



FINAL: May 8, 2020

Proficiency Testing Program Committee Report
2020 AAFCO Mid-Year Meeting
Tuesday, January 21, 2020 1:00 – 5:30 PM
Albuquerque, NM
FINAL

Committee Recommendations

None

Board Recommendations

None

Association Actions

None

Committee Participants

Members Present: Brenda Snodgrass – OK (Chair/Program Manager); Louise Ogden – PT Program (Vice-chair/Quality Manager); Nancy Thiex – PT Program; Bob Kieffer – PT Program; Amy Kieffer – PT Program; Andy Crawford – PT Program, Ametra Berry – GA; Deepika Curole – LA; Tai Ha – NE; Quintin Muenks – MO; Kristi McCallum – CO; Patty Lucas – FL; Michele Swarbrick – MN; Manisha Das – FDA/CVM; Victoria Watkins – KS; Sharon Webb – KY
Melanie Titley – CFIA

Advisors Present: Lars Reimann – AFIA; Ken Riter – PFI, John Szpylka – Merieux Nutrisciences

Committee Report

Committee Activities

See Action Item Table

Sub-Committee Activities

None

Committee Minutes

1. Welcome & Call To Order – Brenda Snodgrass called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. The agenda was reviewed and approved. Attendees introduced themselves and their affiliations. A sign-in sheet was circulated to the attendees.
2. Program Leadership and Administrative Update
 - a. ISO 17043 Accreditation Update (Ogden) – The ANAB Surveillance assessment was completed on December 6, 2019. The assessment found no deficiencies, and all four PT schemes were renewed.
 - b. Customer Surveys (Ogden)
 - i. A survey regarding the reporting Soluble/Insoluble fiber was sent to Animal Feed Scheme and Pet Food Ingredient Scheme participants to determine if the program needs to add method codes for these analytes; results were largely inconclusive since a majority of labs reported they

- report Crude Fiber only.
- ii. A survey will be sent out this year to Animal Feed Scheme participants
- c. Continuity of Operations – Discussed plans for future program staffing (Snodgrass)
 - i. QA Manager – seeking a new Quality Manager to replace Ogden
 - ii. Crawford – seeking an interested person to mentor in statistical review & analysis in coming years
 - iii. Able Labs – Kieffer’s daughter planning to assume lab operations
 - iv. Executive Assistant – FASS Administration Supervisor and Financial Officer filling in and transitioning to newly hired Executive Assistant
- 3. QRM’s – Drugs and Vitamins – Shelf-Life and Availability
 - a. Drugs
 - i. Lab attendees asked about Amprolium absence in the 2019 Animal Feed rounds. Some labs anxious over yearly proficiency test requirement for methods in their scopes of accreditation. Amprolium was included in the January 2020 Animal Feed round.
 - ii. Titley mentioned that the number of labs reporting results for drugs continue to trend slowly downward. Discussion on mitigation strategies noted:
 - 1. Approved drugs do vary by country and limited availability of some drugs make procurement for inclusion in the Program difficult.
 - 2. Upcoming participant survey on the Animal Feed Scheme will include a question on drugs of interest in their labs.
 - b. Regulatory Requests for Drugs
 - i. Webb reported the drug analysis requests are dropping in Kentucky and expected to continue, but will look for medications in feeds in Kentucky to share with PT Program. Snodgrass reported low number of drugs tested in Oklahoma, primarily due to reduced budgets, but also losing expertise in drug methodologies. Swarbrick also seeing fewer drugs in samples (medicated feeds) submitted to Minnesota Lab. Titley reported CFIA is seeing a drop in drugs in feed.
 - c. Vitamin A near the LOD/LOQ – since many labs use their remaining PT sample over time for quality control, higher Vitamin A concentrations are beneficial. Program includes Vitamin A in many rounds during the year in varying concentrations from low to high.
 - d. Extended Storage Recommendations
 - i. Crawford discussed storage conditions at -20C; best for drugs and other analytes susceptible to degradation (ex. fat-soluble vitamins).
 - ii. Spylka stated that storage at - 20C in smaller vials (representative of entire lab sample) prevents rapid degradation following warming of the sample; need to avoid freeze/thaw cycle exposure of sample in its entirety.
- 4. FDA Proposed FSMA Rule for Proficiency Testing Requirements – comments due March 3, 2020
 - a. AAFCO will submit all comments together
 - b. PT related language is in 3 sections and Rule cites the ISO 17025 requirement with recommendations for frequency PT testing
 - c. Summarized the Table of Contents
 - d. Link to proposed rule (<https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/fsma-proposed-rule-laboratory-accreditation> or

