Welcome!

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 before 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.

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Letter from AAFCO’s Board

Robin Williams said, “No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world.” What we do as an organization should be driven by our vision and mission statements, which makes those words important. Recently, the AAFCO board came together to attempt to compose the right words that should guide our organization, a set of important words that define our vision and mission.

What is really important to us as an association? What do we want to be in the years ahead? What are our core values and what matters most to us as an organization? These are the questions that the board of directors have contemplated over the last six months in the development of a set of words that define our vision and mission. We believe that the correct words defining what we are about are of vital importance. These words make a difference to be certain that the efforts of the association are focused on the right activities and that resources and efforts are directed as they should be.

On the way to the development of these statements, the board felt it important to engage membership in this important endeavor. We took suggestions from past presidents and others in membership by opening up the conversation this summer at the seminar. There was some great input and conversation.

In our recent meeting in Rockville, Maryland, held in conjunction with the annual FDA/AAFCO briefing we held a day of board training with CLEAR and then spent some time developing new vision and mission statements. It has been hard but important work. The culmination of that effort resulted in these statements:

Vision

To be the trusted leader, building collaboration and regulatory uniformity, to safeguard animal feed.

Mission

AAFCO provides science-based resources as the cornerstone to continuously advance animal feed regulatory programs.
There is a big idea in these few words. AAFCO’s foundation was built on states collaborating with each other to build standardization of terms, definitions, and regulatory language. As we set sail into our second century, our future lies in not only expanding our collaboration among states but also to other stakeholders and increasing our focus on the safety of the food system for both human and animal food.

Big ideas only become reality if you have the right people to make them happen. That is what makes me most optimistic about the future of our organization. A couple of examples of the folks who will move us forward are the new board members you elected in the last annual meeting. Austin Therrell and Hollis Glenn are smart and well-educated, and they care about the association. These professionals and many more like them in our organization are working hard every day to improve what we do. They will develop better ideas and more efficient and effective ways to communicate. They will build a better AAFCO and keep it healthy for next 100 years.

FDA Briefing for the AAFCO Board

On October 22 and 23, the AAFCO board of directors, including the two new directors who will assume their roles in January, Austin Therrell and Hollis Glenn, met with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in Rockville, Maryland, for the annual fall briefing. During the meeting the board met with personnel from the Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM), Office of Partnerships, and the Office of Training and Education. The purpose of the meeting is to improve communication and collaboration between FDA and AAFCO, and this year’s briefing covered a variety of topics including generally recognized as safe (GRAS), current development of sample systems and data trending, inspector training, inventory and risk ranking, future of flexible funding, and national work planning.

During the briefing, Steven Solomon, Director of CVM, addressed the AAFCO board. In his discussion with the board, Solomon emphasized the importance of further developing and building on the unique regulatory relationship established between AAFCO and CVM. He indicated in his communication to the board his interest in renewing the existing memorandum of understanding between FDA and AAFCO, which ends in September of 2019. Solomon has agreed to address the AAFCO membership at its Midyear Meeting in January in Savannah, Georgia.
Get to Know an AAFCO Board Member

Austin Therrell spent time around the horse, cattle, and hunting dog industry and graduated from Clemson University with a BS in animal veterinary science. He quickly went to work with a family-owned pet food company and had the opportunity to work specifically in the sporting dog world, working one-on-one with trainers and breeders of hunting dogs across the southeast. During his time there, he was able to learn about the manufacturing and marketing side of the pet food industry and form relationships with feed dealers and distributors across South Carolina. After leaving the pet food industry, he had the opportunity to work at the South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) as the feed control official. Austin has currently been with SCDA for four years, and during that time has served on AAFCO’s Pet Food Committee, Feed and Feed Ingredient Manufacturing Committee, and now as a member of the board of directors. At SCDA, he is involved in all aspects of the Animal Feed program, which includes registration, inspections, sampling, and implementation of the Animal Feed Regulatory Program standards.

Austin has been married to his wife Jene for two and a half years; they love to travel and hike and are actively involved in mission work and serving with their local church. They have four dogs and a cat that showed up and never left. Austin still enjoys raccoon hunting with hounds competitively and riding horses whenever he has time.
Agricultural Inputs from Georgia

Agriculture contributes $73.3 billion to Georgia’s economy, making it the state’s largest industry. The Georgia Department of Agriculture’s (GDA) mission is to provide excellence in service and regulator functions, to protect and promote agriculture and consumer interests. The GDA takes diligent measures to ensure safe food and fiber are abundant for Georgia, America and the world.

GDA’s Agricultural Inputs, a section of the Plant Industry Division, upholds seven of the regulatory programs that ensure the safety of food and fiber at their earliest stage.

The Fertilizer Program, under the Georgia Fertilizer Act, requires persons who manufacture fertilizer in Georgia to be licensed and specialty fertilizer products must be registered. Additionally, tonnage reporting is required for fertilizers used in agriculture. Routine sampling of fertilizer products verifies accuracy in label guarantees.

The Georgia Horticultural Growing Media Act’s maintain consistency in the potting soil industry. The GDA registers potting soils and regulates tonnage.

The Georgia Liming Materials Act of 1996 requires those who distribute liming materials in Georgia to be licensed and all products registered. This Act regulates tonnage reporting.

The Soil Amendment Act of 1976 requires soil amendments in Georgia to be registered. This Act also requires tonnage reporting.

