Welcome to the AAFCO Newsletter, your source for information about upcoming events, new members, retirements, meetings, and AAFCO-sponsored events. The AAFCO newsletter is published twice a year following the midyear and annual meetings.

Remember, this is YOUR newsletter. We only know what’s going on if you tell us. Please send information or pictures you would like to see in the next newsletter.

Kelsey Luebbe
kelsey.luebbe@nebraska.gov

Liz Higgins
lhiggins@nmda.nmsu.edu

The AAFCO Board of Directors would like to welcome you to the association’s newsletter and hope you will find it informative and helpful. We are excited about the outreach opportunities this newsletter will bring.

AAFCO’s Strategic Plan for 2017–2020 is complete. It emphasizes four key areas of focus: identifying opportunities to increase member agency participation; developing and providing professional development and technical training opportunities in support of feed programs; enhancing collaboration, communication, and cooperation among regulatory agencies; and promoting and supporting laboratory technology, methods, quality systems, and collaboration.

It is a busy time for AAFCO with our committees working on the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) alignment, new ingredient definitions, modernizing pet food labeling, and keeping up with training and education. AAFCO’s proficiency testing programs are a main focus for building consistency in feed regulations for both industry and regulatory. AAFCO will face challenges in the coming year including implementation of FSMA for state members, increased training requirements, and creation of a national feed curriculum.

We would like to welcome new AAFCO members and encourage you to get involved in the organization. The AAFCO Board would like to thank the membership and advisors for all of the hard work and care that goes into keeping this organization running! We also thank Liz Higgins and Kelsey Luebbe for all of their hard work in leading this project! We give a special thanks to Scott Ziehr with the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Rachel Quelle with ADM, and Jessica Bleyzer for their winning newsletter title suggestion.
Get to Know your AAFCO Board Members

2016 Board Members (left to right): Kristen Green (Junior Director), Stan Cook (Senior Director), Dan Danielson (Senior Director; resigned), Bob Church (Junior Director), Ken Bowers (President-Elect), Mark LeBlanc (President), Bob Geiger (Junior Director), Erin Bubb (Junior Director), Ali Kashani (Secretary-Treasurer), Richard Ten Eyck (Immediate Past President; not pictured).

2017 Board Members: Ken Bowers (President), Stan Cook (President-Elect), Ali-Kashani (Secretary-Treasurer), Mark LeBlanc (Immediate Past President), Bob Geiger (Senior Director), Kristen Green (Senior Director), Erin Bubb (Junior Director), Bob Church (Junior Director), and Dave Phillips (Junior Director).

Contents
Letter from AAFCO’s Board . . . . 1
AAFCO Board Members . . . . . . 2
Upcoming Events/Trainings . . . 3
IFIF and Codex Alimentarius . . . 5
AAFCO Committee Updates . . . 6
FSMA Update . . . . . . . . . . . . 9
Outgoing AAFCO President . . . 10
Awards . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 10
Retirements . . . . . . . . . . . . 11
In Memorium . . . . . . . . . . . 12

Incoming AAFCO President: Ken Bowers, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Ken Bowers from Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) will be the new AAFCO President as of January 1, 2017. Prior to working for KDA, Ken worked with Farmland Industries for 17 years in the food and feed divisions in their Quality Assurance Department. He has worked for KDA for 14 years in several roles, including lab technician in KDA Feed Lab, feed inspector, and since 2007, feed technical specialist in KDA’s Dairy and Feed Safety Division. He has been involved with AAFCO since 2007 and has served as Fats and Oils Investigator, Chair of By-Laws Sub-Committee; and member of Model Bill, Ingredient Definition, Feed and Feed Ingredient Manufacturing, and Finance Committees.
Upcoming Events/Trainings

Feed Emergency Tabletop Exercise
January 15, 2017
Mobile, AL

There will be a Feed Emergency Tabletop Exercise on January 15 from 8 am to 2 pm, prior to the 2017 AAFCO Midyear Meeting. The registration fee is $100 and is separate from the registration fee for the midyear meeting. See the AAFCO website (http://www.aafco.org/Meetings/Midyear/2017) for more information.

This response exercise is a comprehensive scenario that will highlight nuances encountered when a pet food complaint(s) is received. The scenario includes the complaint investigation, identification of affected product, inspection, and implementation of a recall. The scenario will encompass the role of regulatory agencies, laboratory and diagnostics, as well as industry action and response. We encourage those involved in the regulation of pet food and industry personnel to attend this tabletop exercise revolving around a pet food illness.

