

**\*DRAFT\***

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

**FEED INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD (FIAB)  
STANISLAUS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CENTER - MODESTO  
3800 CORNUCOPIA WAY #B 95358 / HYBRID**

**September 23, 2025  
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Alejandro Hernandez  
Dan Rice  
Eric Benziger  
Jed Asmus  
Jeremy Banducci  
Marit Arana, Chair  
Michael DeGroot  
Michael Koewler\*

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Shay Rambur, Vice Chair

**CDFA STAFF**

Alejandro Ramirez  
Amanda Staudinger  
Amber Hayter  
Angelia Johnson  
Ashley James  
Brandi Alston  
Erika Lewis-Ortega  
Frankie Aguilar  
Jenna Leal  
Justin Jacobson  
KC Gutenberger  
Lindsey Collier  
Maria Tenorio  
Mike Davidson  
Rachelle Kennedy  
Ryan Kyeremeh  
Samantha Moran-Defty  
Ted Bert  
Valerie White

**INTERESTED PARTIES**

Amy Housman  
Tad Bell  
Chris Zanobini

**INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Marit Arana, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Self-introductions were made.

**ROLL CALL – ESTABLISH QUORUM**

Roll was called and a quorum was established.

**APPROVE JULY 29, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**

Chair, Dr. Arana requested the FIAB review the July 29, 2025 meeting minutes.

**MOTION:** Michael Degroot moved to approve the July 29, 2025, minutes as presented. Dan Rice seconded; the motion passed unanimously by all members present with a vote of 7 to 0.

*\*Michael Koewler arrived at 9:20 AM. All votes after approving July 29, 2025, meeting minutes will reflect votes of eight members.*

### **INSPECTION TONNAGE TAX LANGUAGE**

Rachelle Kennedy presented background information on how the Commercial Feed Regulatory Program is currently being funded through license fees and inspection tonnage tax, highlighting that California has one of the highest license fees and lowest inspection tonnage tax rates in the nation. Kennedy further explains the current annual program cost is approximately \$4 million with a 5% increase in cost being expected in the next year. The program costs are being supported by approximately \$1 million in license fees and approximately \$3 million in inspection tonnage tax.

Kennedy reviewed the current inspection tonnage tax language in statute and expressed concern regarding the term “consumer-buyer.” Kennedy explained that the current structure of the fees is disproportionate to the regulated industry with 10 firms paying 60% of the inspection tonnage tax and the intent of the language change is to help more evenly distribute the costs to all licensees.

Kennedy provided three potential options and discussed the pros and cons of each option.

**Option 1:** Remove the term “consumer-buyer” from statute.

Discussion ensued regarding how many times a product could be taxed and that this is the Texas tonnage tax model. It was mentioned that the Texas model charges a one-time license fee and a lower tonnage tax rate. Kennedy explained this option would still exempt whole corn and whole grains, but this option would capture soybean meal and canola meal, which historically had not been paid on. This option would also capture tonnage going into integrators.

**Option 2:** Revise the existing language in statute so the inspection tonnage tax shall be paid by the guarantor on the label. The difference in this option is that if the feed changes hands and the name on the label does not change, there is no applicable inspection tonnage tax.

**Option 3:** Impose a mill assessment using language similar to the Fertilizer Program. The mill assessment could be paid by the guarantor on the label, on byproducts, or on all feed. The FIAB would recommend the mill assessment rate to the Secretary, who would ultimately review and approve the change.

Kennedy informed the FIAB that the language presented in Option 3 had been discussed previously with the FIAB but at that time the board decided to pass on it as an option.

Discussion ensued regarding the three options and other potential viable options.

Tad Bell asked if there is an option to keep the current inspection tonnage tax model and then cap the amount that one firm would pay. Kennedy stated that if the program capped the amount paid, the program would not have sufficient revenue to maintain the program.

Jeremy Banducci asked if Option 2 was selected, could language be added to the statute to ensure one firm is not paying multiple times for the same feed. Jenna Leal stated that we could explore reducing the current tax tonnage cap of \$0.25 per ton to \$0.20 per ton.

Dr. Arana stated she would like to see additional information on Option 2 regarding where the inspection tonnage tax rate might be able to be set.

Leal stated that the program currently receives approximately \$1 million in General Fund Dollars for the Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship Program (AUS). Those funds will be decreasing. Furthermore, the Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards grant (AFRPS) is decreasing by about \$200,000. Leal stated there are a high number of low and zero reporters and would a minimum inspection tonnage tax fee charged in addition to the license fee be an option. Any options would require a law change, and would not be effective until January 1, 2027 at the earliest.

Dan Rice proposed exploring some metrics for a healthier distribution of fees paid. Rice suggested stacking a minimum inspection tonnage tax rate that must be paid with Option 2.

Discussion ensued regarding the three options provided. The board requested the Feed Program provide additional financial projections regarding Option 2 (clarify that the guarantor whose name appears on the label must pay when distributed within or into California). The board further requested that the program provide language that requires a minimum inspection tonnage tax to be paid by licensees and to reduce the current inspection tonnage tax cap in law. Options to consider include a \$125 quarterly minimum inspection tonnage tax fee and reducing the inspection tonnage tax cap from \$0.25 to \$0.20. FIAB additionally requested that CDFA's Legal Office review the proposal.

Kennedy informed the FIAB that if there will be a law change related to fees: data confidentiality language should also be discussed. Kennedy reviewed the draft language provided to the FIAB, which have been drafted similarly to what is in the AUS law, with the intent to hold the Feed Program's data confidential and protect any identifying information from the public.

The FIAB reviewed the proposed language and expressed concern about the California Air Resources Board (CARB) exemption language. It was decided to remove the reference to CARB as it is not an applicable reference for this proposal.

**MOTION:** Dan Rice moved to recommend the Commercial Feed Regulatory Program proceed with the Data Protection Language with amendments to include removing the reference to the California Air Resources Board. Alejandro Hernandez seconded; the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 8-0.

### **REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR NUTRITIONISTS DISCUSSION**

Kennedy presented two options for an amendment to Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) Section 15051(a).

The goal of any requirements would be to establish Nutritionist accountability if they formulate a diet that affects feed, food, or animal safety, including the use of unapproved ingredients. The proposal discusses outreach, initial licensing, record retention and license renewals and would only apply to custom formula feeds. This could be done by adding a licensing requirement to the Food and Agricultural Code.

Another option would be to create a certification program for nutritionists. This would not grant the program authority over nutritionists in the case of a food or feed safety issue from formulation and would be up to industry to ensure their nutritionist had the certification to produce formulations. However, this would allow the program to conduct outreach and education to nutritionists. This would not establish a funding mechanism.

The FIAB discussed challenges that the industry has faced in trying to license nutritionists in the past.

Kennedy explained that the program does not currently have a way to access those individuals that need outreach the most and creating a licensing program would allow the program to reach these individuals. Leal added that there must be a fee established to cover program costs.

Discussion ensued and the board agreed this was a good starting point. The board requested the program continue down the path of registration for nutritionists, which includes outreach and education. The fee should cover the costs for services, including the potential for license or registration revocation costs.

### **FEDERAL LEGISLATION UPDATES**

California Grain and Feed Associations, Chris Zanobini was requested to provide a legislation update. Zanobini reported that the Pet Food Uniform Regulatory Reform Act (PURR) Act in its original form is completely different from what is part of House of Representatives (HR) 4121, which is the appropriations bill containing three pages of the PURR Act. Zanobini met with AFIA and the National Grain and Feed Association. California Grain and Feed Association followed up with several Congressmen. People are aware of our concerns here in California.

KC Gutenberger explained the program's concerns with the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) model bill which would be required to be federally

adopted if HR 4121 is approved. Gutenberger discussed a list of concerns that the program has citing concern with the definition of “commercial feed” including the exemption seeds and hulls which would remove almond hulls and cottonseed from the program’s oversight. Additionally, the program is concerned with the very different labeling requirements, which include no min/max selenium guarantee which is a safety concern, allowance of collective terms on bulk feed, less strict label requirements regarding non-protein nitrogen, and custom formula feed not being required to be guaranteed. This would limit the program’s ability to verify if the values are appropriate for selenium, non-protein nitrogen and medicated feed, and to ensure feeding directions are adequate. Erika Lewis-Ortega briefly reviewed what the program has been doing to work towards national alignment, including adopting AAFCO Ingredient definitions into Article 14 regulations, aligning heavy metal tolerances in complete feed, and allowing salt in lieu of sodium. The next regulation package will be for “Label Modernization” to align with AAFCO labeling requirements by defining additional AAFCO terms and aligning tolerances of additional contaminants in complete feed and ingredients, like selenium.

