



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN FEED CONTROL OFFICIALS, INC.

January 5, 2009

Dear AAFCO Members:

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> year of AAFCO and it promises to be a busy one. For starters, AAFCO will be hosting its own annual meeting in August. For many months, Sharon Krebs, members of the Communications Committee and other volunteers have been busy planning the centennial event. It promises to be a memorable meeting. In celebration of our Centennial, a new AAFCO logo has been developed and will be unveiled on the back cover of the 2009 Official Publication (OP). Additionally, the 2009 OP will have a new look this year with the front cover illustrating the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC, the location of our 100<sup>th</sup> meeting location, as well as the meeting place of the very first AAFCO meeting in 1909.

Speaking of the 2009 OP, not only is the cover different, the contents have been reorganized to be more user-friendly. Just use the revised Table of Contents to find the chapter and page of the information you seek. It may take a little time to get used to, but thanks to the efforts of the OP Working Group, the OP is now divided into categorical chapters that should make items easier to find.

On January 20, 2009, AAFCO will meet in Tucson, AZ for its mid-year meeting. I look forward to seeing everyone and having a productive meeting. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Directors will host a Committee Chair Training Session instead of the normal Committee Chair Review Session. The session is designed to help the association be more consistent in how we conduct meetings and improve the communications and tracking of action items within and between committees, the Board and throughout the association. The Board continues to work on establishing an electronic voting protocol so that committees and the Board of Directors can be as efficient as possible when conducting work between meetings and hopes to have that finalized by the midyear meeting.

The Board members have been busy on many other items since we last met. Most recently, the Board sent a letter of support for the continued funding of Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) to the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Representative David Obey in Washington, DC. A copy of the letter will be posted on our website.

In December 2008, the Board accepted a proposal from Gloria Dunnavan to develop training modules to be used by state inspectors as a part of the Inspector Certification program. The three modules will include label review, sampling and GMP inspections. The idea of providing on-line training materials for inspectors has been an on-going project for AAFCO. Completion of this proposal will bring the association one step closer to providing continuing education to new and advancing inspectors and the overall goal of having a system for certifying inspectors.

The opportunity to provide comments on the draft of AAFCO's Voluntary HACCP Plan document ended on November 26, 2008 and the HACCP Task Force will be submitting the final draft document to the Board for review at the mid-year meeting. The Board anticipates moving the HACCP document to the Feed Manufacturing Committee for open discussion and review. The HACCP Task Force continues to work on the corresponding checklist.

The Board is exploring alternatives to improve the current AAFCO website. As one option, the Board is weighing the advantages and disadvantages of hiring an independent provider of a complete all-inclusive website platform. EJH and Associates gave a webinar presentation on the FoodSHIELD website platform during the Board meeting in Gaithersburg. Everyone seemed quite impressed with the system, but it doesn't come without cost.

The Board continues to work with the Long Range Planning Committee and others to look at the options in determining if and how the association may hire an Executive Director or Operations Manager to improve the association's internal functions and lessen the demand on our invaluable volunteer resources. It has become clear to many that the association lacks the resources to maintain the professionalism and efficiency needed to keep up with the many demands in today's global feed industry.

In that regard, we are currently working to update and refine some of the procedures of how the association conducts its normal business. The Board is also currently working to update and develop a more detailed Job Description and Employment Agreement for the association's one full-time employee, the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. These refined documents will come in handy in the event that the association is able to hire another employee in the future.

The week of August 11, 2008, just after the Nashville meeting, I attended FDA's Gateway to Food Protection meeting in St. Louis on behalf of AAFCO. Many of you attended that same meeting to help FDA address the challenges of ensuring the safety of our growing global food supply. A result of that meeting was the formation of a Coordinating Committee made up of representatives from the Council of Association Presidents (CAP), of which AAFCO is a member. Due to the fact that this will be an on-going endeavor, Bob Waltz has volunteered to represent AAFCO on that committee. Bob will do a great job in representing AAFCO and our goals.


As for the 2010 Strategic Plan, although there has been a considerable amount of work completed and we have conceptual ideas of where the association hopes to be in the next 5 years, we have been unable to complete the plan. I urge each of you to bring us your ideas and volunteer your time to help in this effort before August 2009.

Last but certainly not least, I have a few quick announcements. The 2009 Feed Administrator's Seminar will be held in Bass Lake, CA on May 5-7, 2009. It is anticipated that the 2010 mid-year meeting will be in Southern California and the 2010 annual meeting will be held in Oregon.

There are many other important projects on-going within each committee, way too many to mention and still keep this briefing to only 2 pages. So, I'll stop there and encourage everyone to keep abreast of committee work by communicating with the Committee Chairs, by reading the Committee Reports that are published in the OP and by reading the draft Committee Reports that are sent to you each year prior to the annual meeting.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you that contribute your time away from your busy work schedules to help AAFCO in achieving its goals. AAFCO's successes are gained only through the time and dedication that you and your organizations provide. I hope that you had a joyous holiday season and wish you the best of the New Year.

Sincerely,

  
Andy Gray, President  
AAFCO