AAFCO Midyear Meeting
January 16–18, 2017
Mobile, AL

The AAFCO Midyear meeting is being held in Mobile, AL, January 16–18 at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel. The meeting is guaranteed to be informative and productive. The city is filled with good food and drinks, and a rich history. Aside from the meeting there is plenty to do, see, and taste. Situated on Mobile Bay, this contemporary hotel is 2 minutes from both the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center, Old City Hall, Museum of Mobile, the Mobile Carnival Museum, Five Rivers Delta Center, the Gulf Quest Maritime Museum and 11 minutes from the Civic Center.

AAFCO Feed Administrator’s Seminar
May 2–6, 2017
Medora, ND

The 51st Annual Feed Administrator’s Seminar was held in Medora, ND, on May 2–6, 2016. The 52nd Annual Feed Administrators’ Seminar will be held in Medora, ND, on May 1–5, 2017. The Administrator’s Seminar is an opportunity for new control officials to learn about AAFCO’s role within the regulation of animal feed issues. It also gives veteran control officials a chance to discuss national issues related to the regulation of animal feed, along with sharing some of their knowledge and experiences with other attendees. Hotel and travel information along with the registration form and scholarship application will be available on the AAFCO website.
**AAFCO Advanced Investigator Training**

**June 2017**

*PA*

The AITS will be hosted by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in June 2017 (location and date TBD). Stay tuned for updates on the AAFCO web page.

**AAFCO 2017 Annual Meeting**

**August 10–12, 2017**

*Bellevue, WA*

The 2017 AAFCO Annual Meeting will be held in Bellevue, WA. Stay tuned for updates found on the AAFCO web page.

**AAFCO Pet Food and Specialty Pet Food Labeling Workshop**

**August 12–13, 2017**

*Bellevue, WA*

This workshop will start at 1 pm on August 12 and end at 5 pm on August 13, immediately following the AAFCO Annual Meeting. The workshop will be held in Bellevue, WA, at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue. Cost for AAFCO members is $175; non-members is $550. Fee includes workshop registration and a copy of the *AAFCO Pet Food and Specialty Pet Food Labeling Guide*.

**Requirements:** Each attendee **must** bring their 2017 *AAFCO Official Publication* (can purchase a copy of the OP when registering for the workshop or at the meeting) **and** the 2016 edition of *AAFCO’s Pet Food and Specialty Pet Food Labeling Guide* (which is included with the registration fee and will be provided at the workshop).

The AAFCO Pet Food and Specialty Pet Food Labeling Workshop is designed to enable control officials, individuals from the pet food and specialty pet food industry, and others to better understand and interpret the AAFCO Model Regulations for Pet Food and Specialty Pet Food. This 1.5-day workshop covers both the basics of pet and specialty pet food labeling, as well as more complex issues such as product claims. A firm understanding of the AAFCO Model Regulations is essential to any firm wishing to market pet foods and specialty pet foods (which includes treats and supplements) in the United States. You should attend if:

- You are a regulatory official involved in pet food and specialty pet food label review
- You are an industry member responsible for creating or reviewing pet food and specialty pet food labels (which includes treats and supplement) for the US market as well as marketing materials such as catalog listings, advertisements, and websites.

**Benefits**

- Opportunity to network with others involved in label creation and review.
- Directly follows the AAFCO annual meeting in Bellevue, WA.
- Extended workshop with four breakout sessions for hands on experience with complex labeling issues.
- Both industry and regulator participation.

**AAFCO Basic Investigator Training**

**September 2017**

*Boise, ID*

The 2017 BIT will be hosted by the Idaho Department of Agriculture, in Boise, ID, September 2017 (date TBD). The 2016 BIT was held at University Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield, MO, September 27–29, 2016.
IFIF and Codex Alimentarius
The importance of their work in promoting a safe global feed industry

By Joel G. Newman, Chair, International Feed Industry Federation, and President and CEO of the American Feed Industry Association

International Feed Industry Federation
The International Feed Industry Federation (www.ifif.org) in Luxemburg, with the main office in Germany, is a membership organization consisting of both corporations and national/regional feed associations. IFIF members account for more than 80 percent of the world’s animal feed production, and the global body consists of 14 national/regional feed associations, 24 multinational feed corporations and nine feed-related organizations.