The program received the Animal Food Regulatory Program Standards (AFRPS) grant for \$300,000 for three years. The grant started September 20, 2025.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS – LIMITED TO ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Amy Housman speculates whether there is an opportunity for collaboration between industry, CDFA and American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS) for getting information out to the mill nutritionists. Maybe having ARPAS take over the education portion to draw nutritionists back into ARPAS and for CDFA to register nutritionists as an acknowledgement of their liability.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next FIAB meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2025, in Sacramento. Dr. Arana stated the inspection tonnage tax revised Option 2 and framework about nutritionists should be included on the next meeting agenda.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Jed Asmus moved to adjourn the meeting; Dan Rice seconded. The motion was approved by all members present with a vote of 8 to 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 AM.

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

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

09/23/2025

Date

**\*DRAFT\***

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

**FEED INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD (FIAB)  
SPRINGHILL SUITES BY MARRIOTT SACRAMENTO NATOMAS  
2555 VENTURE OAKS WAY, SACRAMENTO, 95833 / HYBRID**

**NOVEMBER 5, 2025  
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Michael DeGroot

**CDFA STAFF**

Amanda Staudinger  
Angelia Johnson  
Ashley James  
Brandi Alston  
Erika Lewis  
Frankie Aguilar  
Jenna Leal  
KC Gutenberger  
Lindsey Collier  
Maria Tenorio Alfred  
Rachelle Kennedy  
Ryan Kyeremeh  
Samantha Moran-Defty  
Ted Bert

**INTERESTED PARTIES**

Jim Langston  
Jessica Lawrence  
Joe Boyd  
Joe Proudman  
Karyn Bischoff  
Kelly Gardner  
Michael Lefever  
Nina Cabanyog  
Rani Youngman  
Tad Bell

**INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Marit Arana, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM and self-introductions were made.

**ROLL CALL – ESTABLISH QUORUM**

Roll was taken and a quorum was established.

**DEPARTMENT / DIVISION / BRANCH UPDATES**

Jenna Leal provided division level updates, stating that the Division continues to watch the events associated with the federal shutdown. Currently, it does not affect any of the programs within the Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services (FFLDRS) Branch because federal funds for this fiscal year (FY) were appropriated last year. A handful of federal employees continue to work through the shutdown and Natalie Krout-Greenberg has weekly calls with her contacts at the federal level to keep a close eye and stay advised about what is happening there.

Leal stated that due to the federal shutdown, the December 11, 2025, release of a longitudinal study that may affect the Division's Produce Safety Program (PSP) and the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) meeting related to the State Organic Program (SOP) has been delayed.

Leal stated that the Commercial Feed Regulatory Program (CFRP) is participating in a work group, based on the signing of Assembly Bill (AB) 411, pertaining to livestock carcass disposal. KC Gutenberger is the point of contact and will work with Paula Batarseh in CDFA's Rendering Program to put together Best Management Practices (BMPs). Leal elaborated that Gutenberger will also collaborate with Michael Koewler to ensure the CFRP is appropriately representing the rendering industry. Koewler added that BMPs must be established before the law can be implemented.

Leal provided updates on the work being done by Geetika Joshi, Environmental Program Manager of PSP, on Senate Bill (SB) 279, which is the bill that allows for significant changes in composting allowances. Leal stated that a lot of resources for outreach and education will be required.

Leal provided an update on a Regulatory Alignment Study, led by Crowe, which is essentially a multiagency study between CDFA, the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), and the State Water Resources Control Board. The report will provide a list of several recommendations for near, mid- and long-term outcomes on how to align agencies. Recommendations are high level and could be adopted for regulatory programs that interface with those agencies.

CDFA's Climate Resilience Strategy Report was released for public comment, which discusses work around enteric methane and products. This report mentions the \$2 million funded to build a framework for the California Reduction of Enteric Methane Emissions Block Grant Program (CREME-BGP) that would incentivize enteric methane products and practices. Leal suggested the industry review the Report and provide comments as an industry.

Leal shared that she and Krout-Greenberg are having discussions around waste disposal streams and post-consumer packaging products, recognizing that the agricultural industry does not want to accept contaminated material with compostable products. Krout-Greenberg will meet with the Compost Council, Executive Association of Compost Producers, and Neil Edgar about how this issue impacts California and agriculture.

Leal provided branch-level updates, stating that the Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP) held its annual conference last week in Fresno and had over 100 attendees.

A report was recently released that could affect the Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (FMIP) within FFLDRS. The report was released through a committee that Dr. Martin Burger participated in regarding Nitrous Oxide emissions, pertaining to fertilizer

application. A collaborative study was conducted about 25 years ago, with funding from FREP, the California Energy Commission, and California Air Resources Board (CARB), and some of those issues will be revisited in the near future, including Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) and Nitrogen emissions.

FFLDRS staff recently testified in front of the State Water Board, who is exploring setting nitrogen application limits for fertilizer materials. Secretary Ross and staff from FREP, the Office of Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability (OARS), and the Healthy Soils programs testified about the extensive research that has been done. The Agricultural Expert Panel that received the testimony was comprised of researchers familiar with the work of the FREP Program.

Leal concluded the branch updates by announcing that there are a couple of vacancies in FFLDRS to be filled.

### **PROGRAM UPDATES**

Rachelle Kennedy, CFRP Manager, gave personnel updates. Kennedy shared that Samantha Moran-Defty's prior position will be filled by Valerie White who currently handles the lab desk, and Ted Bert's prior position as Compliance Officer has a candidate pending. Valerie White's position as the Lab Desk Coordinator will be advertised. Mike Davidson's old position of Supervising Special Investigator is being re-classified as an Environmental Scientist, but program is not planning on backfilling his position at this time.

#### *i. Fund Conditions / Tonnage Reporting / Proposed FY 2026/27 Budgets*

Kennedy went over the fund conditions for CFRP and the Safe Animal Feed Education (SAFE) Program. She also reviewed the Antimicrobial Use and Stewardship (AUS) and Livestock Drugs (LD) Programs for the board's awareness.

Kennedy explained CFRP recently finished billing the Animal Food Contract for \$30,000, which will close out FY 2024/25. An extension was completed for the Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards (AFRPS) contract to allow ~\$67,000 to be moved into the next FY (2025/26), which will show as a recovery to the program budget.

The ending adjusted balance for CFRP is a little over \$5 million. Kennedy explained that the program foresees that balance decreasing because of the decreasing offsets for AUS and lower AFRPS funding. SAFE's adjusted ending balance is a little over \$765,000, for a total combined adjusted ending balance of almost \$6 million.

Kennedy reviewed the current tonnage report, highlighting two million tons are from diversion and 22 million tons are from regular tonnage. As of October 6, 2025, there are 2,106 licensees, of which 2,017 are conventional licenses, and 89 are incentivized diversion licenses. Of the same 2,106 licenses, 976 are in California, and 1,130 are out of state or out of country. The current licensing income is approximately \$1 million annually.

Prior to Kennedy reviewing the proposed FY 2026/27 budget, Leal explained that the Governor's Office has not released their budget, so a revised budget may have to be presented and approved by this board if there are significant changes released in the January 10, 2026, budget. However, the FIAB still needs to review and approve the budget being presented today so that the program can move forward with their Continuous Appropriations (CA) packets.

Leal further explained that the Governor's budget is always included within the proposed budget spreadsheet so the FIAB can see the CFRP's authority. The program must have authority to spend the money allocated to the budget and the Governor's budget should ideally always be higher than the program's working budget to allow actual spending authority.

Kennedy reviewed the proposed FY 2026/27 budget with FIAB. She highlighted that staff salaries and benefits are slightly lower, which reflects staff changes. This is also due to the mandatory reduction of 3.5% to 5% due to the Personal Leave Program (PLP), which is mandated until the end of 2027. The in-state travel line item increased due to the American Association of Food Control Officials (AAFCO) meeting being held in San Diego in 2026, which will provide the opportunity to send more staff to that meeting. Out of state travel increased because Samantha Moran-Defty now sits on the Board of Directors for AAFCO and this will ensure that she can attend necessary meetings. There is also an allowance for one vehicle built into budget costs. However, there will likely not be a vehicle purchase unless CFRP is allowed to purchase a non-electric vehicle. The operations line item slightly increased to ensure that the current fleet can be maintained. All other line items are straight-lined across from previous years.

Shay Rambur asked about the decrease in IT costs. Leal explained that those are distributed costs and the budget numbers are provided to us. That number most likely decreased because there is a new division at CDFA, with a couple of new branches. The professional services costs are included in the budget in case there is a need for the Attorney General's Office for legal services.