The Pesticide Program’s regulatory authority originated in 1976 with the promulgation of the Georgia Pesticide Control Act and the Georgia Pesticide Use and Applications Act. This program protects Georgia consumers by regulating the labeling, distribution, storage, use and disposal of pesticides throughout the state.

The Georgia Seed Law mandates that all seed dealers be licensed before seed can be sold, distributed, or transported into Georgia. The Agricultural Inputs section is responsible for licensing, inspection and sampling of seed in this state.

The Feed Program administers the rules and regulations related to animal feed minimum quality standards for items offered or exposed for sale in Georgia. The program is responsible for the licensing of feed manufacturers, which include regulating labeling and sampling feed products.

FEED PROGRAM BREAKDOWN
7 statewide inspectors
1,175 active commercial feed licenses in GA
15,623 product registrations

The Feed Program is a recipient of the Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards (AFRPS) Cooperative Agreement grant from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
Letter from the Executive Director

Welcome to the December issue of the AAFCO Newsletter! We are excited to tell you what is going on in AAFCO and what you can look forward to in Savannah next month and with AAFCO in the months ahead.

Based on your input after the Fort Lauderdale meeting, we are improving our schedule. The draft agenda available here gives you the highlights of the schedule changes. You will notice that several of our committees have shortened their meetings to one-hour sessions. More frequent conference calls within committees make this possible. We are adding a keynote speaker, Jack Britt, on Tuesday morning at 8 am. Britt’s topic encompasses the history and future of agriculture.

Another improvement you suggested: Webinar to preview the agenda. You’re busy. We understand that. You want to be prepared for the AAFCO sessions, and we are going to help you through a webinar on January 9 at 11 am EST. The webinar will be recorded and available in the BIN in case you cannot join in.

A few highlights for the Savannah meeting you should know about are

- **Ingredient Definitions Committee (IDC) second meeting on Wednesday morning from 8 to 9 am.** If you plan to leave on Wednesday and you are on the IDC or interested in the IDC, you may want to plan to attend the second IDC session in addition to the first session on Tuesday. Keep an eye on the AAFCO website for the tentative agenda for this session.

- **GRAS Panel on Monday morning during CIOC.** Developing the goal within the Independent GRAS Conclusions Work Group has been a discussion for several months, and the CIOC panel will be the lead-in for the presentation of the Work Group goal in the IDC session on Tuesday from 10:30 to noon. The Work Group includes states, CVM, and industry—there are many points of view to include in this complex topic. Come and hear this panel discussion.

- **Steve Solomon, Director, FDA CVM—Keynote speaker on Monday morning at 8 am.**
  
  Steven Solomon, DVM, MPH, was appointed director of the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) Center for Veterinary Medicine in January 2017. Solomon previously served as the deputy associate commissioner for regulatory affairs within the FDA Office of Regulatory Affairs.
  
  He joined the FDA in 1990 as a veterinary medical officer in the Center for Veterinary Medicine, and has served in various policy and leadership positions in the Office of Regulatory Affairs’ Office of Enforcement and the Office of Regional Operations, and as well as serving as the assistant commissioner for compliance policy.
  
  He also served in the Office of Global Regulatory Operations and Policy. Solomon has a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Ohio State University and a master’s degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University.

- **Jack Britt—Keynote speaker on Tuesday morning at 8 am.** Jack Britt is a former scientist and teacher at Michigan State University, North Carolina State University, and the University of Tennessee. Britt also served as interim head, associate dean, vice president for agriculture and executive vice president and COO of a university system. Britt is now working as a professional consultant and helping launch new companies, and his keynote topic is the history and future of agriculture. Be sure to join us for this insightful perspective on where agriculture has been, how it has progressed since World War II, and a peek into the future.

  Learn more about Jack Britt here.
Looking ahead: You will find us at some familiar events, and you will find us at some new events. Here are a few of the events that AAFCO has on its calendar:

**Feed Additives Americas**
https://www.feedadditives-global.com/americas-launch/
Hilton Miami Downtown, Miami, FL
Session Dates: December 12–13, 2018

Bob Geiger will moderate a regulation panel discussion titled *Driving Efficiencies in Regulations Processes* on Thursday, December 13, at 9:15 am.

**International Production and Processing Expo (IPPE)**
ippexpo.com
Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, GA
Trade Show Dates: February 12–14, 2019

Sue Hays will address the Pet Food Conference on Tuesday, February 12, from 3:15 to 4:00 pm. A fee is charged for attendance at this conference.

**International Feed Regulators Meeting (IFRM)**
https://ifif.org/our-work/project/international-feed-regulators-meeting-ifrm/
Bangkok, Thailand
Meeting date: March 14, 2019, immediately following the 6th Global Feed and Food Congress, which will take place March 11 to 13.

**AAFCO at the 2019 Pet Food Forum**
petfoodforumevents.com
Kansas City Convention Center, Kansas City, MO
Trade Show Dates: April 29–May 1, 2019
AAFCO Pet Food Labeling Workshop–May 2, 2019
Visit AAFCO at Booth 1715.

On Thursday, May 2, the day after the show closes, AAFCO is offering a one-day Pet Food Labeling Workshop.

