

needs, issues and day-to-day challenges. Inspector/sampler shadowing has occurred in the following states: MN, SD, FL, OR and ID.

- Ramsey made oral presentations to the AAFCO Laboratory Methods and Services and Inspection and Sampling Committees. His presentation “When Randomness is Not Enough” was an introduction to the Theory of Sampling.
- Sections for the Guidance document have been established, with consensus on the content of each section.
- Title of Guidance document proposed to be: *Guidance On Obtaining Defensible Samples (GOODSamples)*. A subtitle will capture the collaborative effort. Suggested subtitle: A collaborative effort of FDA, AAFCO, AFDO, APHL and Industry to provide guidance for the defensible sampling of food and feed materials.
- Writing of first drafts of the Sections is underway.

Products

GOODSamples, a guidance document with the following sections is in preparation. The document is expected to be in complete first draft form by February 2014.

- Introduction and Background.
- Definitions
- Flow Charts
- Management Considerations
- Theory of Sampling
- Sampling Quality Criteria
- Quality Control
- Data Interpretation
- Sampling Tools
- Sampling Design
- Targeting
- Maintaining representativeness

- Maintaining legal integrity
- Health & Safety
- Laboratory Sampling, Handling and Preparation
- References

Piloting will occur in two phases

- Training talks/events at national meetings (highest priority)
- Training talks/events at regional meetings (as funding allows)
- In-state piloting in 2-3 states.

Impact

It has become apparent that this project is a massive, but critically needed, undertaking. The scope and volume of work is much greater than originally anticipated. However, the work is extremely important and the most overlooked component of establishing equivalency of data necessary for inter-agency data sharing. The group is approaching the project as if the guidelines might eventually be used as guidelines for accreditation. The outcomes promise to be very exciting and productive, with very significant impact.

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AUGUST 2013

Preparing Food and Feed Laboratories for ISO 17025 Accreditation

The Associations Cooperative Agreement with FDA



**Specific Aim #2:
Harmonized Policies and
Procedures for Equivalency of Data**



Preparing Food and Feed Laboratories for ISO 17025 Accreditation

Through a cooperative agreement with FDA's Office of Partnerships, APHL, AFDO and AAFCO are preparing food and feed regulatory testing laboratories seeking to achieve, maintain and enhance ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation.

Objectives of the work include:

- developing laboratory training programs around accreditation
- building a mentoring program for laboratories at various stages of accreditation
- reaching national consensus on equivalency
- enabling direct electronic sharing of analytical data
- improving communication among federal, state, and local testing laboratories and with their associated regulatory and public health programs
- building a framework for unified laboratory response to food/feed safety emergencies
- expanding a proficiency testing program for feed laboratories
- improving the rapid submission of isolates to the public health system



Specific Aim #2: Harmonized Policies and Procedures for Equivalency of Data

Identify, pilot test, and implement nationally the policies and procedures necessary to establish equivalency between federal, state, and local food and feed testing laboratories.

Under this Specific Aim, AAFCO is leading efforts to:

- Establish harmonized policies and procedures for sample collection, shipment, analysis, storage, and retention of food and feed materials.



Member Involvement

AAFCO, via its Laboratory Methods and Services and Inspection and Sampling Committees, will convene a Sampling and Sample Handling Working Group to establish policies and procedures for sample collection, handling and preparing for analysis. Members have been drawn from AAFCO, AFDO, APHL, FDA and industry, and is chaired by Nancy Thiex and represent laboratory and inspection staff. The charge to this group was to establish harmonized policies and procedures for food and feed sample collection and handling. The procedures should be science based, internationally acceptable and lead to equivalent and defensible analytical results.

Initiatives

- A contract between AAFCO and Envirostat, Inc. was developed and signed on November 13, 2012, bringing Chuck Ramsey on as a technical consultant.
- The Working Group established a FoodShield Work Group "FDA CoAg Sampling and Sample Handling WorkGroup" for webinars, reference document repository and document control.
- The Organizational Conference call was held December 20. Biweekly working conference calls were held January 3, January 17, January 25, February 14, February 28, March 14, April 11, April 24, May 9, May 30, June 14, June 27, July 11, July 27, August 8, and August 22.
- Face-to-face meeting held January 25 in Albuquerque, NM and August 14-15 in St. Pete Beach, FL.
- Training in *Sampling for Defensible Decisions: Food and Feed* was held April 2-5, 2013 in Dallas, TX.
- A State Contact List containing contact information for points of contact in the states for food and feed testing has been developed.
- A nationwide survey has been conducted of state personnel involved in sampling regarding issues and concerns with sampling processes and availability of in-house documents that might be shared with our working group.
- Ramsey and Thiex have initiated conference calls on a state-by-state basis to capture sampling needs and issues.
- "Spend a day with an inspector/sampler" was initiated for Chuck Ramsey and Nancy Thiex to spend a day in a few different states to capture the diversity of sampling