SAFE costs have slightly increased for out of state travel to ensure that Gutenberger can attend the AAFCO meetings, as she sits on many of the committees. SAFE budget decreased overall because of positions moving, salary decreases, and lower indirect costs. Dr. Arana asked why the Governor's Budget reflects an unallocated line item for \$52,000 when CFRP is projecting only \$1,000 and SAFE is projecting \$0. Brandi Alston, FFLDRS Budget Analyst, explained that that line item is a catch all for funds that have not been allocated to a specific line item. Leal explained that the Hemp Dairy Cow study grant funds were disencumbered, in the amount of approximately \$140,000, which goes back into SAFE's account.

Kennedy briefly reviewed AUS and LD's budget, which is proposed at \$1,313,932 for FY 2026/27, noting the mandated decrease will be absorbed by not backfilling Davidson's old position.

CFRP and SAFE's proposed combined FY 2026/27 budget is \$3,526,073. Kennedy requested a motion be made to approve the proposed budget.

**MOTION:** Michael Koewler moved to approve the CFRP and SAFE budget as presented; Dan Rice seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a vote of 8-0.

*ii. Technical Advisory Subcommittee Appointments*

Gutenberger discussed the two upcoming vacancies on SAFE's Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC). Two of the current member terms will be expiring in February 2026, and both Noelia Silva Del Rio and David Isen reapplied and there were no new applications. Gutenberger requested a motion to approve the reinstatement of the TASC members who reapplied.

**MOTION:** Jeremy Banducci moved to recommend the reappointment of Noelia Silva del Rio and David Isen to the Secretary; Shay Rambur seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a vote of 8-0.

*iii. Legislation Updates*

Inspection Tonnage Tax -

Kennedy presented draft language for a legislative change to the inspection tonnage tax fee schedule, which proposes that all manufacturers on the label and all firms subject to Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) inspections would be responsible for paying tonnage tax. Banducci asked about reducing the tonnage tax cap from \$0.25 to \$0.20 per ton in law. Discussion ensued.

Kennedy also reviewed alternative draft language that the program explored prior to developing the proposed tonnage tax model, including minimum inspection fees, tiered tonnage, caps on tonnage payments, and mill assessments. Discussion ensued as to why these alternatives were not viable to maintain the program.

**MOTION:** Dan Rice moved to approve the proposed draft tonnage tax language as presented; Michael Koewler seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with a vote of 8-0.

Nutritionists/Formulators -

Kennedy discussed the proposed Nutritionist/Formulator Registration. The fee for registration would be set based on the administrative costs to process the registration. Implementing this registration would provide the CFRP with the ability to accept, deny, or revoke registration based on violations and would allow the program access to nutritionist/formulation records. The registration cost range would be set in legislation along with the associated penalties for not registering or renewing. The details would then be clarified in regulation.

Tad Bell, California Grain and Feed Association (CGFA), suggested CFRP develop a concept to assess opposition and ensure any bill put forth would be successful and has industry support before proceeding down the path of pursuing legislation. Furthermore, it would be a tight timeline trying to move two bills forward and if one bill had opposition it could jeopardize the work done with the other bill. Bell suggested prioritizing the tonnage tax language change. FIAB agreed that outreach should be done first regarding nutritionist registration. This can be done through an ad hoc subcommittee prior to the next meeting. Members of the subcommittee are Jed Asmus, Mike DeGroot, and Dr. Arana; Bell will be included in discussions as a public member.

Kennedy discussed how many tons of diversion were reported in 2024. The total amount of diversion was approximately 2 million tons or approximately 9% of the total tonnage reported. CFRP used CalRecycle's Food Waste Prevention Benefits calculator and entered the tons diverted to establish the benefit of by-product diversion to livestock feed. Net GHG benefits over three years have a net reduction of 9,045,716 of MTCO<sub>2e</sub>. Kennedy explained that traditional by-products account for 34% of tonnage reported to CFRP and that this does not account for by-product ingredients that are going into the mills for further manufacturing, only what was shown as going dairy direct.

FIAB discussed meeting with the University of California (UC) Clarity and Leadership for Environmental Awareness and Research (CLEAR) Center to see if they would be interested in this data, or potentially releasing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to conduct a life cycle analysis study to analyze GHG reductions from by-product diversion, utilizing the grant funds that were disencumbered from the Hemp Dairy Cow study. Asmus asked what the goal of the research would be and how it would be used in California.

Banducci noted that the diversion tons seem low; Leal agreed the number seems inaccurate, which is what led to the development of the proposed tonnage tax language to more accurately capture the tons flowing through industry. The data reflected is representative of about three years.

Asmus asked whether the program still sees a large influx of methane reducing products, aside from Bovaer. Kennedy confirmed there are still regular inquiries about California specific approvals.

### **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (UC), DAVIS – LABORATORIES UPDATE**

Jim Langston of UC Davis, California Animal Health and Food Safety Services (CAHFS) Lab updated FIAB on the replacement of an Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectroscopy (ICP OES) instrument that is used to run metals and minerals. Langston explained this is state-of-the-art equipment and it was purchased because their previous machine would no longer have a supported maintenance contract. Additionally, the Laboratory Flexible Funding Model (LFFM) grant was renewed for this year. The only change from last year will be the addition of three samples of Canola Meal.

Rani Youngman of the UC Davis Analytical Lab stated that they also purchased an ICP OES, and their crude fiber machine was down for a while. Furthermore, the lab has hired a new person to assist in decreasing turnaround times.

Joe Proudman, Associate Director of the UC Davis CLEAR Center, introduced himself and explained that the CLEAR Center is focused on Sustainability and Livestock. Proudman explained that they have two cores, Research and Communications led by Dr. Frank Mitloehner. Under this shop, they have a couple of large trials being funded by CDFA OARS Livestock Enteric Methane Emission Reduction Research Program (LEMER-RP) regarding feed and feed additives. The other side is Communications and that is the part that Proudman handles.

Dr. Arana explained that discussion with Proudman would be to see if the UC Davis CLEAR Center would be interested in conducting a life-cycle analysis on the GHG Diversion and correlation with tonnage reporting.

Proudman elaborated on the topic and explained that he was surprised at the impact, and he thinks a lot of people would be interested in the data. Proudman emphasized some key points and questions, such as how we tell this story with this lifecycle analysis, and how can we really portray this in terms of mitigation from landfills in terms of feed. Other questions include how we conduct outreach to tell the story of by-product diversion to animal feed that matters to the industry about the GHG numbers, suggesting possibly a white paper or a published paper. Proudman suggested packaging the lifecycle analysis as an “explainer” which are knowledge-based articles to attract a lot of traffic to explain something as simple as what do cows eat. He gives examples of popularity of “explainers” in terms of viewing traffic, that they have outranked the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Proudman further stated that they can promote videos on the topic and even hold podcasts with expert speakers presenting.

Kennedy asked Proudman how they would define our audience. Proudman explained that they can tailor the type of content and target communications at regions and audiences, which is done extensively with other commodities. It is just a matter of the “who” and that decision would not be made in a vacuum and would involve decisions and input from FIAB.

Asmus asked what that would cost. Proudman stated that the cost would be for a graduate student, with most funds going towards tuition, approximately \$50,000 - \$60,000. If FIAB wanted to go further, then we could look at the nutritionist side of things and potentially involve a second graduate student.

Leal suggested CFRP meet with Proudman to develop a scope that covers Mitigation, lifecycle analysis, Consumer Packaged Goods (CPG) and target the audience, including CARB, legislators, etc. Kennedy will work with Proudman to develop a proposal and will also collaborate with FIAB to gather information on what needs to be discussed and what the board's goals are with the GHG information.

### **ALMOND ALLIANCE UPDATES**

Bell reports there are not many updates. A Notice regarding Damaged Feed has been issued to almond hullers and shellers about high moisture and damaged feed.

Asmus inquired about the cost of a membership to CGFA and suggested to add a Nutritionist registration if the cost for individual membership is not too high. This could be an alternative mechanism to reach the nutritionists.

### **CALIFORNIA GRAIN AND FEED ASSOCIATION**

Bell explained the history of moving CFRP's funds to a banking institution outside of the state accounts. He explained that the State had included language in statute to allow programs to invest in outside banks and that the State could borrow those funds, but are required to pay them back with interest, whereas historically the State could have swept funds in the scenario of a budget deficit. Bell explained that Leal and the Secretary are looking for FIAB's wishes on what to do with the bank accounts. CDFA is neutral on where the money sits and wants to make the board aware of costs for maintaining the outside accounts and interest accrual.