We appreciate your support of AAFCO and its programs. We look forward to seeing you in Savannah on January 20 to 23. Thank you for reading our newsletter!
The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture hosted the Basic Inspector’s Training Seminar (BITS) in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, from September 25 through September 27. BITS is a joint training program hosted by the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO), the Association of Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO), and the Association of American Seed Control Officials (AASCO) and has a rich history of collaborative effort. Twenty-two (22) states were represented totaling 52 registered attendees. The instructor cadre included Brett Groves, Miriam Johnson, Eric Brady, Johnny Zook, Steve McMurry, Jamey Johnson, and Joe Slater.

The agenda included presentations on various topics such as Good Manufacturing Practices for animal feed manufacturing facilities, Best Management Practices for fertilizer facilities, an overview of feed, seed and fertilizer labels, basic animal nutrition, and animal science. In addition to regulatory topics, several staff from Pennsylvania provided excellent professional development training presentations, including tips for productive interactions with regulated entities, managing effective communications with citizen journalists and members of the press, and a robust overview of emergency preparedness functions. Floods, fires, animal disease, and invasive insects were just a few topics covered under the emergency preparedness overview.

Wednesday was a day out in the field for the attendees to learn hands-on sampling techniques. Cargill Animal Nutrition in Mt. Joy allowed us to discuss sampling of large packaged products, blocks, bulk bags, and bulk load out and provided the attendees with a tour of the feed mill. King’s Agri Seed in East Petersburg set up multiple stations for attendees to learn a variety of seed sampling techniques, such as sampling large and small packaged products. Kirby Agri Inc. in Lancaster provided stations for discussions of a variety of fertilizer sampling including large packaged fertilizers, bulk ingredients, bulk load out, and liquid fertilizer sampling techniques.

**Medications for Animal Feed** presented by Brett Groves, Office of Indiana State Chemists and Seed. Brett discussed proper storage of a drug room and things to look for while conducting inspections.

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**Bag Sampling** presented by Eric Brady, Tennessee Department of Agriculture. Eric explained labeling on bags and how to properly sample a bagged product. Cargill provided a bag of feed to use for obtaining probe samples. Eric and one or two attendees collected probe samples from the same bag during the training session.
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The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture staff would like to thank the attendees and training cadre. They also express their appreciation to David Dressler and Johnny Zook for the logistical planning of the field day exercises. The BITS team worked together diligently to host and present a very informational and enjoyable meeting.

More than 50 inspectors representing 22 states participated in the three-day BITS course in Harrisburg/Hershey, Pennsylvania. The field day was spent in beautiful Lancaster County.

AAFCO wishes you the happiest of holidays!
Upcoming AAFCO Events and Trainings

New Workshop at AAFCO Midyear
8 am to 3 pm
January 20, 2019

Bring your laptop—Set up your Online Database of Ingredients (ODI) dashboard!

Prerequisite: Online OP subscription is required. See the AAFCO website for purchase information.

Do you review labels? Join Oca Hoeflein from Mocaworks as you set up your dashboard and begin your ingredient list in AAFCO’s new tool, the Online Database of Ingredients or ODI. This workshop is geared for people who review labels—members and industry. If you do not bring your laptop, you will wish you had! You will have your dashboard set up by the end of this session—it will save you a lot of time to have ODI already set up and ready to use on January 24 when you get back to the office.

A cadre of beta testers (AAFCO members as well as the Center for Veterinary Medicine) has been conducting beta tests on ODI since September. These are people who review labels and work with ingredient definitions. The size of the cadre increased in October and November, and the tool will be available to members and industry to beta during December.

The online Official Publication (OP) serves as the basis for ODI. The current version of the OP is what ODI searches when you enter an ingredient name. There have been several enhancements to the online OP as a result of ODI that you need to know about. One enhancement in particular you might appreciate is the improved search capability. Because you’ll have your laptop with you for this workshop, you’ll be able to try this on some of your most frequent searches in the OP.

The BIN, which serves as AAFCO’s library and committee communications system, is a powerful tool, and AAFCO is using it more frequently for committee communications and AAFCO projects. Oca will also guide you through the features of the BIN. Even if you have had BIN training in the past, this part of the workshop will update you on the upgrades to the BIN. It has been a while since AAFCO has offered a BIN training, so this is a good opportunity for you to see how ODI and the online OP interface to support your label review and ingredient search tasks along with BIN navigation to be more familiar with its operating features.

ODI Testimonial

The Online Database of Ingredients is a great tool to have when reviewing ingredient statements. It saves me a lot of time and is really easy to use!

Alisha Christian, Pet Food Specialist
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
AAFCO Midyear Meeting
January 21–23, 2019
Hyatt Regency Savannah, Georgia

The AAFCO midyear meeting will be held January 21 to 23 in Savannah, Georgia, at the Hyatt Regency Savannah. Savannah is the oldest city in the state of Georgia and is best known for its southern hospitality, historical architecture, artwork, trendy boutiques, and amazing food. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the riverfront shops and restaurants, and if you’re feeling adventurous, take a walking ghost tour through the historical city, which has earned a reputation for being one of the most haunted cities in America.

https://www.visitsavannah.com/

Registration for the Midyear Meeting will be open by the end of October. Early registration deadline is December 20, 2018. The deadline for hotel registration is December 21, 2018. https://www.aafco.org/Meetings/Midyear/2019

Online registration form for Midyear Meeting [read more...]
Printable registration form for Midyear Meeting [read more...]

Meeting Materials
Draft Agenda [read more...]
Committee Report Book [read more...]

