



December 19, 2003

AAFCO Members/State Feed Program Administrators:

For years, AAFCO has deliberated over inspector training and certification. In 2000 and 2001, the Inspection and Sampling Committee worked to develop a Feed Safety Work Plan (pg. 420, 2002 OP) that would create educational/training programs for inspectors focused on food/feed safety. The committee worked closely with the Feed Manufacturing Committee to coordinate and integrate efforts, including inspector levels of the AAFCO National Medicated Feed Program. One of the components of the Feed Safety Work Plan included Inspector Levels of Professional Development (pg. 421-422, 2002 OP).

In August 2001, the AAFCO membership accepted the recommendation from the Board of Directors to accept the report and recommendations of the Inspection and Sampling Committee (pg. 419, 2002 OP). With regard to an inspector certification program, the committee recommended the following:

- 1) The Certifying Body be appointed with AAFCO and FDA setting the criteria as outlined in the AAFCO Model National Medicated Feed Program and in the Inspector Levels of Professional Development paper drafted by the Inspection and Sampling Committee.
- 2) States have the opportunity to act as their own Certifying Organization with oversight from the Certifying Body. States may serve in this capacity individually or collectively. States may elect to utilize the services of a third party Certification Organization with the approval of the Certifying Body.
- 3) AAFCO continues to provide inspector training seminars, publications, Feed Administrators' Seminars, and other resources that will provide required continuing education hours for the individuals participating in the Inspector Certification Program.

One committee task was to set base standards for four levels of inspector certification. As a result, in 2002, the Curriculum Task Force was created to accomplish that goal. Concurrently, Gary German, Director, Division of Human Resource Development and ORA University continued to develop web-based training for FDA personnel and had entered into partnership with the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) for training purposes. Discussions with Gary uncovered mutual interests, common goals and objectives for improving existing training and paved the way for new AAFCO opportunities.

On August 2, 2003, the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) entered into a partnership agreement with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA), Division of Human Resource Development (DHRD). The primary objective of the partnership is to strengthen federal, state, local and tribal regulatory programs that regulate commercial feed products. This will be accomplished through a coordinated and integrated training effort using the available resources and expertise of AAFCO and FDA.

Representatives of AAFCO and FDA work together through the AAFCO Feed Curriculum Task Force and have identified existing web-based courses, housed in ORA University, and traditional on-the-job training provided by AAFCO and FDA. These are excellent tools for training your regulatory field staff. The task force has also begun to identify what may be lacking within ORA University that will benefit feed regulatory field staff training. Once identified, these courses may be designed and developed for further training purposes.

The partners are making strides with this project and thanks to the efforts of a lot of people within AAFCO and FDA; the first wave of available web-based training is here. AAFCO and FDA will continue to provide regional on-the-job training on an annual or as needed basis.

Please review the announcement from Gary German, Director of FDA's Division of Human Resource Development and ORA U.

Sincerely,



Ben Jones
AAFCO President
Office of the Texas State Chemist
P. O. Box 3160
College Station, TX 77841
(979) 845-1121
Fax: (979) 845-1389
Email: ben-jones@tamu.edu

cc: Gary German, Director Division of Human Resource Development and ORA U