Banducci asked about the money currently in CFRP's Bank of America account. Leal and Kennedy explained that we have a healthy reserve in the bank account right now and the board has done a great job keeping a 25% - 50% reserve. If the reserve goes below the 50% mark, it is a red flag to CDFA's Financial Services Branch and creates a heavy programmatic burden. At the next FIAB meeting, the account balances should look different. Leal agreed to present a cash flow analysis at the next meeting. Leal reiterated that there will be a special joint meeting (Feed and Fertilizer boards) to discuss the program's Bank of America accounts and the possibility of those accounts being brought in-house. CDFA is seeking a decision on the board's wishes to either bring the funds into the State Treasury or maintain the outside account(s). The board briefly discussed the nuances of the outside accounts and the state's ability to access those funds.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next FIAB meeting will be in March 2026 in Modesto, California. Members will be sent a Doodle poll to select a date. A meeting must be scheduled in March 2026, to ensure board vacancies can be discussed before member's terms expire.

Agenda items to be included in the next meeting include:

1. Ad Hoc Nutritionist Subcommittee meeting results
2. The CLEAR Center on GHG emissions and how that story will be told
3. Tonnage projections based on revenue
4. Board vacancies
5. An author for the legislative changes for tonnage tax model, certificate of free sale, and license change for integrators

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Shay Rambur moved to adjourn the meeting; Dan Rice seconded.  
The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 AM.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY RACHELLE KENNEDY**

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

11/05/2025  
Date

**\*DRAFT**

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

**FEED INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD (FIAB)  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**2399 GATEWAY OAKS DRIVE, STE. 200, SACRAMENTO 95833 / HYBRID**

**NOVEMBER 5, 2025  
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Alejandro Hernandez  
Dan Rice  
Jed Asmus  
Jeremy Banducci  
Marit Arana, Chair  
Michael Koewler  
Shay Rambur, Vice Chair

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Eric Benziger  
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**CDFA STAFF**

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**INTERESTED PARTIES**

Jessica Lawrence  
Tad Bell

**ROLL CALL – ESTABLISH QUORUM**

Dr. Marit Arana, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM. Self-introductions were made, and a quorum was established.

**CDFA BANK ACCOUNTS**

Natalie Krout-Greenberg informed FIAB that Deputy Secretary of Administration and Finance, Arima Kozina, joined the meeting today to assist with answering questions and providing background information regarding the potential of moving the program's bank accounts from Bank of America (BOA) into the State Treasury.

Kozina explained that the goal is to create efficiency within the Department and that the Department held this special meeting to get feedback from FIAB regarding the accounts. Kozina further stated that by bringing the funds into the State Treasury, increased interest would be earned and there would be less administrative costs associated with managing the accounts.

Krout-Greenberg stated that currently the Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services (FFLDRS) Branch has three accounts with BOA. Those accounts

are for the Commercial Feed Regulatory Program (CFRP), the Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (FMIP), and the Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP). Funds are transferred quarterly from BOA into the State Treasury to ensure that funds are available for program solvency, based on the FIAB approved budget. Currently, the external accounts accrue very little interest; BOA is around 0.03% and the Surplus Money Investment Fund (SMIF), which is the State Treasury, is around 4.42%. Krout-Greenberg also reviewed other available options, including US Bank, which is around 0.05% and BMO, which is around 4.08%. All these interest rates fluctuate slightly. There are also other options including Certificate of Deposits (CD), Money Market Accounts, and Public Funds Interest Checking that can be explored. Krout-Greenberg also reviewed annual revenue the programs are losing by keeping the funds in BOA. CFRP loses around \$35,000, FMIP loses around \$100,000, and FREP loses around \$92,000. There are also administrative costs associated with maintaining external bank accounts. CFRP's annual administrative costs are around \$7,000, FMIP's are around \$20,000, and FREP's are around \$19,000.

Krout-Greenberg discussed the historic reasons why funds have been maintained in external bank accounts. There are perceived vulnerabilities of the accounts being held within the State Treasury, as the funds could be swept in the face of budget deficits and therefore FIAB voted to move the funds to external accounts. Since then, a case has been brought to the Supreme Court and now there are Control Sections within the Budget Act that are specific about state funds being utilized for specific purposes or swept. Currently, if special funds were borrowed from, the funds would need to be paid back with interest and usually negotiations occur. Krout-Greenberg further explained that even if funds are held in external accounts, they can still be borrowed against, but this has not happened in many years.

Kozina elaborated that there have been two instances in which the State had borrowed against funds since the Supreme Court decision and none within Secretary Ross' tenure. Additionally, as described in Control Section 13.40 of the Annual Budget Act, there is specific language that the State can only borrow from idle resources. In discussion with Financial Services, idle resources have been interpreted to mean resources in excess of the reserve. If a situation arose where the State was trying to borrow funds, the approach would be to push back, especially if there was a board mandated or statutory requirement to maintain a reserve, and that going below that reserve level could be argued that those are not idle funds.

Krout-Greenberg explained to FIAB that if the decision is made to leave the funds in an external bank account, the programs would be losing revenue and would also be responsible to pay the administrative costs associated with managing those accounts. These administrative hours are equal to about 1,935 hours per labor year for the six accounts that are held externally, which is equal to around \$160,000. It is the Department's recommendation to move all industry funds currently in external bank accounts into the State Treasury.

Krout-Greenberg asked FIAB if they have any questions about the information presented and further asked, does FIAB wish to bring the funds into the State Treasury or leave the funds in external accounts. A recommendation from FIAB is needed by April 2026, to take effect at the beginning of the next fiscal year in July 2026.

Discussion ensued regarding the administrative costs, the rate of return on the external accounts versus the State Treasury, and the vulnerabilities with having funds in the State Treasury.

Krout-Greenberg stated that the Department recognizes that the numbers presented are not static numbers and they can fluctuate based on interests and account balances. Administrative costs may also fluctuate, but the presentation should give FIAB a general idea of where these numbers sit today.

Kozina elaborated on how the administrative costs were calculated. She explained that the Department looked at the total number of hours spent maintaining the external accounts, which can be tracked right now, and associated the dollar amounts to one lower-level analyst position. If FIAB wishes to keep the external accounts, the Department will track program specific hours to ensure the administrative charges are appropriately distributed after a more in-depth analysis.

Dr. Arana, Chair, requested additional time to review the information presented. The FIAB will decide the future of the accounts at the March 2026 meeting.

Krout-Greenberg stated the PowerPoint Presentation that was shared with FIAB will be emailed out after the meeting and if any additional questions arise, they should be directed to Jenna Leal, FFLDRS Branch Chief, so they can be addressed before the March 2026 meeting.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Tad Bell stated that he agrees with Krout-Greenberg's assessment of the original reason funds were moved from the State Treasury into external accounts. Whether the accounts are maintained within the State Treasury or in an external account, there is no guarantee that the funds could not be borrowed against. Bell further stated that greater interest and lower administrative costs would be reasonable.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Arana requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. However, technical difficulties occurred and the meeting ended at 1:45 PM.

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

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

11/05/2025  
Date

**FEED INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD**

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY**  
**Feed, SAFE, Livestock Drugs, and AUS**

**FUND CONDITION REPORT**  
**As of December 31, 2025**

**FY 2025/26**

	<b>FEED</b>	<b>SAFE</b>	<b>TOTAL FEED/SAFE</b>	<b>LIVESTOCK DRUGS</b>	<b>AUS</b>
<b>Beginning Balance as of 07/01/2025:</b>					
CDFA Account	\$ 3,865,262	\$ 748,484	\$ 4,613,746	\$ 696,941	
Bank of America Account	\$ 1,043,053		\$ 1,043,053		
General Funds					\$ 1,136,093
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$ 4,908,315</b>	<b>\$ 748,484</b>	<b>\$ 5,656,799</b>	<b>\$ 696,941</b>	<b>\$ 1,136,093</b>
<b>Revenue*</b>					
	\$ 2,411,991	\$ 246,314	\$ 2,658,305	\$ 19,959	\$ -
<b>Expenditures and Encumbrances</b>					
Expenditures**	\$ 1,590,561	\$ 199,709	\$ 1,790,270	\$ 131,541	\$ 527,573
Encumbrances	\$ 472,411	\$ 23	\$ 472,434	\$ 1,486	\$ 93,653
<b>Ending Balance as of 12/31/2025</b>					
CDFA Account	\$ 2,832,896	\$ 795,089	\$ 3,627,985	\$ 585,359	\$ 608,519
Bank of America Account	\$ 2,896,847		\$ 2,896,847	\$ -	\$ -
Total Funds	\$ 5,729,743	\$ 795,089	\$ 6,524,832	\$ 585,359	\$ 608,519
<b>Adjusted Balance***</b>	<b>\$ 5,257,332</b>	<b>\$ 795,066</b>	<b>\$ 6,052,398</b>	<b>\$ 583,873</b>	<b>\$ 514,866</b>
<b>Recovery - Funds received from Federal grants and contracts</b>					
Food Safety	\$ 27,548	\$ -	\$ 27,548	\$ -	\$ -
AFRPS		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Recovery	\$ 27,548	\$ -	\$ 27,548	\$ -	\$ -

**\*NOTE:** Revenue includes feed tonnage tax, feed and livestock drugs licensing, restricted livestock drugs registration, interest accrued in the CDFA Fund Account and Bank of America Corporate Account.