More meeting information is available on the AAFCO website https://www.aafco.org/Meetings/Midyear/2019.

US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Update

Upcoming Trainings for Title 21 CFR Part 507 Current Good Manufacturing Practice, Hazard Analysis, and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Food for Animals

Current Good Manufacturing Practices (CGMP) Animal Food (AF) Regulators Course Prerequisites

- Complete VM101W100 in Pathlore, “Grain and Feed Mill Operations,” online course that takes about 10 hours; may have completed a face to face training for this course offered over the past three years (VM101). The link to Pathlore is https://orauportal.fda.gov/stc/ORA/psciis.dll?CLASSMENU=ORA&SearchOption=FIELDS&fisDirectList=1&field0=satcour&value0=C
- Complete VM8000W in Pathlore, “Regulatory Foundations of CGMPs for Food for Animals,” online course that takes approximately four hours. The link to Pathlore is https://orauportal.fda.gov/stc/ORA/psciis.dll?CLASSMENU=ORA&SearchOption=FIELDS&fisDirectList=1&field0=satcour&value0=C

Preventive Controls (PC) for Animal Food Regulators Course Prerequisites

- Complete the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA) Preventive Controls for Animal Food course—face-to-face course offering requiring registration offered through this website: https://www.ifsh.iit.edu/fspca/fspca-preventive-controls-animal-food
- Complete the VM9000W in Pathlore, “Regulatory Foundations of PCs for Food for Animals,” online course that takes approximately four hours. The link to Pathlore is https://orauportal.fda.gov/stc/ORA/psciis.dll?CLASSMENU=ORA&SearchOption=FIELDS&fisDirectList=1&field0=satcour&value0=C

FSPCA PC for Animal Food course grant information from the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) is on page 13.

FDA CGMP Animal Food (AF) Regulators Courses (VM102)

In FY19, four courses are being offered:

- October 16–18, 2018, in Omaha, Nebraska
- March 19–21, 2019, in Kansas City, Missouri
- April 30–May 2, 2019, in Cleveland, Ohio
- June 11–13, 2019, in Austin, Texas

The FY19 CGMP AF Regulators courses are posted in Pathlore by searching the course catalog at this link: https://orauportal.fda.gov/stc/ORA/psciis.dll?linkid=10031&mainmenu=ORA&top_frame=1
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FDA Preventive Controls (PC) AF Regulators Courses (VM220)
In FY19, five courses are being offered:

- October 22–26, 2018, in Omaha, Nebraska
- December 3–7, 2018, in Charleston, South Carolina
- February 25–March 1, 2019, in San Diego, California
- March 25–29, 2019, in Kansas City, Missouri
- May 6–10, 2019, in Cleveland, Ohio
- June 17–21, 2019, in Austin, Texas

The FY19 PC AF Regulators courses are posted in Pathlore by searching the course catalog at this link: https://orauportal.fda.gov/stc/ORA/psciis.dll?linkid=10031&mainmenu=ORA&top_frame=1

FDA Sanitary Transportation of Human and Animal Food Courses
An FDA online course has been created in Pathlore, FD9001W, “Sanitary Transportation of Human and Animal Food Rule,” to walk food safety staff through this regulation, 21 CFR 1, Subpart O – Sanitary Transportation of Human and Animal Food. This training will be required to be completed prior to conducting inspections under the regulation. The class can be found at the following link: https://orauportal.fda.gov/stc/ORA/psciis.dll?CLASSMENU=ORA&SearchOption=FIELDS&fisDirectList=1&field0=satcour&value0=C The online course will take approximately four hours to complete.

Industry Training for Carriers Covered By the Sanitary Transportation of Human and Animal Food Regulation
FDA has put together an online training that is about one hour in length to help carriers meet the requirements of the Sanitary Transportation regulation. Here is the link to the training module: https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm576097.htm

Animal Food Resources
There are also some resources in Pathlore that may be helpful, VM6001K, “Animal Food and Ingredients” and VM6002K, “Animal Food Product Labels.” To access these resources, here is the link to Pathlore: https://orauportal.fda.gov/stc/ORA/psciis.dll?linkid=10031&mainmenu=ORA&top_frame=1
Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA) Training Grants - Accepting Applications!

The Manufactured Food Training Grant portal is currently open to accept FSPCA applications through May 31, 2019, unless funds are depleted prior to this end date.

FSPCA funding is available to State, local, tribal, or territorial regulatory agencies that regulate the safety of manufactured food (human and/or animal food), and who have one or more employees who must complete:

- FSPCA for Human Food
- FSPCA for Animal Food

Applicants can expect a simple application process and easy reporting. Funding may be requested for trainings taking place August 15, 2018 through September 30, 2019.

How to Apply for Funding

To apply for funding or find more information, visit the AFDO Manufactured Food Training Grant Web site at http://afdo.org/mfgrants. We strongly encourage you to register your email address at http://afdo.org/pcgrants/mailinglist to receive news and updates about this funding opportunity. The portal will close on May 31, 2019 at 7:59 PM Eastern Time or earlier if available grant funds have been depleted.

Complete instructions, along with the 2018-2019 Grant Guidance, are available at http://afdo.org/mfgrants.

