

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
FEED INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD (FIAB) MEETING
Modesto, California
February 7, 2008**

MINUTES

MEMBERS

Thomas Geary
Frederick Frost
Rob Gilbert
Richard Hoch
Michael Koewler
Thomas Prokop
Jon Tollenaar
John Walth

CDFA

Asif A. Maan
Natalie Krout
Nirmal Saini
Mike Davidson
Frank Delgado
Jenna Dibble
Mike Gingles
Chris Hansen
Avnee Jivabhai
Kent Kitade
Dale Rice
Elaine Wong

INTERESTED PARTIES

Gene Beach, Almond Hullers
& Processors
Dennis Albiani – CGFA
Tad Bell – CGFA

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Thomas Geary called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., and a quorum was established.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Self-introductions were made. Mr. Geary thanked everyone for attending.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Geary asked the board to review the minutes from the prior meeting on October 4, 2007. No changes were submitted.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Michael Koewler to approve the October 4, 2007 board meeting minutes as presented. Mr. John Walth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT / DIVISION / BRANCH UPDATES

Dr. Asif Maan notified the board that a Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) eradication program is underway, after \$22.4 million of \$74.5 million federal funds have been awarded to the CDFA. These funds will be used to develop a new branch for LBAM to head the fight against the flies through the use of pheromone-infused "twist ties." He also noted that Medfly and Mexfly eradication programs will soon be underway in Southern California.

Dr. Maan mentioned that on the Division level, Leafy Green Marketing Agreement (LGMA) audits are continuing and Arizona has adopted the CDFA model. CDFA will be conducting audits throughout Arizona in order to help start the program.

Dr. Maan informed the board of changes and appointments in the branch: Mr. Kent Kitade moved to Special Projects and Regulations; Ms. Natalie Krout was promoted to Feed Inspection Program Supervisor; and Mr. Dale Rice was promoted to Branch Office Support Staff Supervisor.

Dr. Maan also briefed the board regarding the database changes. Recently, the "As Is" and "To Be" documents were completed. The branch will be inviting competitive bids for a new database by the end of the month. Dr. Maan reminded the board that his personal goal is to have an online functional database by the end of the year. Other goals included completing the Fertilizer Materials Inspection Program Strategic Planning; filling vacancies; implementing the Strategic Planning; promulgating regulations; completing a review of the Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP); and staying engaged with stakeholders, including industry.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Dennis Albani informed the board that the main issues currently affecting feed are the changes in the budget and legislation. He noted three proposed bills: AB1846 Adams-Inedible Grease, which applies to producers that use grease for biodiesel manufacturing; SB974 Lowenthal-Container Fee, which will charge importers and exporters \$60 for every container shipped by air, land or water.; and the Penta-Water Bond, which will give credit for using fuels with the lowest carbon values.

REVENUE STATUS REPORT

Dr. Maan called the board's attention to the Feed Inspection Program's Fund Conditions. He noted a beginning balance of \$1,445,570 on July 1, 2007, and an ending balance of \$1,996,208 as of December 30, 2007.

REGULATORY UPDATE

Ms. Krout informed the board of changes within the Feed Inspection Program; the appointment of Mr. Mike Gingles as a Feed, Fertilizer and Livestock Drugs (FFLD) Inspector for Kern and Santa Barbara counties, and Mr. Thomas Kennedy's Office Technician appointment to Feed and Livestock Drug Licensing and Registration. She also informed the board of FFLD Inspector Ms. Jenna Dibble's weekly e-mail branch update called Coffee Talk Corner.

Ms. Krout noted the success of the Catfish Feed Compensation Program that awarded grant money to catfish farmers who suffered losses from natural disasters. Other accomplishments included the diversion of almond hulls contaminated with CAN 17, the California Grain and Feed Association (CGFA) Industry Conference in January 2008, and the quarantine and disposal of aflatoxin in cottonseed from Arizona.