\*\* Expenditure total per CDFA Financial Services Budget Report June 30 2026. Amount does not reflect outstanding lag expenditures.

\*\*\* Adjusted balance accounts for all program encumbrances through June 30, 2026.

## Feed Tonnage Breakdown by Fiscal Year

	2021/22		2022/23		2023/24		2024/25		2025/26	
	\$0.10		\$0.10		\$0.12		\$0.13		\$0.13	
	Tonnage Revenue	Rate	Tonnage Revenue	Rate	Tonnage Revenue	Rate	Tonnage Revenue	Rate	Tonnage Revenue	Rate
<b>JULY</b>	\$ 383,029	\$0.10	\$ 59,634	\$0.10	\$ 81,882	\$ 0.12	\$ 136,676	\$ 0.13	\$ 53,690	\$ 0.13
<b>AUGUST</b>	\$ 326,918	\$0.10	\$ 511,822	\$0.10	\$ 473,833	\$ 0.12	\$ 515,962	\$ 0.13	\$ 686,622	\$ 0.13
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	\$ 3,396	\$0.10	\$ 4,688	\$0.10	\$ 28,742	\$ 0.12	\$ 24,787	\$ 0.13	\$ 21,192	\$ 0.13
<b>Q1 Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 713,343</b>		<b>\$ 576,144</b>		<b>\$ 584,457</b>		<b>\$ 677,425</b>		<b>\$ 761,504</b>	
<b>OCTOBER</b>	\$ 189,198	\$0.10	\$ 72,452	\$0.10	\$ 203,381	\$ 0.12	\$ 81,774	\$ 0.13	\$ 117,879	\$ 0.13
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	\$ 176,857	\$0.10	\$ 491,607	\$0.10	\$ 390,331	\$ 0.12	\$ 616,309	\$ 0.13	\$ 574,964	\$ 0.13
<b>DECEMBER</b>	\$ 204,957	\$0.10	\$ 3,447	\$0.10	\$ 43,160	\$ 0.12	\$ 53,939	\$ 0.13	\$ 40,737	\$ 0.13
<b>Q2 Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 571,012</b>		<b>\$ 567,506</b>		<b>\$ 636,872</b>		<b>\$ 752,022</b>		<b>\$ 733,580</b>	
<b>JANUARY</b>	\$ 5,192	\$0.10	\$ 65,540	\$0.10	\$ 9,314	\$ 0.12	\$ 21,825	\$ 0.13		\$ 0.13
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	\$ 325,629	\$0.10	\$ 462,692	\$0.10	\$ 729,084	\$ 0.12	\$ 569,408	\$ 0.13		\$ 0.13
<b>MARCH</b>	\$ 159,268	\$0.10	\$ (71)	\$0.10	\$ 51,679	\$ 0.12	\$ 163,035	\$ 0.13		\$ 0.13
<b>Q3 Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 490,089</b>		<b>\$ 528,161</b>		<b>\$ 790,077</b>		<b>\$ 754,268</b>		<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>APRIL</b>	\$ 170,233	\$0.10	\$ 152,672	\$0.10	\$ 130,441	\$ 0.12	\$ 39,982	\$ 0.13		\$ 0.13
<b>MAY</b>	\$ 319,061	\$0.10	\$ 458,600	\$0.10	\$ 493,377	\$ 0.12	\$ 644,967	\$ 0.13		\$ 0.13
<b>JUNE</b>	\$ 190,690	\$0.10	\$ 165,415	\$0.10	\$ 63,478	\$ 0.12	\$ 113,297	\$ 0.13		\$ 0.13
<b>Q4 Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 679,984</b>		<b>\$ 776,687</b>		<b>\$ 687,296</b>		<b>\$ 798,246</b>		<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,454,428</b>		<b>\$ 2,448,498</b>		<b>\$ 2,698,702</b>		<b>\$ 2,981,961</b>		<b>\$ 1,495,084</b>	



# Feed Inspection Advisory Board

March 10, 2026

Modesto, CA



# Agenda

Introductions and Announcements

Roll Call - Establish Quorum

Department / Division / Branch Updates

Approve minutes from September 23, 2025, and November 5, 2025 (2)

Program Updates

- Fund Conditions

- Tonnage projections based on revenue

- CDFA Bank Accounts

- Strategic Planning

- Ad Hoc Nutritionist Subcommittee

- The CLEAR Center on GHG emissions

Board Vacancies

Legislation Updates

University of California, Davis - Laboratories Update

Almond Alliance Updates

California Grain and Feed Association

Public Comments - Limited to Items Not on the Agenda

Next Meeting

Adjournment

# Introductions & Announcements

Roll Call – Establish Quorum

Department, Division  
& Branch Updates





## Approve Minutes:

1. September 23, 2025
2. November 5, 2025 (2)





# Program Updates

## FEED INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD

FINANCIAL SUMMARY  
Feed, SAFE, Livestock Drugs, and AUSFUND CONDITION REPORT  
As of December 31, 2025

	FY 2025/26				
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# Fund Conditions

# Tonnage Revenue

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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 2,454,428</b>		<b>\$ 2,448,498</b>		<b>\$ 2,698,702</b>		<b>\$ 2,981,961</b>		<b>\$ 1,495,084</b>	

## 2025 Tonnage Per Quarter

Quarter	Feed Type	Tons	Amount
Q1 (Jan-Mar)	Commercial Feed	5,402,909	\$ 702,378.17
	Human Food By-Products (Diversion)	561,877	\$ 36,522.01
	Diversion with No Fees (ind. Under 1,000 tons)*	6,633	
Q2 (Apr-Jun)	Commercial Feed	5,593,624	\$ 727,171.12
	Human Food By-Products (Diversion)	567,699	\$ 36,900.44
	Diversion with No Fees (ind. Under 1,000 tons)*	5,322	
Q3 (Jul-Sept)	Commercial Feed	5,392,431	\$ 701,016.03
	Human Food By-Products (Diversion)	397,262	\$ 25,822.03
	Diversion with No Fees (ind. Under 1,000 tons)*	5,013	
Q4** (Oct-Dec)	Commercial Feed	4,508,682	\$ 586,128.66
	Human Food By-Products (Diversion)	263,356	\$ 17,118.14
	Diversion with No Fees (ind. Under 1,000 tons)*	6,275	
<b>Total</b>		22,687,840	\$ 2,833,056.59

# Tonnage Reported in Extraview

\*Diversion with No Fees is counted in the Human Food By-products (Diversion), so it is not part of the Total column  
 \*\* Still pending delinquent Quarter 4 tonnage reporting

# Feed Program Revenue and Current Fees

## Licensing: ~\$1 Million

- \$500 License Fee

## Inspection Tonnage Tax: ~\$3.5 million

- \$.13 regular tonnage, \$.065 diversion tonnage

## Federal Funds:

- AFRPS (through June 2028): \$300,000
- FDA Animal Food Contract: ~\$125,000 per year

## Program Cuts

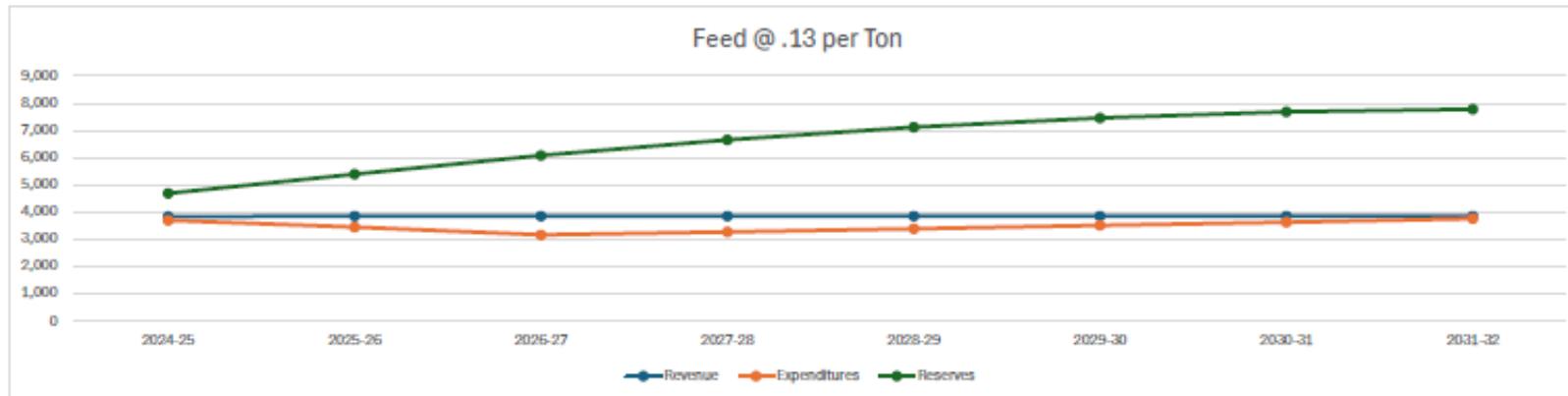
- Two vacant positions given to another program
- AUS=8% cut 26/27

# Tonnage Projections

Current Inspection Tonnage Tax Rate and License Fee paired with current expenditures will continue to build the reserve.

