services Analyst for the FMIP, was promoted to an Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA), and KC Gutenberger, promoted from ES to SES (Specialist).

Through a Budget Change Proposal (BCP), the Office of Information Technology (OITS) is creating a payment portal for registration and licenses for the Department, through the Salesforce platform. A few of the Branch's licenses may be included in this pilot project. However, the BCP does not address the additional elements of ExtraView, including the Lab functionality. Discussion on how to move the Branch's ExtraView database into Salesforce in its entirety has ensued.

Dr. Ba presented the bills that impact both the Commercial Feed Regulatory Program (Feed) and the FMIP. Assembly Bill 2902, pertaining to organic waste diversion, and Senate Bill (SB) 1367, pertaining to the sunseting of the Safe Animal Feed Education (SAFE) Program and setting the feed license fee, impact the Feed Program. SB 1522, a Fertilizer Ominous Bill, impacts the FMIP. The bill incorporates plant biostimulant language into the law, changes the product registration cycle, and changes timeframes for mill assessment fees.

Dr. Ba reported on the organic input material (OIM) adulteration investigation on Agro Gold WS. The investigation led to a civil hearing with the Department's FMIP and State Organic Program. The Department's representative submitted closing briefs last month. A decision was expected in March 2024. The Department is seeking \$1.89 million, plus \$92 thousand in investigative costs and attorney fees.

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board requested a new agricultural expert panel for discussion on uniformity of fertilizer efficiencies focusing on nitrogen applied or removed.

The National Organic Standards Board meeting is April 29, 2024, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The purpose of the meeting is to provide new guidance on compost. The comment period has closed.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Jenna Leal, Environmental Program Manager I, Feed Program, announced three upcoming board terms expiring on April 30, 2024, for Chair, Dr. Marit Arana; Vice Chair, Paul Parreira; and Shayleen Rambur. Leal thanked Vice Chair Parreira for his 22 plus years of service to the FIAB. Parreira responded, stating it has been an honor and pleasure serving on the board over the years.

Leal briefly announced seven board applications were received to fill the three upcoming vacancies; all applicants have several years of service in the feed industry. Leal noted that Dr. Chel Moore applied for the FIAB and FIAB's Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC).

Chair Arana informed the board that the FIAB's TASC determined that Dr. Moore was more fit to serve on the TASC because Elanco Animal Health is not a commercial feed licensee.

Leal requested the FIAB discuss the applicants and make a motion to recommend three, and an alternate, for a total of at least four board applicants to the secretary for appointment.

MOTION: Michael Koewler moved to recommend to the secretary that Shay Rambur and Dr. Marit Arana be appointed to the FIAB; Dan Rice seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all members present with a vote of 8 - 0.

Other applicants that were present shared their experience in the feed industry with the FIAB.

Eric Benziger, Quality Assurance and Compliance Manager of Associated Feed and Supply Company, has been involved in the feed industry for 34 years. He has experience ranging from inspections to audits.

Steve Riggs, President of NuWest Milling, has been involved in the feed industry for 40 years. Riggs expressed the importance of representation of the poultry industry on the FIAB.

Trisha Youngdale, General Manager of Vitagold Brands Co-Op, has been involved in the feed industry for 10 years. Youngdale's interest to serve on the FIAB is to provide insight from a feed mill perspective and experience.

Paul Parriera Jr., Farmer and Partner of Parriera Almond Processing Company LLC, has been in the almond business for over 20 years and has worked closely with the Department's field staff regarding feed industry and quality issues. Parreira Jr. expressed the importance of almond hulls in the Department's Feed program.

MOTION: Jed Asmus moved to recommend to the secretary that Eric Benziger and Steve Riggs be considered for board appointment; Dan Rice seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all members present with a vote of 8 - 0.

Michael Koewler encouraged potential board applicants seeking appointment to FIAB to attend board meetings so that the existing FIAB members become familiar with the potential candidates when a board member position becomes available.

Leal presented the Branch's organizational chart, highlighting the Feed Program's two vacant positions. Leal informed the board that since Gutenberger was promoted to SAFE's SES (Specialist), her prior SAFE ES position is vacant. Furthermore, the Feed Safety ES position has remained vacant for years. This position came with Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) funds through a BCP in 2018 for three positions: two were filled but one position was kept vacant by design due to lack of funds to support the

position. Chris Hansen, Special Investigator in Fresno County, will retire in September 2024. The Feed Program does not plan to backfill Hansen's position. Alejandro Ramirez and Amber Hayter, both ES's, will take on Hansen's workload. The Feed Program may potentially lose a vacant position due to the budget shortfall mentioned earlier by Krout-Greenberg.