According to IFIF

IFIF provides a unified voice and leadership to represent and promote the global feed industry as an essential participant in the food chain to provide sustainable, safe, nutritious and affordable food for a growing world population.

Ensuring high standards of health and welfare for animals and people are major goals of IFIF and are accomplished by collaborating with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other international bodies to help set international regulatory standards for the whole feed chain and support fair trade.

IFIF hosts an annual International Global Regulators Roundtable—the next to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, January 30–31, 2017, in conjunction with and directly before the International Production and Processing Expo, which includes the International Feed Expo. It also hosts an international feed program every three years as the Global Food and Feed Safety Congress—the last one was in Turkey in 2016.

Codex Alimentarius Commission
Codex Alimentarius is Latin for “food code,” and the Codex Alimentarius Commission, also known as “the Codex,” is a joint program of two United Nations organizations: FAO, based in Rome, Italy, and the World Health Organization, based in Geneva, Switzerland. Its goal is to establish food and process (food safety) standards for trade and is recognized by the World Trade Organization (WTO) as a standard-setting body.

Codex operates with a number of active committees that meet regularly around the world. Annually, in either Geneva or Rome, the full commission meets to hear reports and vote to move food standards and process standards to full recognition. Once done, countries are fully able to adopt such standards as legitimate trade standards. WTO countries using different standards are only able to do so if the country has compelling scientific evidence to support its own standard that would withstand a WTO challenge by a WTO trading partner.

For feed products fed to food animals, the Codex focus has been on creating a “Code of Good Animal Feeding Practices,” by encouraging good manufacturing and agricultural practices. In fact, the Codex approved such a manual (http://bit.ly/2fcCJK7) in 2004. Subsequently, IFIF produced a guidance manual as a companion to this Code (http://www.ifif.org/pages/t/IFIF+FAO+Feed+Manual).

IFIF is an official observer at Codex meetings and attends those that impact feed and makes official comments to Codex regarding drafts and policies under consideration by Codex.

The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) has been involved in both IFIF meetings, as an invited speaker at the annual International Feed Regulators Meeting each year and as an official observer at the Codex meetings. Bob Waltz, Ph.D. has been AAFCO’s representative.

A recent video about Codex for the US audience can be found here: https://youtu.be/dTYzMq99Bjc.

Questions regarding either organization may be directed to AFIA’s Newman (jnewman@afia.org).
AAFCO Committee Updates

Don’t forget reports for past meetings can all be found on the AAFCO web page:

2016 Annual Meeting: http://www.aafco.org/Meetings/Annual

Board Meetings: http://www.aafco.org/Regulatory/Board-of-Directors#minutes

Committee Meetings: http://www.aafco.org/Regulatory#committees

**Current Issues and Outreach Committee**

In an effort to enhance collaboration, communication and cooperation among regulatory agencies; CIOC recommended to the board: 1) Revive Feed BIN Fridays, and 2) Request mandatory Feed BIN training for committee chairs. A Feed BIN subcommittee was formed at a recent CIOC meeting. This subcommittee will continue discussion and development of the Resource Library; please contact Meagan Davis or Richard TenEyck if you are interested in being involved.

A small working group has been formed to develop a communications plan for AAFCO specific FSMA implementation activities. The purpose of the communications plan is twofold: 1) Create a framework for AAFCO to relay information about FSMA related projects internally and externally, and 2) Provide state regulatory agencies with a model communications plan to utilize as they consider FSMA implementation.

Are you new to AAFCO, interested in becoming more involved, or just looking for a good networking opportunity? Come dip your toe in the pond and join us for the “AAFCO 101 Reception” on Sunday evening, January 15, 2017. The “AAFCO First Timers Reception,” traditionally held the evening before Midyear and Annual Meetings, has been re-worked. We’ll provide a casual setting for folks to hear about the basic mechanics of the association, as well as meet our board members, committee members, and industry advisors. Don’t forget to sign up for AAFCO 101 on your 2017 Midyear Meeting registration (http://bit.ly/2ePbLtf), or contact Kelsey Luebbe for more information!