<https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FDA-2019-N-3325>

- e. Thiex & Salfinger reported ~ 30 to 35 state labs now accredited to ISO 17025 for Food and/or Feed testing.
5. Scheme Discussion
 - a. Program Participation Report – Crawford presentation (PT_Participation_2019)
 - b. Global Demographics – Crawford presentation (PTP_2020_Demographics)
 - c. Animal Feed Scheme Drugs – Ogden presentation (Summary_of_Drugs_Reported); next customer survey will include a question on drugs tested, with comment field to add drug name(s)
 - d. Pet Food Ingredient Scheme – Ogden discussed Canned Pet food add-on; round will need at least 30 labs to participate; currently accepting pre-enrollments
 - e. Mycotoxin Scheme – Crawford Presentation (New_Mycotoxin_Reports) Change in Mycotoxin Final Reports to now include statistics by individual Method Codes
 - f. Minerals Scheme – included in Crawford presentation on Program Participation
6. DRW and Webpage Updates
 - a. “News You Can Use” feature added to the Data Reporting Website (DRW) Information Tab; when users log in to the DRW the Information Tab is now the “landing page” (1st screen upon login)
 - b. Both the “News You Can Use” and the PT website FAQs can be directly edited by the Program Manager & Quality Manager without the involvement of FASS IT staff
7. Official Publication Analytical Variances (AVs) Update
 - a. On-hold for now due to volunteer time availability of Program Manager; plans to resume in later months of 2020
 - b. Assay Control Limits for Drugs are not the same as AVs; Assay Limits are published by the FDA and used for manufacturing medicated articles (esp. Type A and Type B)
 - c. Discussion of Laboratory Use or Non-use of AVs
 - i. Colorado lab does not report the AV; regulators use them for enforcement
 - ii. Some labs have the regulatory authority so do apply the AVs, or some variation of them
 - iii. Kentucky lab AVs used are broader to include sampling error; changed to this approach in the 90s
8. Roundtable
 - a. Method code list will be adding some new codes, moving 412 starch code to 012. Dietary fiber- soluble / insoluble will be added. John Spylka discussed dietary fiber/starch and the “environments”. Humanizing pet food labels.
 - b. Non Protein Nitrogen (NPN) reporting – results should always be reported as % Nitrogen, not as the equivalent crude protein; discussed addition of Method Code for “NPN, as Crude Protein” which could be added but is simply a fixed factor conversion from NPN; no advantage is seen in such a Method Code addition since it just measures a lab’s ability to multiply
 - c. Request to add Randox Mycotoxin Biochip Array method to the method code list; at least three (3) US labs plan on using Randox Biochip technology for screening feeds
 - d. Discussion on starch methods was led by Thiex – labeling of pet food with dietary claims (carbohydrates & fiber) are the primary driving factor due to changes in consumer habits; expect this will eventually result in removal of crude fiber and replacement with dietary fiber, however a large educational effort will be needed across the pet food/animal feed community (regulators, industry & consumers)

9. Meeting Adjourned at 5:00 pm

Action Item Table

Responsible	Item	Action	Timing / Status
Committee Chair & Vice-chair/ FASS IT	Add shipping fees to Quality Reference Material (QRM) orders	US Domestic \$5 per order, Canada \$20 per order, International \$40 per order; Non-US buyers have option to use their pre-paid courier account.	January 1, 2020 / Completed Dec. 16, 2019
Committee Chair	FDA FSMA Lab Accreditation Proposed Rule	Send AAFCO's comments for submission to FDA to AAFCO Executive Director (Comment period closes on March 3, 2020 (Update: comment deadline extended to April 6, 2020.	February 2020/Completed Feb. 27, 2020
Committee Chair (Program Manager) & AV WG Volunteers	Analytical Variations from Official Publication	Internal Report on AV misuse, obsolescence, and proposed replacement/guidance.	4 th Quarter of 2020 / In Progress
Committee Chair (Program Manager) and Vice-Chair (Program Quality Manager) & Pet Food Industry Volunteers	Canned Pet Food Add-on	Source canned pet food material (dog) for inclusion in 2020 Program Year.	By November 2020 / In Progress