## FEED PROGRAM 7-YEAR PROJECTION OF REVENUE & BUDGETED EXPENDITURES

SOURCE DESCRIPTION	\$0.13 Per Ton								
	ACTUAL	PROJECTED							
	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	
Total Feed Revenue	\$ 3,827,891	\$ 3,843,869	\$ 3,843,869	\$ 3,843,869	\$ 3,843,869	\$ 3,843,869	\$ 3,843,869	\$ 3,843,869	\$ 3,843,869
Prior Year Reserves	+ \$ 3,959,852	\$ 4,680,195	\$ 5,386,267	\$ 6,073,641	\$ 6,650,544	\$ 7,113,111	\$ 7,457,340	\$ 7,679,087	\$ 7,679,087
Total Expenditures (Includes Encumbrances)	- \$ 3,691,868	\$ 3,437,597	\$ 3,156,295	\$ 3,266,785	\$ 3,381,102	\$ 3,499,441	\$ 3,621,921	\$ 3,748,688	\$ 3,748,688
Anticipated Recoveries	\$ 584,318	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Reserves</b>	<b>Total \$ 4,680,195</b>	<b>\$ 5,386,267</b>	<b>\$ 6,073,641</b>	<b>\$ 6,650,544</b>	<b>\$ 7,113,111</b>	<b>\$ 7,457,340</b>	<b>\$ 7,679,087</b>	<b>\$ 7,679,087</b>	<b>\$ 7,774,068</b>
	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	
RESERVE @ 25% =	\$ 922,967	\$ 859,399	\$ 789,074	\$ 816,691	\$ 845,276	\$ 874,860	\$ 905,480	\$ 937,172	
RESERVE @ 50% =	\$ 1,845,933	\$ 1,718,799	\$ 1,578,148	\$ 1,633,383	\$ 1,690,551	\$ 1,749,720	\$ 1,810,961	\$ 1,874,344	



# Program Fee Options

Lower License Fee (@2100 licenses)

Each \$100 reduction= ~\$210,000 revenue loss

Lower Tonnage Tax for last 6 months of 2026 (@22 million tons)

Each 1 cent reduction= ~\$220,000 revenue loss

Hold Inspection Tonnage Tax Rate and set lower amount under model if passed for 2027

# CDFA Bank Accounts

- FMIP, FREP, & OIM – Currently utilize Bank of America (outside acct.)
- Decision needed: Continue to utilize B of A account or move funds into the State Treasury
  - Alternatives – Move funds to another outside bank account
  - Pros – Gain additional interest
  - Cons – Theory is funds can be swept easier during a deficit; pay additional administrative costs

# Strategic Planning



## Legislation/Regulations

- Change tonnage structure
- National Alignment where possible
- Labeling Modernization
- Annual incorporation of new ingredients
- Livestock Drug



## Emerging Issues

- Climate Issues
- Federal Legislation
- New and Novel Ingredients
- Supplements and Claims on Labeling



## Policy Development

- National Consistency
- Nutritionist Registration
- Livestock Drugs/Label Claims
- Damaged Feed



## Long Term

- AFRPS ending June 2028
- Mutual Reliance with FDA
- Quick testing options

# Inspection Tonnage Tax Examinations

2<sup>nd</sup> year of implementing routine tonnage reporting examinations

	2024	2025	Total
Number of Examinations	5	6	11
Recovered Inspection Tonnage Tax Amount	\$66,368.55	\$20,974.47	\$87,343.02

Inspection Type	2025 Total
Commercial Feed	254
Retail	56
CA Feed Safety (Comprehensive)	24
Veterinary Feed Directive	41



2025  
Inspections

2<sup>nd</sup> year implementing California Feed Safety  
Inspections

# Compliance and Enforcement 2025

## Violation Inspection Reports

- 109 sample violations,
  - 104 have been followed up on
  - 5 outstanding as of 2/2/2026
- 90 regulatory notes

## 248 Notice of Warnings issued for

- 47 unlicensed feed locations
- 113 delinquent tonnage reports
- 59 delinquent tonnage reports and license renewal
- 1 feed safety inspection findings
- 2 almond hulls
- 5 sample violations
- 6 veterinary feed directive related
- 6 restricted livestock drug related
- 9 cottonseed certificate of movement related

## 1 Compliance Meeting



## 2025 Complaint Investigations

10 complaints received:

- Feed Safety
  - 2 animal death related (Resolution- not caused by feed)
  - 1 unapproved feed ingredient
- Quality
  - 1 too many fines in feed
  - 2 almond hulls
- Damaged/Adulterated Feed
  - 2 mold in railcars
- Hay Complaints
  - 1 conventional sold as organic
  - 1 noxious weeds (Resolution- no noxious weeds)

# Updates to Complaint Submission Process

- Requesting information about complaint details at the time of complaint submission
- New online complaint form coming soon

[CDFA Home](#) / [Inspection Services](#) / [FFLDRS](#) / Commercial Feed Regulatory Program

## Commercial Feed Regulatory Program

1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 • 916-900-5022 • [feed\\_lvstk@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:feed_lvstk@cdfa.ca.gov)

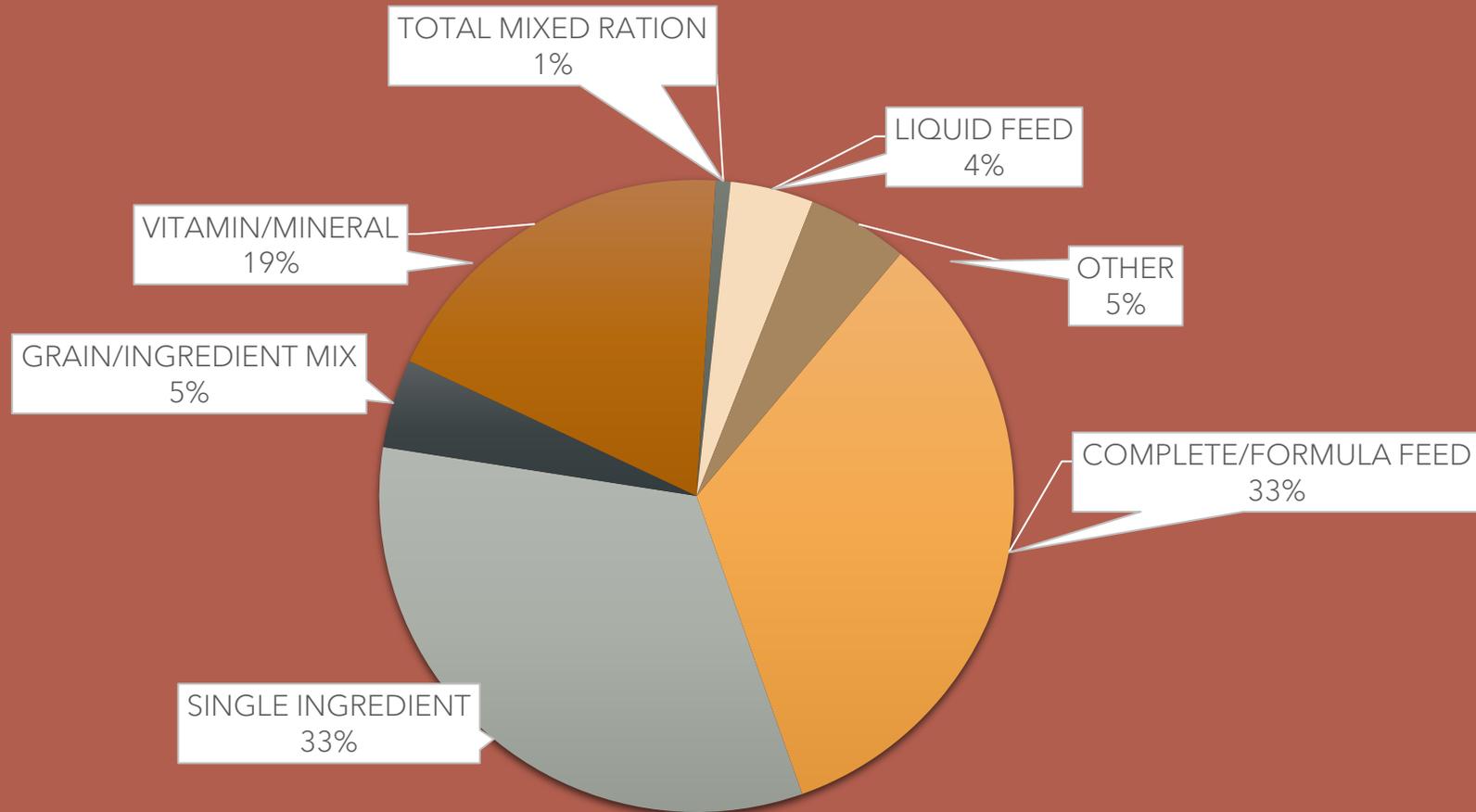
[Submit a Commercial Feed Complaint](#) ▶