2016 Annual Meeting first-time state regulatory attendees. Front Row (from left): Becky Hostetler, Colorado Dept. of Agriculture; Laura Scott, Canadian Food Inspection Agency; Stan Carpenter, Tennessee Department of Agriculture; Krisden Ingram, Tennessee Department of Agriculture; Barbara-Jean Schleicher, Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture; Kayla Wesoloski, Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture; Back Row (from left): Bob Leur, Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture; Brian Hulme, New Jersey Dept. of Agriculture; Philip Snelgrove, Canadian Food Inspection Agency; Dan Wunderlich, New Jersey Dept. of Agriculture; (not pictured) Cory Skier, New York State Dept. of Agriculture and Markets.
**Education and Training Committee**

With the help of a number of AAFCO volunteers, the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) developed the Certified Animal Feed Inspector (CAFI) Credential to meet the growing need for professionals who have specialized knowledge and training in the inspection of animal feed. The CAFI credential is designed for individuals who have prior animal feed inspection experience, and it integrates performing state and/or FDA feed facility inspections, collecting animal feed samples, performing feed investigations, and implementing enforcement actions, to validate problem solving and knowledge expertise using real-world examples.

The application and Candidate Information Brochure is now live on the neha.org website. The direct link is http://neha.org/professional-development/credentials/certified-animal-feed-inspector-cafi-credential.

Please email Jacob Fleig (Jacob.Fleig@mda.mo.gov) if you or any of your inspection staff are interested in taking this certification exam at the AAFCO Midyear Meeting in Mobile, AL.

**Ingredient Definitions Committee**

Ingredient Definitions Committee Report

9/30/2016 Webinar Meeting

IDC recommendations to the Board and Association Members:

1. Publish the new Official Feed Term in the OP for Animal Food.
2. Modify the current Official Feed Term in the OP for Feed(s).
3. Publish the new Official Feed Term in the OP for Tracer.
4. Publish the tentative definition in the OP for T6.12 Taurine.
5. Publish the new tentative definition in the OP for T73.400 Iron Nickel Tracer.
6. Publish the new official definition in the OP for 73.026 Feed Grade Sodium Formate.

**Pet Food Committee**

The Workgroup reports and comments for the Tartar Control Workgroup and Carbohydrate Workgroup are being reviewed by the full PFC. PFC has already voted to accept these reports and the workgroups have been disbanded; however, the full PFC has not voted on them.

The newly revised *AAFCO Pet Food and Specialty Pet Food Labeling Guide* is now available for purchase.

The AAFCO Pet Food Committee is pleased to announce that the newly revised *AAFCO Pet Food and Specialty Pet Food Labeling Guide* is now available for purchase! This guide was originally developed to help control officials, industry, and other interested parties to better understand and interpret the AAFCO Model Regulations for Pet Food and Specialty Pet Food. This revised version contains valuable explanations of common labeling issues as well as label examples designed to assist the pet label reviewer or developer to follow the current AAFCO Model Regulations. Order your copy online (http://www.aafco.org/Publications/Pet-Food-Labeling-Guide).
Proficiency Testing Committee and Laboratory Methods Committee

Nibbles and Bits for Lab Rats

The two AAFCO Committees focused on laboratory activities, the AAFCO Proficiency Testing Committee (PTPC) and the AAFCO Laboratory Methods and Services Committee (LM&SC), have been busy as bees. Results of their effort are provided on the AAFCO website, Laboratory tab (http://www.aafco.org/Laboratory).

Renewals and new enrollment is now open for all four 2017 AAFCO Proficiency Testing Program (PTP) (http://www.aafco.org/Laboratory/Proficiency-Testing-Program) schemes: Animal Feed, Pet Food, Mineral Contaminants, and Mycotoxin Contaminants. If you have not submitted your enrollment, please do so by November 15 to ensure timely receipt of your 2017 PT test items. To renew/enroll for 2017, please use the web forms accessed via the Proficiency Testing Program Dashboard at https://secure.fass.org/AAFCO_CSP_Dashboard.asp. Note: Use your FASS login and password (not your Data Reporting Website login and password) to access the enrollment forms. To ensure uninterrupted delivery of proficiency test items, submit your forms and payment by November 15, 2016. We do appreciate it if you can pay with credit card.

BREAKING NEWS! The AAFCO Proficiency Testing Program has submitted an application for ISO/IEC 17043:2010 to ANAB. If all goes well, we hope to have exciting news to share at the 2017 AAFCO Midyear Meeting. In preparation for this application, many improvements are being rolled out for the 2017 PT Program year.