For Additional Information

Contact us by email at mfgrants@afdo.org or by phone at (850) 583-4593.
Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards (AFRPS) Update

Save the Date Reminder

2019 Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards Cooperative Agreement

4th Annual Face-to-Face Meeting

Mobile, Alabama
March 19–21, 2019

Please contact Jennifer Godwin (jennifer.godwin@fda.hhs.gov) or Ron Winter (ronald.winter@fda.hhs.gov) if you have any questions, concerns, or suggested agenda topics. Forthcoming information will also be posted at https://www.aafco.org/Meetings/Trainings/2019-AFRPS-Meeting.
My name is Ashlee-Rose Ferguson, and I currently work as the Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards (AFRPS) coordinator for Washington State Department of Agriculture’s Animal Feed Program. I was recently accepted to the Fellowship in Food Protection from the International Food Protection Training Institute (IFPTI). As a part of the fellowship, I will complete a research project with an article to be published in a special edition of the Journal of the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO). For my project, I have chosen to look at refrigerated and frozen pet food—more specifically, estimating certain risk factors and analyzing regulatory authority. This involves two surveys, with the first addressing regulatory authority over pet food products and associated locations. The second survey will be completed in the field voluntarily by inspectors, mainly in animal feed programs across the country at locations that manufacture, sell, or hold refrigerated or frozen pet food; however, any program whose inspectors regularly visit these locations can participate in the field survey.

The main goal of this research project is to gather additional data on regulatory authority, mainly for retail pet food locations, and whether certain risk factors are being properly controlled or employed.

If you could, please complete the short Pet Food Regulatory Survey (link below) at your earliest convenience but no later than November 9, 2018. Please answer the questions to the best of your ability, or direct this to the right person within your agency. Please provide clarification on any of the questions listed in the “Clarification” column, especially if “Other” is selected.

For the second in-field Pet Food Risk Survey, if your program regularly visits applicable locations (such as, but not limited to, pet food retail stores; grocery stores, department stores, and warehouses that sell or hold refrigerated or frozen pet food; and manufacturers of refrigerated or frozen pet food) and would like to participate in this project, please review the other links below. Included is a brief standard operating procedure and the Pet Food Risk Survey form. I chose to create two separate versions to cater to the preferences and field capabilities of the inspector. If you are interested, please inform Ashlee-Rose Ferguson (aferguson@agr.wa.gov) as soon as possible. Field data collection will only take place between now and January 8, 2019.

Your participation will be greatly appreciated! You will also be acknowledged in my publication, poster, and presentation at the next AFDO conference, in Atlanta in June 2019. If you have any questions or would like additional information or survey results, please feel free to email or call Ashlee-Rose Ferguson at aferguson@agr.wa.gov or (360) 902-1905.

- Survey for Regulatory Authority on Pet Food
- Instructions on Completing Field Risk Survey for Pet Food Locations
- Field Risk Survey for Pet Food Locations (Printable)
- Field Risk Survey for Pet Food Locations (Electronic)
AAFCO Committee Updates

Education and Training Committee

The Education and Training Committee is continuing our work to address the training needs of AAFCO members. We have established several workgroups that are attempting to make training more accessible to the membership. One workgroup is responsible for establishing a training calendar on the Feed BIN cataloging feed-related trainings available through AAFCO, federal and state agencies, and industry. The calendar is up and running and all training opportunities can be sent to Jeffrey Scallan (jscallan@ldaf.state.la.us)!

Another workgroup recently provided information on the cost and availability of a Learning Management System (LMS). We hope to make an LMS available for members to track trainings and associated records. In the past year several workgroups have worked to identify available training resources for those states participating in the Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards cooperative agreement and have finalized a model training document for field training in conjunction with the Inspection and Sampling Committee.

At the 2018 AAFCO Annual Meeting we discussed a request to develop a membership survey to evaluate training needs and whether AAFCO has the means to develop or provide access to these trainings. That survey will be going out soon. The committee is continually working with other committees to make additional trainings available. We are also continuing our work alongside the FDA's Office of Training and Education Development building a feed training curriculum and training courses to be made available to feed programs. We are always looking to hear about training requests and needs of members, so please let us know how we can help!

Feed and Feed Ingredient Manufacturing Committee

The Feed and Feed Ingredient Manufacturing Committee is pleased to congratulate committee co-chair Austin Therrell on advancement to the AAFCO Board of Directors. One update for the committee includes review of the charges of each of the Strategic Affairs working groups, with hopes in completion of tasks. Another update is the creation of a workgroup to review and potentially update the committee mission statement and charge of the committee.

We strive to provide guidance and assistance to all interested parties through our positive relationships with industry and consumers alike.

Feed Labeling Committee

The Online Database of Ingredients (ODI) project with developing the ingredient statement label review tool is coming along. Numerous improvements have been made to the software over the past year. The goal is to have the first version for distribution available with the 2019 AAFCO Official Publication. As more details develop, they will be provided to AAFCO.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has recently conducted research to look at nutrient maximums for certain elements that pose a risk to livestock. During the 2019 Midyear Meeting in Savannah, Georgia, Laura Scott will provide a 30-minute presentation to the Feed Labeling Committee to give an update on CFIA’s approach to nutrient maximums. Plans are also to have a technical specialist present additional details and answer questions. This has been a topic of discussion during the previous two committee meetings, so this information will be valuable to drive the discussion further.
The revised Animal Feed Labeling Guide has been released this past summer. This guide (formally called the Non-Pet Food Label Design & Format Guide) is an excellent tool to use for label development and review. The Feed Labeling Guide is available as a free download on the AAFCO website.