 [Receive Updates by Email](#)

 [Industry Notices](#)

 [Quarterly Feed Update Newsletter](#)

# 2025 Feed Sampling



# 2025 Feed Sampling

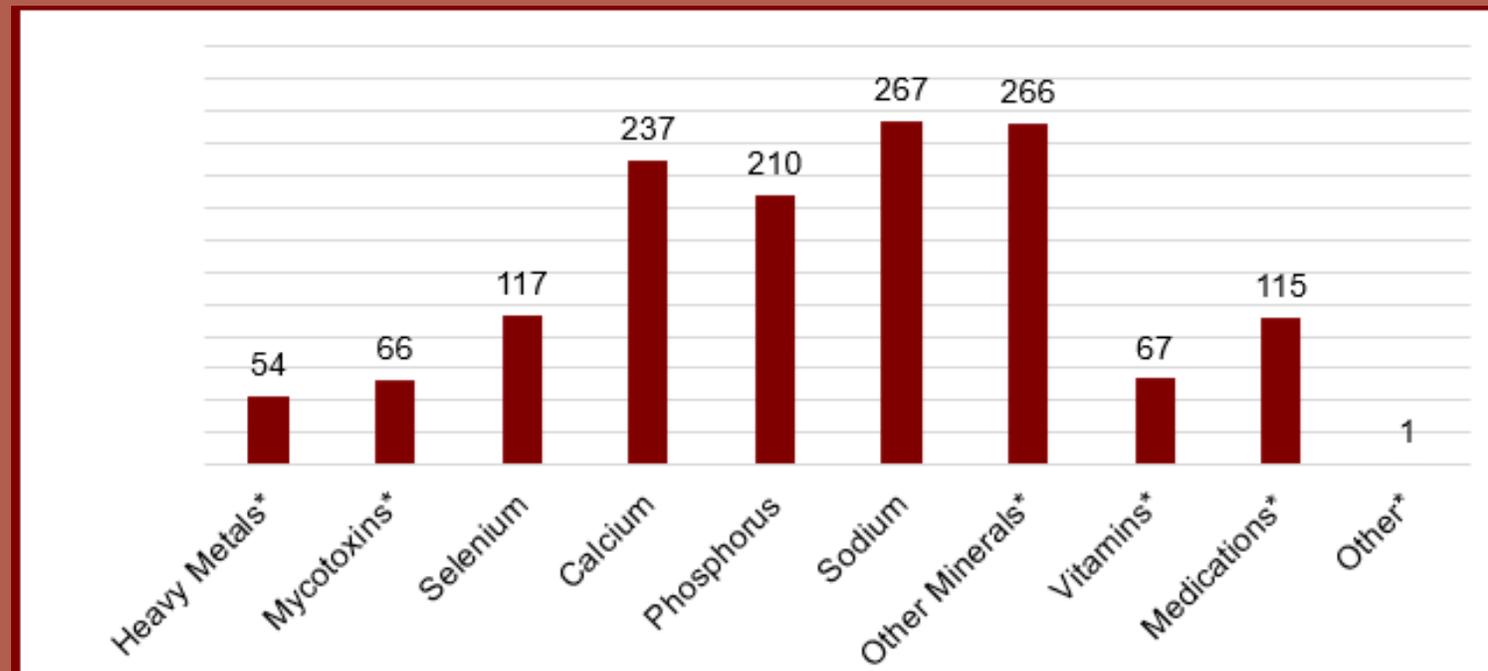


	Number	Percentage
Food Safety	438	66%
Label Compliance	222	34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Food Safety Assays

Heavy metal screens: analysis of four metals (Arsenic (As), Cadmium (Cd), Lead (Pb), Mercury (Hg))

Mycotoxin screens: analysis of 9 mycotoxins (Aflatoxin B1, B2, G1, G2, HT-2, Zearalenone (F-2 Toxin), Fumonisin, Deoxynevalenol (DON), Ochratoxin)