Leal informed the board that the bylaws have been updated, noting that the Chair and Vice Chair should be voted on annually at the first meeting of the year. With Vice Chair Parreira's exit from the FIAB, the board will vote for Vice Chair and Chair Arana will need to be reappointed to continue the Chair role. Leal pointed out Section 8 of the bylaws; *Resignation and Termination*, stating a member who has missed three or more consecutive meetings may be removed by majority of vote of the board.

Leal stated due to the Governor's mandate regarding budget cuts, meetings should only be held if they have actionable items or are mission critical. Rice commented on the cadence of quarterly meetings. Koewler recommended the continuation of January scheduled FIAB meetings unless change occurs.

MOTION: Dan Rice moved to approve the updated draft board bylaws as presented; Michael Koewler seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all members present with a vote of 8 - 0.

Koewler recommended Dr. Arana continue as Chair if appointed to serve another term. Jeremy Banducci recommended Shay Rambur as Vice Chair, if appointed to serve another term on the FIAB, due to her years of experience on the FIAB.

MOTION: Jed Asmus moved to approve Dr. Marit Arana as Chair and Shay Rambur as Vice Chair; Michael Koewler seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all members present with a vote of 8 - 0.

FUND CONDITION / TONNAGE

Leal reported the beginning balance as of July 1, 2023, for Feed and SAFE was \$3,784,224. Revenue for Feed and SAFE was \$2,618,928; expenditures were \$2,151,824 and encumbrances were \$2,451,002. The ending adjusted balance for Feed was \$3,519,099 and \$731,929 for SAFE. The ending combined adjusted balance for Feed and SAFE on February 29, 2024, was \$1,800,026. Total recoveries of \$334,345 were received: \$125,780 was from the Food Safety contract and \$208,565 was from the Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards (AFRPS) grant.

The Feed Program has dwindled down its reserves by design. The Continuously Appropriated (CA) packet at the Governor's Office (GO) is currently higher than what the FIAB approved in November 2023. Historically, the Feed Program has a Bank of America (BoA) account that the revenue is deposited in. Then monthly transfers are made based on the authority in the GO budget. Currently, the BoA account does not have sufficient funds to transfer, due to the funds being in the Department's account.

Leal asked the FIAB for direction on the BoA account, which has served as an external savings account for years.

Discussion ensued regarding the BoA account and other account options, including the value of the account, the treasury rate, the Department's account rate, the liability of the account, and the minimum required to keep the account open and at the 25% reserve required, which is required by Food and Agricultural Code Section 15053(b). Leal stated \$1.2 million is needed to meet the 25%, based on the approved budget from November 2023.

Bell provided context, explaining the external account was created back when Wilson swept agricultural funds to balance the budget. The GO lost a supreme court case where money was from a lawyer's account for the Department's agricultural funds, resulting in a law that passed that allowed agricultural fund programs to create accounts outside of the Department. Bell stated it was for protection and that it was used to make more than the treasury pool account. Bell further asked about the overhead rate.

Leal requested FIAB approval for the Feed Program to halt money transfers to allow the BoA account to build and maintain the program reserves while the Feed Program dwindles down the Department account. The board agreed.

Rachelle Kennedy, SES (Supervisory), Feed Program, reported the Feed Program cleaned up data in the ExtraView database by recategorizing the feed operation classifications. The Feed Program staff also changed the operation classifications to be clear and concise. There are currently a total of 2,032 feed licenses. The number of classifications presented on the board materials will not equal the number of licenses because more than one classification may be selected per license. The tonnage revenue breakdown table presented will not align with the tonnage report prepared for this meeting. The tonnage revenue data presented on the table is what is being reported by firms in the database. Kennedy reported a total of \$24,490,004.67 tons in 2023, highlighting \$1,161,345.63 tons of diversion (incentivized). The tonnage revenue breakdown displays the quarterly reports of non-diversion tonnage rates at \$0.10 and \$0.12 cents and diversion (incentivized) tonnage rates at \$0.05 and \$0.06 cents. This tonnage revenue breakdown illustration will be provided to the FIAB in future meetings.