Appendix I: All Attendees

FIRST	LAST	Affiliation
Matt	Anspach	Eurofins FII
Josh	Arbaugh	WV Dept. of Ag
Stacy	Aylesworth	CA Dept of Food & Ag
Jennie	Bailie	Milk Specialties
Jared	Bartlett	ATC Scientific
Kyle	Bennett	Neogen
Ametra	Berry (*)	GA Dept of Ag
Nancy	Collette	Vicam
Andy	Crawford (†,^)	AAFCO PTP
Deepika	Curole (*)	LSU Dept. of Ag. Chem.
Dan	Danielson	FDA/OP
Manisha	Das (*)	FDA/CVM (Alternate Rep)
Clint	Decker	Vicam
Sally	Flowers	Nebraska Dept of Ag
James	Gong	Diana Pet food
Tai	Ha (*)	NE Dept. of Ag
Tami	Harris	Ralco Nutrition
Tim	Herrman	OTSC
William	Hock	NYS Dept. Ag & Market
Jeff	Horst	Agri-King Inc.
Alexis	Huyghues-Depointes	JM Smucker
Dorota	Inerowiez	OISC
Brenda	Keavey	WV Dept. of Ag
Bob	Kieffer (†,^)	AAFCO PTP
Amy	Kieffer (†,^)	AAFCO PTP
Mary	Koestner	Missouri Dept of Ag
Mark	LaBlanc	LA Dept. of Ag
Joyce	Lewis	Louisiana Dept of Ag and Chemistry
Patty	Lucas (*)	FL Dept. of Ag. & Cons. Serv.
Bozena	Lusiak	Nestle Purina
Kristy	McCallum (*)	CO Dept of Ag
Quintin	Muenks (*)	MO Dept. of Ag
Van	Nguyen	Louisiana Dept of Ag and Chemistry
Samuel	Nobo	KS Dept. of Ag
Louise	Ogden (†,*)	AAFCO PTP
Gregory	Olson	Louisiana Dept of Ag and Chemistry
Ruiging	Pamboukian	FDA
Stephanie	Peterson	Midwest Laboratories

FIRST	LAST	Affiliation
Lise-Anne	Prescott	CFIA
Lars	Reimann (^)	Eurofins & AFIA (Primary Rep)
Jeff	Rich	Romer Labs
Ken L.	Riter (^)	Nestle Purina Analytical Labs & Pet Food Institute (Primary Rep)
Yvonne	Salfinger	APHL
Leo	Schilling	Eurofins CAL
Brian	Schuld	Eurofins Scientific
Lauren	Smith	UKDRS
Brenda	Snodgrass (†,*)	AAFCO PTP/OK Dept of Ag
Taylor	Stadler	Eurofins FII
Colin	Stead	Randox
William	Sun	NPIC
Michele	Swarbrick (*)	MN Dept of Agriculture
John	Szpylka (^)	Merieux NutriSciences
Nancy	Thiex (†,*)	AAFCO PTP
Melanie	Titley (*)	CFIA
Thomas	Trupo	WV Dept. of Ag
Victoria	Watkins (*)	KS Dept. of Ag
Sharon	Webb, Ph.D. (*)	UK Div. of Reg. Serv.
Debra	Williams	Tropiclean Pet Products

† PT Program Staff
 * Committee Member
 ^ Committee Advisor

Appendix II: Presentations

All presentations are available for viewing & downloading on the AAFCO Proficiency Testing Program Committee Website: <https://www.aafo.org/Regulatory/Committees/Proficiency-Testing-Program>