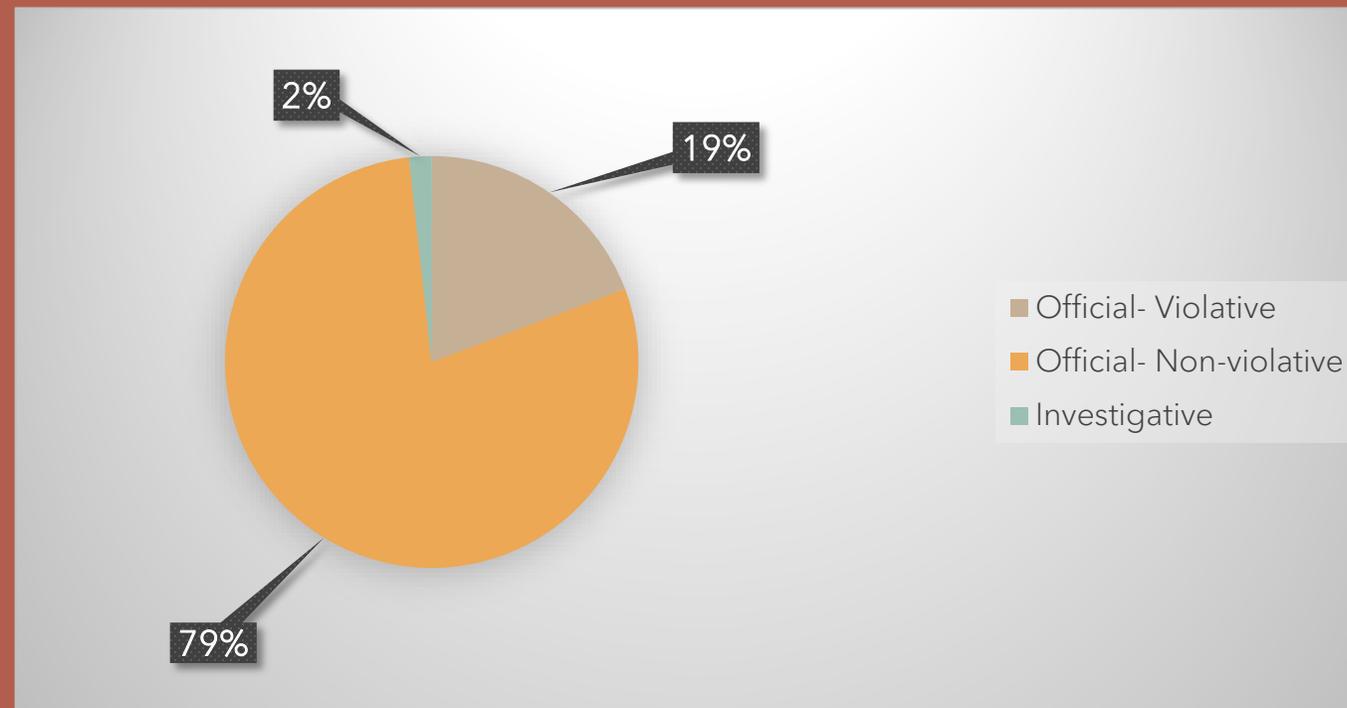


# 2025 Sample Violations

119 Individual violations issued

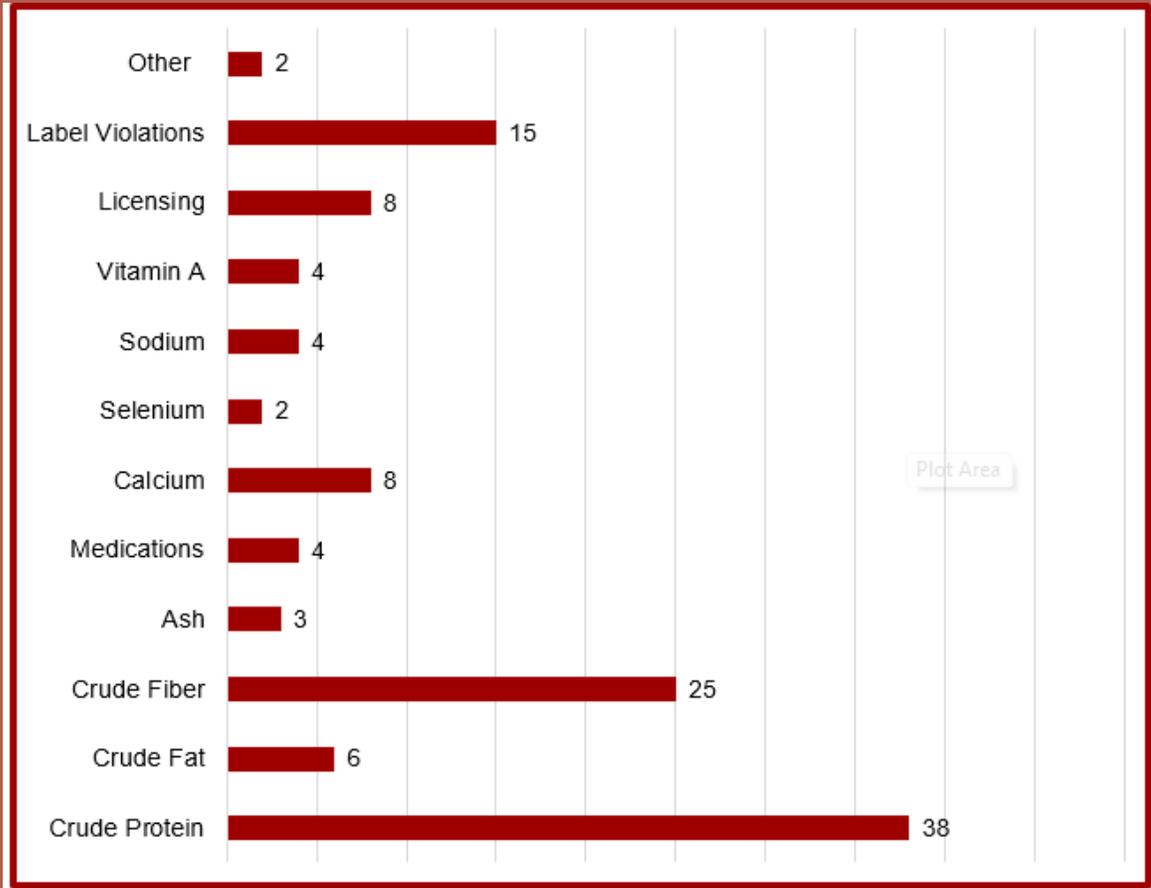
Some samples received multiple assay and label violations for same report

Violation Rate



# 2025 Sample Violations

Violation types issued on sample reports



Most common violations – Crude Protein, Crude Fiber, label violations and calcium

20 of the Crude Fiber violations were Almond Hull samples

Other violations include – adulteration and mislabeling

# SAFE Updates

Hosted PCQI training Dec 3-4, 2025, in Modesto

21 participants

Fairs Outreach and Education in 2026

Check the website for upcoming annual reports:

2025 Sample Report-Early Spring

2025 Crop Year Mycotoxin Report-Early Summer

2025 Tonnage Report-Late Spring



# FIAB Ad Hoc Nutritionist Subcommittee Mtg- 2/5/2026: Recommendations

1. Proposed registration for individual consulting nutritionists
  - A. Establish contact list
2. SAFE outreach & education
  - A. Initial training/outreach to educate on current laws and regulations
  - B. Possible continuing education

## Plan of Action:

1. Proposed May 6th scoping meeting in collaboration with CANC and ARPRS
2. Upon recommendation of FIAB, SAFE to develop outline of program and prepare scoping meeting
3. Subcommittee to meet again prior to Scoping Meeting-mid April



University of  
California, Davis,  
CLEAR Center  
Proposal

# Feed Inspection Advisory Board Member Vacancies April 30, 2026

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**Dr. Michael  
DeGroot**

**Michael  
Koewler**

**Dan Rice**

# Board Applicant 1 seeking to fill Public Member position

APPLICANT NAME AND LOCATION	ASSOCIATION AND TITLE	YEARS IN INDUSTRY	EDUCATION
<b>Michael DeGroot</b>  Visalia, CA	EDGE Dairy Consulting  President CEO	23 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PhD Ruminant Nutrition</li><li>• MSc Ruminant Nutrition</li><li>• BSc Dairy Science</li></ul>

## AFFILIATION / CERTIFICATION

- California American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (2002-current)
- American Dairy Science Association (2002-current)
- Ducks Unlimited (2005-current)
- National Rifle Association (2012-current)
- Independent Dairy Nutritionist Consortium (2009-current)
- Visalia Rescue Mission Board of Directors (2013-2019)

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

EDGE Dairy Consulting, LLC / DeGroot Dairy Consulting, LLC 2004-2014; 2014-current

· Nutrition and Management Consulting for dairy cattle throughout the state of California.

President CEO, Rock River Laboratory West 2008-2018

· Provide reliable, accurate, and timely feed, forage, and water analyses to the agricultural community throughout the US, and more recently, across the globe.

# Board Applicant 2 seeking to fill Board Member position

<b>APPLICANT NAME AND LOCATION</b>	<b>ASSOCIATION AND TITLE</b>	<b>YEARS IN INDUSTRY</b>	<b>EDUCATION</b>
<b>Michael Koewler</b>  Sacramento, CA	Sacramento Rendering Company  President	40 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MSc Finance</li><li>• BSc Economics</li></ul>

## **AFFILIATION / CERTIFICATION**

- Pacific Coast Renderers Association (Board Member 1987-current, Chairman of Legislative Committee 2004-current, President 2001-2004)
- National Renderers Association (Board of Directors & Chairman 2000-current)
- Fats and Proteins Research Foundation, Board of Directors 2000-current
- Feed Inspection Advisory Board 2005-current
- California Rendering Industry Advisory Board, Chairman 2012-current

## **RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

President of Sacramento Rendering Company 1997-current

- Recycle by-products from the Meat & Poultry Industry and operate in two states with 182 employees
- Southern California Division Manager of Darling International, Inc. 1993-1997
- Responsible for activities and welfare for 175 employees; over \$20 million in sales
- General Manager of Darling International, Inc. 1988-1993
- Responsible for activities and welfare for 60 employees; over \$10 million in sales

# Board Applicant 3 seeking to fill Board Member position

APPLICANT NAME AND LOCATION	ASSOCIATION AND TITLE	YEARS IN INDUSTRY	EDUCATION
Dan Rice Goshen, CA	Western Milling Quality Assurance Director	21 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MSc Brewing and Distilling</li><li>• MBA</li><li>• BSc Biochemistry</li></ul>

## AFFILIATION / CERTIFICATION

- CDFA FIAB 2018 to current
- California Grain and Feed Association Environmental Committee 2018 to current
- American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) Feed Safety & Quality Committee past Chair
- AFIA Board of Directors 2022 to current
- IFEEEDER Education & Engagement Committee 2022 to current
- IFEEEDER Board of Trustees 2024 to current

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Ensure the corporate quality system meets and exceeds the required regulatory and customer requirements across six animal food manufacturing facilities and two pet food plants.
- Perform regular inspections of facilities and plants, checking for work practice standards and safety guidelines.
- Conduct employee training, updating employees on best practices.

# Board Applicant 4 seeking to fill Board Member position

<b>APPLICANT NAME AND LOCATION</b>	<b>ASSOCIATION AND TITLE</b>	<b>YEARS IN INDUSTRY</b>	<b>EDUCATION</b>
<b>Joseph Boyd</b>  La Quinta, CA	Denali Water Solutions  Director of Engineering	22 Years	• BS Chemical Engineering

## **AFFILIATION / CERTIFICATION**

- California Advanced Biofuel Alliance, Co-Chair 2024-current
- Clean Fuels Alliance America, Voting Member 2006-current
- California Feed and Grain Association, Member 2003-current
- Food Safety Preventative Controls Alliance, PCQI certified 2017-current

## **RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

- Overseeing IWP's quality control and laboratory operations
- Deep familiarity with feed safety, analytical methods, and compliance challenges
- Direct experience working within CDFA's regulatory and enforcement framework

# Legislative Updates



- Regulation Package “Label Modernization” -Routing through CDFA
  - Proposed removing “Charcoal (vegetable)” from California ingredient regulations (Section 2791 (f))
- Livestock Drug Regulations
- Federal Legislation
  - GRAS Bill



# University of California, Davis Laboratory Updates

# Almond Alliance and California Grain and Feed Association Updates

# Public Comments?

# Thank You

Rachelle Kennedy, Program Manager

Ted Bert, Field Supervisor

Samantha Moran-Defty, Program Supervisor

KC Gutenberger, SAFE Program