Information Technology Committee

Looking forward to our new year, the board of directors is establishing a new standing Information Technology Committee. The goal of this committee is to provide advice and counsel to committees and the board of directors on all matters related to AAFCO’s information technology needs, systems development and upgrades, and related budgetary issues. In this new century, AAFCO has been involved with developing the Feed BIN, web pages, and now the Online Database for Ingredients (ODI) system. We need assurance that our data and data integrity are maintained. As technology advances, our association must be able to use those advances to communicate our message and upgrade our software issues.

I realize that most of our members are already busy with other committees and responsibilities. Yet, it is important to use our time wisely and to the best advantage of the association. The charge that will be presented to the new committee is a draft charge from the board. Once the committee is formed, the first task will be to review the charge and work with the board to ascertain the goals and direction of the committee.

As with most new ventures, it is going to take some time to fully develop. Anyone interested in being on the committee, please direct your comments to Kristen Green or me. I do not see this being a particularly large committee. Yet, they may establish work groups for various projects or reviews. This committee is encouraged to have advisors participate as well.

I think this is a great step forward for the upcoming year.

Bob Geiger

Ingredient Definitions Committee

Meeting Draft Agenda: Two Sessions

January 22, 2019
10:30 am–12:00 am Eastern time, Savannah, Georgia
Hyatt Regency Savannah, Regency Ballroom, 2nd Floor
Webinar at https://zoom.us/j/183716827
Pass code: 183 716 827
Phone line: 646-876-9923

January 23, 2019
8:00 am–9:00 am EST Savannah, Georgia
Hyatt Regency Savannah, Regency Ballroom, 2nd Floor
Webinar at https://zoom.us/j/306509954
Pass code: 306 509 954
Phone line: 646-876-9923

Documents supporting the agenda are posted in the BIN Library/Ingredient Definitions/Investigator Recommendations or contact the person listed on the agenda with questions.
We will hold an optional pre-meeting webinar to answer questions and clarify topics. January 15, 2019, 3 pm Eastern. Link: https://zoom.us/j/669344880 Phone line: 646-876-9923, Pass code: 669 344 880

**Work session topics on Tuesday morning, January 22—90 minutes**

1) Roll call of Committee members  
   (Please let the chair know prior to the meeting if you’d like on or off the committee. Nonparticipation affects our ability to form a quorum to conduct business.)

2) A Guide to Submitting New or Modified Ingredient Definitions to AAFCO Work group Q/A and committee document acceptance vote – Sue Hays

3) Review IDC process flowchart. Vote to publish on the web – Sue Hays

4) Revise Feed Term “carrier” to incorporate SUIP #17 including possible elimination of 1% language - Ali Kashani/Cathy Alinovi

5) Revise Feed Term “stabilize” to incorporate SUIP #14 - Ali Kashani/Cathy Alinovi

6) Revise Feed Term “canned” – Ali Kashani

7) New Feed term Bison – Brett Boswell

8) New Feed term __(workgroup output here)__ Buffalo – Brett Boswell

9) Vitamin Common Names A, C, E placeholder – Tom Phillips

10) 15.XX Brewers section placeholder – Nathan Price

11) Move “Spent Bleaching Clay” from SUIP #28 to chapter 6 – Cathy Alinovi

12) Set IDC 3 hour meeting by webinar date in early April (4, 9, 10) 11:30 EST? – Richard Ten Eyck

13) Volunteers to review “Is this Animal Food” Flowchart (for web) – Richard Ten Eyck

14) CVM item one (placeholder) (may move up agenda)

15) CVM item two (placeholder) (may move up agenda)

**Discussion session on Wednesday morning, January 23—One hour, no votes. Topics may get moved to the April webinar if we run out of time.**

16) Non-Defined workgroup report (10 minutes) – Kent Kitade

17) GRAS Verification workgroup report (20 minutes) – Sue Hays

18) Limestone Specifications (10 minutes) – Jon Nelson

19) Hydrogenated Fat - Update (5 minutes) – Leah Wilkinson

20) New Feed Term “Slaughter” (10 minutes) – Ali Kashani

21) Hemp Update (5 minutes) – Bob Church

22) Confusing pet food name workgroup report (5 min) Brett Boswell

23) Status on high profile ingredients (placeholder) – Richard / CVM

24) Discussion of common human foods in pet food (placeholder) – George Ferguson

Inspection and Sampling Committee—Miriam Johnson, Chair

Fall has finally arrived! The Inspection and Sampling Committee and its work groups have been working diligently at the assignments tasked to them and to provide progress updates for the Midyear Meeting to be held in Savannah, Georgia.

The Inspection and Sampling Committee reviews the AAFCO Inspector’s Manual on an ongoing basis to provide the most current and relevant information to inspectors conducting field work. We are looking forward to the work that will be presented during the Midyear Meeting from the folks facilitating the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) updates and from the aseptic sampling techniques work group. The AAFCO Inspector’s Manual will always be available in its most updated version on the AAFCO website under Publications. Please encourage your staff to use this handy tool in the field while conducting inspections. If you have thoughts or comments about the manual that you feel the committee should address, please send them our way for discussion.