Leal noted that the Feed Program's goal, identified in late 2022, was to clean up delinquent tonnage, including all licenses, and new diversion to ensure firms provide accurate reporting. These efforts were a part of phase one auditing, now leading into phase two of auditing.

Asmus asked the Feed Program how long tonnage rate needs to be incentivized. Kennedy responded stating per the Feed laws and regulations, the FIAB has authority to set the rate.

Discussion ensued regarding incentivized tonnage reporting.

Kennedy presented the 2023 tonnage per feed type. A breakdown of mixed/formula feed (two or more ingredients), illustrated in a pie chart, highlights two-thirds of the 8,425,533.75 tons reported, with the remaining being mixed grains and a small portion was identified as medicated formula/mixed feed. The majority of by-products (oilseed meals/hulls/etc.) are canola meal and cottonseed, and makeup the 8,302,845.03 tons reported. Most grains (rolled/crimped/ground) and seeds are corn, other grains/seeds, and wheat makeup 3,091,076.66 tons reported.

Leal added that the Feed Program has identified suppliers and integrators that are not paying tonnage. It is believed that this is because integrators are expected to pay; however, integrators are considered a farm and therefore they are not paying. However, the Feed Program has identified at least 20 integrators that hold feed licenses. Phase two auditing will also include discussion on payment requirements from out-of-state firms.

Discussion ensued regarding integrators and tonnage, including putting more brackets around the program's time and engagement with integrator entities, exploring regulation changes, and tiered tonnage. These items should be discussed by the regulatory subcommittee.

Leal added that the Department's Legal Office is involved. The Feed Program will use its authority to review records of tonnage supplied to integrators for verification of what was sold.

Bell asked if the Feed Program had work data on integrators as proof that work is being done. Leal stated the program has inspection reports, violation follow up reports, and sample reports. At the direction of the FIAB, the Feed Program has cut back on its work plan for this year.

Leal presented the feed tonnage projections that reflect tonnage estimated at 22 million tons at \$0.14 cents and 23 million tons at \$0.13 cents. To maintain the Feed Program's 25% reserve, an increase to \$0.14 cents with 22 million tons may be needed.

Discussion ensued regarding setting the rate to ensure program solvency.

Banducci suggested keeping the rate at \$0.12 cents per ton, then FIAB can take appropriate steps on July 1, 2024.

Rambur suggested a one cent increase. Chair Arana agreed, stating the FIAB can reevaluate in July if another increase is necessary.

Leal stated in July, the program should also know if the federal Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) was awarded; that would bring in \$5 million over a three-year period. Most of those funds would be allocated to the Clear Center, who will collaborate with technical experts to provide standard operating procedures, guidance and incentivization to producers. The program would keep a small percentage of the grant

funds to manage the grant. If approved, the program will need an incumbent to be the steward of that work.

Rice asked about insight on regulatory oversight regarding methane reduction. Leal stated SB 780 provides the program authority to manage products with environmental health claims, including enteric methane reduction. The bill gives the program authority over approved FDA products. Products that may come to the Feed program would be more feed additive based. The Feed Program is putting an internal process together to evaluate those products.

Leal stated the Department's \$25 million funding to build an incentive program through the Department's Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation (OEFI) no longer exists. Kennedy added, the CIG could potentially help develop an on-farm implementation plan and provide 20% of the grant for program's administrative activities. If approved for the CIG, work would be scheduled to begin June 1, 2024. The incentivization portion will increase throughout the three-year period to allow for the Feed Program to get administrative activities together for Clear Center to begin their work.

Bell commented, when FSMA started to roll out, the California Grain and Feed Association (CGFA) advised CDFA that the Feed Program should be the primary contacts on the fields, mills and producer property, not environmental health or California Air Resources Board (CARB).

MOTION: Jed Asmus moved to amend the motion above to include an incentivized rate at 50%; Alejandro Hernandez seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all members present with a vote of 8 - 0.

Asmus commented on the feed license breakdown, expressing interest in seeing the average volumes of the type of feed licensee to determine who is not paying their portion and prorate their license fee based on amount of work they take. Asmus stated a cost model analysis is necessary.

Kennedy replied, stating that the Feed Program can provide a breakdown of those who report x-to-y; this is the license fees represented. Through strategic planning, the Feed Program had previously provided a breakdown of firm priority and average turnaround time of hours per inspection. The breakdown can be revisited with a little more information that would be beneficial for FIAB knowledge.