Many Food and Feed Laboratory Accreditation Tools are brought to you via the FDA Cooperative Agreement. Find many available tools on the APHL website (http://bit.ly/2gaRX3G) and the AAFCO website Laboratory tab (http://www.aafco.org/Laboratory) under Resources for ISO 17025:2005 Accreditation. For laboratories seeking accreditation that are not funded by an AFRPS grant, one-on-one technical assistance is available. To inquire about assistance, email Ruiqing Pamboukian (Ruiqing.Pamboukian@fda.hhs.gov).

The LM&SC Laboratory Sample Preparation Working Group met November 7–11, 2016, in St. Paul, Minnesota, to work on revisions to the 2008 Guidelines for Preparing Laboratory Samples (http://bit.ly/2geA0yG). This is a serious and focused group. Be on the lookout for a revised document from this Working Group that will be consistent with GOODSamples (http://www.aafco.org/Publications/GOODSamples).

The AAFCO LM&SC Best Practices Working Group is currently tackling fiber methods. Past efforts documenting best practices for crude fat and phosphorus are posted on the AAFCO website, Laboratory tab (http://www.aafco.org/Laboratory) under Best Practices Working Group.

The AAFCO LM&SC announces a new subcommittee, The Quality Assurance Subcommittee. They have recently been updating the Proficiency Testing Materials listing. Check the AAFCO website Laboratory tab (http://www.aafco.org/Laboratory) under Resources for ISO:17025:2005 Accreditation for the new listing, which will be posted soon.

Laboratorians, plan to attend the 2017 Midyear Meeting (http://www.aafco.org/Meetings/Midyear/2017) in Mobile, Alabama, to network, become informed, and get involved with one or both of the laboratory committees. AAFCO PTPC will meet January 16 from 1:30–5:30 pm, and the AAFCO LM&SC will meet January 17 from 8 am to 5 pm. Agendas for both meetings will be posted soon. The PTPC will be providing an update on ISO/IEC 17043: 2010 Accreditation efforts and PTP improvements. The LM&SC will be focused on analytical method needs (http://www.aafco.org/Regulatory/Committees/Laboratory-Methods-and-Services#method-needs) and method development (http://www.aafco.org/Regulatory/
Committees/Laboratory-Methods-and-Services), FDA Cooperative Agreement activities, and other topics of interest to feed lab personnel. Minutes from past meetings are on the AAFCO website, Laboratory tab (http://www.aafco.org/Laboratory), under Committee.

---

**Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Update**

The AAFCO Feed Preventive Controls Harmonization Working Group held a face to face meeting in Gaithersburg, Maryland, on October 17, 2016, to review the entire Model Bill and Regulations for consistency and uniformity. The Working Group, comprising state, industry, and consumer group members, was assembled in August 2015 to develop FSMA Harmonization language for the model bill and regulation. During this project, the group also identified inconsistencies with citations, definitions, and other language in the Model Bill and Regulations. After the Model Bill and Regulations Committee (MBRC) approved the Working Group’s FSMA harmonization language in August 2016, it tasked the Working Group to continue with the harmonization/inconsistencies project. The editorial changes that the Working Group made during their meeting on October 17 will be included in the 2017 Official Publication. The Working Group is currently compiling a report of substantial edits for the MBRC’s review.

State Agriculture Officials Call for Additional Coordination on FSMA. At the Winter Policy Conference of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) on February 2, 2016, members passed a resolution to support an expanded collaborative role between state departments of agriculture and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the proper implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act beyond the Produce Safety Rule. . . read more. . . (http://bit.ly/2gvdQv2)

The FDA released several FSMA guidance documents (http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm253380.htm#guidance) over the last few months; some may still be open for comment.

Find a FSPCA Preventive Controls for Animal Food training (https://www.ifsh.iit.edu/fspca/fspca-preventive-controls-animal-food) near you.
Thanks to Outgoing AAFCO President, Mark LeBlanc

In addition to serving as AAFCO President this past year, Mark LeBlanc serves as Head of the Department of Agricultural Chemistry for the LSU AgCenter as well as the Director of the Division of Agricultural Chemistry for the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. Mark has 16 years of experience in state regulatory programs. He spent two years managing feed, fertilizer, and lime regulatory programs before being promoted to Director of the Division of Agricultural Chemistry. He has served in his current capacity for 5 years. Mark earned BS and MS degrees in horticulture from Louisiana State University. In 2006 Mark completed his PhD program in Horticulture with a doctoral minor in food science at Louisiana State University.