Ms. Krout stated that goals for the Feed Inspection Program include: maintaining staffing levels; remaining effective and service-oriented with the industry; increasing the number of samples tested; decreasing turnaround time at the lab desk; collecting samples from border stations; SAFE feed quality assurance inspections; on-farm mixer studies; and conducting an annual workshop. In addition, field staff will now meet for a mandatory quarterly field team meeting in order to stay updated and informed.

SAFE ANIMAL FEED EDUCATION UPDATE (SAFE)

Mr. Mike Davidson discussed the plans for on-farm mixer studies which entail analyzing feed and comparing it to the originally planned mix. He informed the board of the variance of results in past tests. He informed the board of the affects of monensin on cows. Mr. Davidson noted a recent feed workshop in Tulare, and its efforts to inform producers of vellenium and monensin regulations by label inspection programs in California.

TONNAGE TAX DISCUSSION (TEXAS MODEL)

Mr. Geary summarized the Texas Model for the board, and informed them that twenty companies paid a majority of the costs of the Feed Inspection Program. Implementation of a similar Texas Model program within California would distribute fees to more companies.

Mr. Tad Bell informed the board that the CGFA board does not support the Texas model at this time. However, he suggested that the subcommittee meet with the CGFA board for further analysis. He informed the board that CGFA feels there are too many political hurdles and legislative issues involved in changing to the Texas Model, and CGFA is fearful that producers may be forced to suffer extra costs.

Mr. John Walth suggested changing the name from feed tonnage tax to inspection fee. He expressed that currently “out-of-state” producers pay \$100 every two years while “in-state” producers pay all of the taxes and fees. He felt the Texas model would even out the costs amongst producers.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Richard Hoch for the tonnage tax study group to work closely with CGFA in order to better understand the Texas Tonnage Tax Model, and its potential benefits/implications with industries in California. Mr. Koewler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

LABORATORY UPDATE

Mr. Nirmal Saini updated the board that the lab has been painted for the first time since 1979. In other lab improvements, he noted that the gas tanks have been moved outside to provide a safer work environment, and a heating and air conditioning unit is soon to be purchased at no cost to the program.

Ms. Elaine Wong called attention to the breakdown of all samples processed in calendar year 2007. She then showed the breakdown of each sample by assay completed in 2007. Attention was then brought to the turnaround time for fertilizer samples received in 2007. She noted that the Inductively Coupled Plasma mass spectrometry unit has been installed, and is in the process of validation prior to sample analysis.

REGULATION UPDATE

Mr. Kitade reminded the board that since they voted to set a \$300 annual license fee last year, the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have joined together and prioritized inspections. He noted that FDA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with AAFCO for a list of ingredients and are in the process of looking for funding to replace the current volunteers. He suggested that the board re-vote to have the annual license fee in order to re-submit the request.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Jon Tollenaar to set an annual license fee of \$300. Mr. Frederick Frost seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD VACANCIES

Mr. Geary reminded the board that he and Mr. Koewler’s term as board member is about to expire, along with Mr. Jon Tollenaar’s term as Public Member. He asked the board for any nomination for the positions. Dr. Maan informed the board that CDFA and CGFA websites have been used to advertise the board vacancies, and no parties have expressed interest.

He suggested that Mr. Koewler, Mr. Tollenaar, and Mr. Geary be reappointed. Mr. Geary informed the board that the nominees will abstain from voting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Thomas Prokop to reappoint Mr. Koewler to his position on the Feed Inspection Advisory Board. Mr. Frost seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Koewler to reappoint Mr. Tollenaar to his position as Public Member on the Feed Inspection Advisory Board. Mr. Richard Hoch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Frost asked the board for any nominees for the position of Chairman.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Tollenaar to reappoint Mr. Geary to his position as Chairman of the Feed Inspection Advisory Board. Mr. Hoch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS/NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting has been scheduled for June 26, 2008, in Modesto, location and time are to be determined at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Thomas Prokop to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hoch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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

Date

AAM/AJ