Samantha Moran-Defty, Feed Program's SES (Specialist), the Contracts/Administrative Lead, provided federal contract updates. The Feed Program completed two visits, two full scope Preventive Controls (PC) inspections, two licensed PC inspections, and one training audit. The Department is currently going through the process of having the Feed Program's two SES (Specialists) train to conduct internal FDA audits. The AFRPS agreement expires June 2025. No funding options have been shared with states.

The Feed Program is currently working on executing contracts for the University of California Davis' (UCD) Analytical (AN) Lab and California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) Lab. Moran-Defty reported UCD AN Lab contract is \$300,000 for FY 2024-25 and \$330,000 for FY 2025-26. CAHFS Lab contract for FY 2024-25 is \$450,000 and FY 2025-26 is \$472,500. As of March 2024, UCD AN Lab is an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) accredited. CAHFS ISO audit went well. JL Analytical Lab contract for FY 2024-25 and FY 25-26 are each for \$3,500. This contract serves as a backup in the event of equipment failure for almond hulls.

Leal added that at last year's November 2023 budget meeting, a reduction of the lab budget line item occurred based on sample numbers. Due to the cap on UCD's CAHFS lab contract, the Feed Program lost the ability for CAHFS to have a backup for protein analyses. However, the Feed Program does have JL Analytical lab as backup.

Moran-Defty reported that as of March 13, 2024, 134 samples were obtained, with an 18% violation rate, and 74% food safety sample rate. The Feed Program completed the Federal Emergency Response Network sampling contract from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Mycotoxin screenings were completed for 50 corn, two Game Bird feed, three distiller dried grains, and three soybean meals.

Bert reported compliance and enforcement updates. As of March 13, 2024, 11 Notice of Warnings were issued for six unlicensed feed firms; there was one feed inspection finding, one veterinary feed directive, and three unlicensed restricted livestock drugs retailers. There were two feed complaints and violation inspection reports: 14 sample violations and 7 regulatory notes. Bert noted the violation inspection report forms were condensed to include sample violations, regulatory notes, and retail or feed inspection follow ups for feed and livestock drugs. An addendum to the corrective action report will have established timeframes for corrections needed from feed or retail inspections. Timeframes are tracked to ensure prompt follow-up to reduce compliance issues.

Bert provided the FIAB with 2023 inspection updates, reporting the number of feed inspections. There were 48 routine inspections, 341 basic inspections, 30 human food facility inspections, 148 violation inspections and 116 regulatory note inspections. Out of the completed livestock drug inspections, 192 were restricted livestock drugs inspections and 35 were veterinary feed directive inspections.

As of January 1, 2024, the Feed Program moved routine inspections to CA FSMA inspections. Feed is moving every inspection (feed safety inspection, basic inspection and retail inspection) to be representative of all that a firm does, filling out contact sheets (data gathering) to ensure the firm has the correct priority and inspection type assigned, updating contact information where applicable, and checking license status and tonnage reporting. The program is in discussion with FDA about sharing completed inspection dates to limit duplicate inspections. The frequency of inspections will change. Priority 1 firms (Type A medicated/high risk minerals) will be inspected every other year.

Priority 2-3 firms (Type B medicated/complete feed) will be every three years. Priority 4-5 firms will be every five years. Basic inspections will be conducted every other year to maintain current firm information for Priority 4-5 or firms who are exempt from the rule; firms with compliance issues will be visited more frequently.

Bell advised the Feed Program to get visibility on the Bioterrorism Act on registered food facilities for program awareness. Leal stated the Feed Program has been in contact with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) because of diversion.

Bert gave an update regarding the Feed Program's sampling approach for 2024. Inspection staff will inspect all areas of manufacturing at each facility and review production records and focus on sampling for feed safety quarterly. A focus will be on sampling for areas of improvement. Tonnage and licensing forms have been added to all firms. The Feed Program's licensing desk analyst now prepares a quarterly tonnage and license report and sends Notice of Warnings to delinquent firms. A minor shift in the Feed Program's field staff territory map occurred to ensure statewide coverage to plan for a future retirement in the Fresno area.

Leal announced Bert is acting supervisor from Madera South to ease the supervisory role of Mike Davidson, Supervising Special Investigator I. Davidson will continue coverage over Northern California and act as a mentor to program staff. The Feed Program's plan is to create a Wikipedia style document consisting of Davidson's knowledge of history and ongoing issues. The Feed Program's staff are leaning on Davidson as a great resource with strategic planning regarding future regulations and the program's focus for the next five years.