We would like to thank Mark for his unwavering dedication to AAFCO and providing guidance to the membership as the Board President this past year. We sincerely appreciate your willingness to encourage others to take on a leadership role within the association; your passion for the feed industry is evident. But perhaps most importantly, we would like to extend a gracious thank you to Ellen, his wife, and their five children for sharing Mark with AAFCO.

Awards

At the 2016 AAFCO Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Meagan Davis (Louisiana Department of Agriculture) and Eric Brady (Tennessee Department of Agriculture) for their hard work in organizing the 2016 Advanced Inspector Training.
Retirements

Roger Hoestenbach
Texas Feed & Fertilizer Control Service

After 31 years of service with the Office of the Texas State Chemist, Roger Hoestenbach retired as Associate Director of OTSC effective July 1, 2016.

In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Roger was responsible for the operation of the facility, preparedness and emergency response component of OTSC strategic plan, and oversight of the licensing and labeling program. Roger obtained his BS degree from Cameron University, Laston, OK, in the fields of Nutritional Biochemistry and Animal Science.

Roger has served on the Board of Directors, through the Presidency of the Association of Southern Feed, Fertilizer and Pesticide Control Officials (ASFFPCO), the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) and the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO). In 1999, he was honored with the AAFCO Distinguished Service Award and also received the Hammer Award from the National Partnership for Reinventing Government by then Vice-President Al Gore, for work as part of a team that established new procedures to prevent establishment of “mad cow disease” in the United States.

In honor of his retirement, the office hosted a Hootenanny with peach cobble and ice cream. Roger’s plans for retirement include participating in folk music and master naturalisted related activities. Roger’s raconteuring skills will be missed at OTSC. Happy Trails, Roger!

Roger served AAFCO for many years: 1997 President of AAFCO; Chair of Environmental Issues Committee, Co-Chair of Feed Contaminants Committee; Vice Chair of Environmental Issues Committee; Vice-Chair of Long Range Planning Committee; Member of the following committees: Pet Food, Seminar, Inspector Programs, E-Commerce and probably some that we have missed!

Benny Hitch
Alabama Department of Agriculture

Benny Hitch, Program Director for the Agricultural Compliance section of the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, retired April 1, 2016. After 30 years of dedicated service to the industry and the department, Benny has returned to his beef cattle farm in Montgomery County Alabama. Benny is currently enjoying time managing his calf backgrounding, cow/calf operation (… and hoping the price of cattle will rebound soon). Mr. Hitch is also a retiree from the federal government. Benny retired from the Alabama Army Guard after 25 years of service. Benny, an accomplished helicopter pilot, logged more than 2,000 hours in the Huey and 1,500 hours in a Black Hawk. Mr. Hitch was only required to leave his duties with the Department of Ag one time during his tenure. In 2003 Benny was deployed to the Balkan State of Kosovo, for 9 months. At his return to Alabama in 2004, he picked up right where he left off, serving the agricultural industry and the consumers of Alabama.

We would like to thank Benny for his service to the Alabama Department of Agriculture as well his service to the country. The wealth of knowledge and common sense approach to problem solving will be missed.

Benny, we wish you good health, good cattle prices and much luck with your retirement.
In Memorium

On September 12, 2016, Lynn Sheridan passed away at home with her husband by her side after a short illness. She is survived by husband Terry, brothers Mark and Matt, her sister Cindy, son Eric, his wife Jeanette and grandchildren Jonathan and Erica. She will be dearly missed by all those who knew and loved her.

Lynn was born May 22, 1947, in Bethesda, Maryland. The oldest of four children born to Jim and Shirley Sheridan, Lynn was a nurturer from the beginning. This quality carried over to all animals, plants, rocks, and the natural wonders of the world she lived in. She was independent and brave, with an unceasing curiosity in the many things that interested her.

Lynn received a BS degree in crop science from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, which eventually resulted in her working for the Washington Department of Agriculture in Olympia for over 20 years.

The Celebration of Life was held at Lynn and Terry’s home on October 1, 2016. She asked that any donations made in her name go to the Kitten Rescue in Shelton, Washington.

Lynn Sheridan participated in AAFCO for a number of years and will be greatly missed. She was a member of AAFCO’s Pet Food and Enforcement Issues Committees and co-chaired the working group that developed AAFCO’s Business of Pet Food website.