The Sampling Study work group is finalizing the request for proposal in which current AAFCO sampling methods will be re-validated through independent peer-reviewed research. Once the request for proposal is approved by the Inspection and Sampling Committee and Board of Directors, it will be sent to the appropriate venues for proposal to conduct the study. The workgroup will be presenting the depth and scope of this proposal at the Midyear Meeting.

Another successful Advanced Inspector Training Seminar (AITS) was held in Kansas City, Missouri, June 12–14, 2018. Thank you to the Kansas and Missouri Departments of Agriculture for your time and assistance in hosting this training. We received very positive feedback from the participants about the course. As part of the agenda associated with this meeting a trial run was conducted with Council on Licensure, Enforcement, and Regulation (CLEAR) using the materials they have created and present during their certification course. Discussions with CLEAR have begun to determine the utilization of their course work. The incorporation of CLEAR will bring an educational piece to the seminar that will cover investigative techniques, how to write reports based on inspector investigations, and principles of evidence collection. A proposal has been submitted to the AAFCO Board of Directors for approval. Additionally, the work group tasked with creating the new AITS agenda has been working to firm up volunteers for the cadre who will be responsible for working on the materials that will be presented. Creating the modules and materials that will be presented is set to begin January 1, 2019, to ensure everything is in place and ready to go for June 2019. The Alabama Department of Agriculture will be hosting the 2019 AITS seminar in June in Montgomery, Alabama. We are in the process now of working toward arranging the logistics and accommodations for this meeting.

The Basic Investigator Training Seminar (BITS) was hosted September 25–27, 2018, by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. A huge thank you to Pennsylvania for the work they put into arranging the meeting; it was a great success. If you have staff that would benefit from taking the BITS and/or AITS course(s), please consider sending them; we would love to have them. The Georgia Department of Agriculture has agreed to host the 2019 BITS Seminar in September. Stay tuned for further information about registration so that you may register your staff as soon as possible. We welcome states who would like to host either of the seminars to also let us know so that we can continue to conduct these trainings each year and provide our field staff with the knowledge they need to conduct their field assignments. As information becomes available regarding both of the 2019 seminar schedules, we will post it to the AAFCO website.

As always, thoughts and questions for the committee are welcomed. Please feel free to contact Miriam Johnson with committee and agenda topics. Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season and we will see you in Savannah!
Laboratory Methods and Services Committee—Sharon Webb, Kristi McCallum, and Dorota Inerowicz, Co-Chairs

https://www.aafco.org/Laboratory

Nancy Thiex and Aaron Price officially “retired” as co-chairs of the Laboratory Methods and Services Committee (LM&SC). Their long-term leadership and dedication to this committee has been invaluable. To say that they will be missed is a gross understatement. Thank you Nancy and Aaron for all of your hard work over the years! Kristi McCallum of Colorado, Sharon Webb of Kentucky, and Dorota Inerowicz of Indiana were accepted as the new co-chairs of the committee.

The LM&SC has several active working groups that were formed to address gaps in feed testing methodology, improve existing feed methodology, and provide best practice guides to feed testing laboratories. Notable activities are as follows:

**Best Practices Working Group, Nitrogen**—A Best Practices document for determining the correct protein conversion factor has been posted on the AAFCO website, Laboratory tab, under the Best Practices Working Group header.

**Best Practices Working Group, Moisture**—“Recommendations and Critical Factors for Determining Moisture in Animal Feed” has been posted on the AAFCO website, Laboratory tab, under the Best Practices Working Group header. Since it has not yet been possible to recommend method(s) for pet food without further study, validation study data on loss on drying methods (LOD) in pet foods was presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting. Various oven methods were evaluated against Karl Fischer (the gold standard) in efforts determine the best method(s) for pet food. Work continues.

Best Practices Working Group, Fiber—A best practices manuscript titled “Critical Factors in Determining Fiber Content of Feeds and Foods and Their Ingredients” has been published by the Journal of AOAC International. It is available on the AAFCO website, Laboratory tab, under the Best Practices Working Group header, and can also be can be accessed at https://doi.org/10.5740/jaoacint.18-0067

Best Practices Working Group, Laboratory Sampling—The GOOD Test Portions document is available on the AAFCO website. It is strongly suggested that all laboratories read and understand this document. It is available as a free download from the AAFCO website: https://www.aafco.org/Publications/GoodTestPortions. A Laboratory Sampling Workshop is planned for New York Department of Agriculture and Markets Laboratory in Albany, New York, December 10–11.
Carbohydrates Working Group—A method for sugars (mono- and di-saccharides) in human food and animal feed and pet food, and a method for fructan in animal feed and pet food received AOAC First Action approval at the AOAC Annual Meeting in August. These two methods, added to the dietary starch method, provide the three methods necessary to characterize carbohydrates in feed. This is good news both for manufacturers wishing to make label guarantees for carbohydrates and for AAFCO!

Best Practices Working Group, Mycotoxins—This workgroup continues to work on producing best practices guidelines. There is currently a European Union method for detection of mycotoxins in feed by LC-MS/MS. This method has been multi-laboratory validated by 31 laboratories in an extensive collaborative study. Several laboratories were interested in this method.

Multi-Element Analysis of Minerals in Feeds—The workgroup reported that a “Metals in Feed Guidelines” document is currently being written. The chapter titles have been determined along with the outline of the guidelines. In addition, a single laboratory validation for the determination of 27 elements in animal feed using LC-MS has been accepted for publication in the Journal of AOAC International.