Erika Lewis, Research Data Specialist II for the Feed Program, provided regulation updates. The Feed administrative penalties Notice of Proposed Rulemaking package was sent to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) in late 2023. OAL suggested administrative changes to add a \$100 fee for delinquent zero reports and remove a 12-month reset for subsequent major violations, which is currently under the Department's Legal Office review. It is anticipated that a 15-day public comment period and modified text will be released in the coming weeks. The proposed effective date for this regulation package is July 1, 2024.

A draft Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for ingredient modernization (Article 14) is under Legal Office review. This rulemaking proposes to incorporate feed ingredients from the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) and define those not included or intentionally different. The Legal Office's pre-review was delayed by a couple of weeks. Once approved, the notice will be sent to OAL.

A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for livestock drugs registration is under development. The purpose of this rulemaking is to define label registration requirements including provisional, food additives, and grounds for revocation.

Other regulations under Legal Office review include the development of tiered tonnage, which will then be presented to the regulatory subcommittee. Species specific guarantees, adequate feeding directions and customer formula feed changes will be in the next rulemaking packet and guaranteed standards will be proposed in the future.

Regulatory subcommittee members will be Shay Rambur, Jeremy Banducci, Dan Rice and Alejandro Hernandez.

Lewis provided an AFRPS update. The interval 4 FDA audit was February 1-2, 2024, to update 2023 standards. All 11 AFPRS standards were fully implemented, and no corrections were needed. Lewis and Moran-Defty attended the AFRPS Face-to-Face meeting on March 19-21, 2024, in Mobile, Alabama to participate in a panel discussion regarding PC implementation. The Feed Program is currently preparing the AFRPS agreement for FY 2024-25 for \$525,000, pending FDA approval.

Gutenberger presented a new modernized newsletter format for the quarterly feed update page. A new feed ingredients webpage was launched on the SAFE's Website, which provides resources regarding AAFCO, FDA Food Additive petitions, General Recognized as Safe (GRAS), FDA New Animal Drugs, California Livestock Drugs Program, and Research and Experimental Use. ExtraView videos were also published. The webpage provides links to view step-by-step tutorials on how to create a new account in the ExtraView database, how to apply for a Commercial Feed License, how to make payments, how to renew or discontinue a commercial Feed License, how to report commercial feed inspection tonnage tax, and how to voluntarily report tonnage of by-products diverted to animal feed. The videos will have Spanish translation by Feed and AUS Program's Environmental Scientist, Alejandro Ramirez.

Gutenberger reported a total of 747 total samples in 2023 with a 64.5% food safety to 35.5% label compliance ratio. Of the official samples, there was a 20% violation rate. A breakdown of food safety analyses performed across 482 feed samples included: heavy metals, mycotoxin, other minerals, vitamins, medicated feed, and other analyses such as pesticide screens, salmonella testing and iodine. The types of feed that were sampled in 2023 were mostly complete/formula feed, vitamin/mineral, other single ingredients, almond hulls, and corn. The greatest violation types issued on sample lab reports in 2023 were crude protein, calcium and label violations. Of the label violations, seven had inadequate medicated feeding directions and seven lacked label statements in feeds containing over 0.3 ppm selenium. "Other" types of violations included single ingredients which did not meet the specifications and/or label requirements of the official ingredient definition.

SAFE received 50 participant responses to the 2024 survey. Most participants were livestock feed manufacturers, human food processors/by-products diverted to feed, brokers/resellers, consumers and a few retailers and nutritionists. Responses were like last year's including, knowledge of feed safety hazards, commercial feed requirements, ingredients safe and approved for feed, knowledge of livestock nutrition and how to report tonnage. Most participants felt education was needed for compliance; operations would benefit from education, and the majority were simply interested in learning. Participants also preferred to receive information via webinars, video, or document format with some still preferring in-person workshops and one-on-ones. SAFE concluded there is a need for increased visibility of available resources, a continued need for outreach and education in feed hazards and increased interest in livestock nutrition from 2023. SAFE is increasing visibility of available resources by collaborating with CGFA to include updates in the weekly "Conveyor" newsletters, increasing use of "Run of the Mill" blog, modernizing quarterly feed update newsletters, continuing to encourage industry to subscribe to ListServs, and offering webinars and Spanish translations of existing resources.