Fat Soluble Vitamins—A single laboratory study to determine minimum test portion will be performed. The study will include measuring particle size of vitamin A and vitamin E beadlets used in premixes to estimate a theoretical determination of the minimum test portion.

AFRPS Laboratory ISO17025 Accreditation—A new ISO17025:2017 standard was published. There are trainings and webinars available to help laboratories understand what has changed in the new standard. Trainings are available on accrediting body websites (i.e. A2LA, PJLA) and also on the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) website under accreditation resources https://www.aphl.org/programs/food_safety/laboratory-accreditation/Pages/ISOIEC-17025-Accreditation-Training-Resources.aspx

Kudos to the state feed laboratories who have achieved or are seeking accreditation!

Surveys to gather information on current state capability and anticipated future laboratory needs have been sent to Programs and Laboratories.

The Laboratory tab on the AAFCO web page is updated continuously. Please check the website to stay current and please notify the committee chairs when outdated information or links need attention. We look forward to seeing everyone in January 2019 at the Midyear Meeting.

Pet Food Committee

The Pet Food Committee currently has workgroups looking at developing a USDA-AMS audit system for substantiating animal food human grade claims, finalizing the updated Feeding Protocols language to account for the different requirements to substantiate growth of large size dogs, updating the AAFCO Talks Pet Food and Business of Pet Food websites, reviewing 95% claims, and making PF(3)e less confusing. In addition, the Pet Food Label Modernization (PFLM) project moves on to the next stage as PFC has identified a vendor to conduct consumer research on clarity and utility for some key label elements identified by the PFLM subgroups. This research should be available to the committee by the midyear meeting.
Annual 2018 Awards

Richard Sellers, Distinguished Service Award.

Meagan Davis, Distinguished Service Award.

Nancy Thiex, Distinguished Service Award.

Aaron Price, Distinguished Service Award.
Brenda Snodgrass, Distinguished Service Award.

Andy Crawford, Distinguished Service Award.

Distinguished Service Award winners who are not pictured: Louise Ogden and Bob and Amy Kieffer.


Jacob Fleig, Certificate of Appreciation for AITS 2018.

Jim Barritt, Certificate of Appreciation for graphic design work on Pet Food Label Modernization Workgroup.
2018 AAFCO Annual Meeting First-Time Attendees

2018 AAFCO annual meeting first-time regulatory attendees: (front row left to right) Riley Franklin, MO; Brittany Blunt, SC; Hema De Alwis, FDA-CVM; Marissa Kost, NC; Caitlin Price, NC; Falina Hutchinson, MT; Wendy Powell, MI; (back row left to right) Vickie Boykin, SC; Bo Ivers, SD; Bethany Henderson, TN; Melissa Nichols, MO; Rob Murray, CFIA; Trey Clark, GA; Jason Gibbs, MN; Chuck Cawley, IL.

2018 AAFCO annual meeting first-time industry attendees: (front row left to right) Xin Wu, AOCS; Tara Green, Petcurean Pet Nutrition; Regine Schreiner, Feed Additives GmbH; Tarra Freel, Petrics; Bria Black, 3D Corporate Solutions LLC; Blair Brown; Whitney Unser, Simmons Pet Food; Joe Sunu, Champion Pet Foods; Dana Hostetler, Boehringer Ingleman; Julie Brickel, Burdock Group; Tracy Redden; Tina Loomis; Howard Green, Ascus Biosciences; John Nizio, Southeastern Reduction Company; (back row left to right) Edward Hall, Petrics; Javier Arzate, Petco Animal Supply; Michael Faurot, Hills Pet Nutrition; Dori Dumont, Wilbur-Ellis; Angela Carbonell, Nutrien; Travis Frey, WISErg Corporation; Dana Brooks, PFI; Brandi Jones, Boehringer Ingleman; Roberto Serrano, Grain Millers; Johnel Lagabon, Burdock Group; George Salmas, The Food Lawyers; Betty Oliver, SPF NA Diana Pet Food; Dale Nellor, NA Millers Association; Jay Winkler, Pet Food Compliance.
In Memorium

Cat Marrier
Washington Department of Agriculture
Feed Specialist

Catherine “Cat” Mary Marrier, age 62, passed away August 17, 2018, from injuries sustained in a trail riding accident. She was born April 13, 1956, in Chehalis, Washington, to Cornelius (Con) and Marlene Ahmann.

Early in her life she became a well-respected trainer and breeder of paints, warmbloods, and quarter horses. Later in life she married her best friend, Jerry Marrier, and they moved to a peaceful ranch home in Ellensburg. Cat did all things with grace, whether it was calming a nervous horse, comforting a friend, or making a fine-looking quilt.

Cat began her career with the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) in 2008, working in the Pesticide Management division, but most recently was a feed specialist and field inspector with the Animal Feed Program in the Food Safety and Consumer Services division.

Thanks to her integrity, attention to detail, and broad practical expertise in the field, she quickly advanced to the Senior Feed Specialist/Field Supervisor for the WSDA Animal Feed Program. However, those close to Cat knew from the many stories and pictures she shared that her children and grandchildren were her greatest accomplishments.

She was very involved in the feed safety community, both within the state and globally. She helped develop national curriculum systems content and wrote inspector-training standards for the International Food Protection Training Institute. She was also a feed ingredient investigator for the Association of American Feed Control Officials and provided technical assistance and outreach to various industry associations.