New upcoming SAFE projects include creating educational materials regarding livestock nutritional adequacy, nutrient toxicity/deficiency, expanding resources on feed safety hazards, and preparing guidance document on feed label guarantees and mixer efficiency tests.

On March 27, 2024, the Feed TASC met and discussed research projects. The hemp by-product as a ruminant feed project is complete. Adipose tissue samples were evaluated, and small amounts of tetrahydrocannabinol were detected. Test results will be published. The FIAB's TASC is still assessing the importance of by-product feedstuffs to livestock and the environment in California. The project for hemp by-product as a feed for lactating dairy cattle was cancelled due to the researcher moving to a different university and the inability to search for a PI to take over the project.

Leal added, OEFI approved six livestock enteric methane emissions reduction research projects, and are working through pre-consultation meetings.

Gutenberger announced three TASC vacancies. TASC received three applications: Dr. Chel Moore, Dr. Xixi Chen and Dr. Marit Arana. A motion is needed to approve the applicants to serve as TASC members.

MOTION: Michael Koewler moved to approve the FIAB's TASC member recommendations to the secretary; Shay Rambur seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all members present with a vote of 8 - 0.

Bell advised SAFE outreach to explore the secure food supply. Feed mills safety concerns in the rendering industry will need to be a part of this discussion. Bell further suggested reviewing templates with One Health involvement. Leal stated SAFE has received updates from Dr. Amanda Murray, Animal Health and Feed Safety Services Division's (AHFSSD), Supervising Veterinarian. SAFE will continue outreach and

engage in the process of the existing template developed by AHFSSD. The existing template may be shared with FIAB.

Bell suggested the FIAB provide feedback on the template and for SAFE to host a webinar that can be a part of SAFE outreach and education.

Rice commented that formalizing the template to align with the sampling plan and hazard analysis data survey would be beneficial. Rice inquired about SAFE hosting a one-day in-person refresher training on PC Qualified Individual (QI) on key takeaways, missing information, and fundamentals. Leal stated SAFE maintains a list of interested parties for future planning of hosting such refresher trainings for existing PCQI individuals.

Chair Arana asked about unused funds for the UCD research projects and if it is the FIAB or TASC's decision on where the unused funds should be directed to. Leal stated the plan is to disencumber the \$160,000 of unused funds from the UCD dairy cattle trial study and the funds will stay with the Feed Program.

Discussion ensued regarding the unused contract dollars, including adding funds to a current contract to supplement work that is already being completed, the funds going to a different department in UCD, or if the funds can be used in a similar manner to the CIG proposal with the Clear Center. Kennedy stated because it would be a significant change in scope of work, the funds must go back to the Feed Program.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DAVIS LAB UPDATE

Leal mentioned there are no UCD lab updates except aside from the updates given by Moran-Defty.

ALMOND ALLIANCE UPDATE

Bell reported SB 1367 was in appropriations next week. The Almond Alliance does not expect any opposition; this bill is to extend the SAFE Program's sunset for another five years.

Bell announced the Almond Alliance is working on fermented almond hull research for enteric emissions reduction and some research has shown that it is equivalent in reductions to seaweed trials. There is a specialty crop grant with agricultural engineering for more fermentation and dairy trials occurring at UCD. Bell stated Almond Board of California (ABC) has been funding work on the fermentation side, but not a lot on animal side. Bell has talked to the Department about scoping research necessary in a commercial application. Bell has also talked with Leal and Davidson to get self-determination for GRAS or feed ingredient approval, which is another hurdle identified. Bell suggested a discussion with Parreira and assistance from ABC, as well as retirees from UCD.

Parreira commented on the need to ferment almond hulls on a commercial basis. This will help identify any issues such as palatability or odor that the cattle may dislike and will not consume.

Bell suggested a discussion on what must be done through the hurdles of dairy with more focus on fermentation and identifying the scope of research needed to fundraise for it.

Asmus suggested a discussion with Parreira about a plan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Leal suggested regulatory subcommittee meeting results and recommendations be included on the agenda.

NEXT MEETING

A Doodle Poll will be sent out to determine the date of the next meeting for the week of August 12 or August 19. The location will be the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau in Modesto.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Michael Koewler moved to adjourn the meeting; Jed Asmus seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 PM.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY JENNA LEAL

Jenna Leal, Feed Program Manager
Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services

4/15/2024
Date