

Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO)
Inspection and Sampling Committee
Annual Meeting, Washington D.C.
August 3, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman, Chad Linton at 10:40 a.m. and followed by introductions of the committee members.

New Business

New Members:

Ben Jones, Office of the Texas State Chemist and Natalie Krout-Greenberg, California Department of Food and Agriculture were recognized as being the newest members to committee. The Chairman also stated that if there were any others individual's who would like to join, please contact him.

Basic Inspector Training Seminar (BITS):

Laurel Hamling reported on the status of the training which will be hosted September 15 – 17, 2009 at the Radisson Hotel, in Denver, Colorado and Brett Groves expanded on the agenda. It was detailed that there will be two on-site tours incorporated with the sampling training; one at a feed facility and the other at a fertilizer facility.

It was noted that a feed speaker needed to be scheduled; Steve McMurray would be discussing fertilizer and Dave Buckingham was addressing seed. It was suggested that a feed person who is attending would need to address the feed topics. It was decided that Bob Geiger would be speaking at the BITS on behalf of the group. The committee decided they would get him topics to discuss.

The proposed agenda items were discussed and included the following:

- Ethics
- Professionalism ~ 1 hour
- Scenario's ~ 30 minutes
- Sampling (at facilities)
- Lab interaction
- Conflicts
- Chain of custody
- Report Writing
- GMP's – Ben Jones ~ 1 hour
- BMP – Ben Jones

Professionalism, Scenario's, Sampling, and GMP's were discussed as being the most important topics to address at the BITS. It was noted by the committee that if time permits, the other topics could be discussed. Discussion ensued regarding the agenda for the BITS and the topics that would be present on the agenda.

Ben Jones would attend if needed to discuss professionalism. Brett Groves and Steve McMurray would be there if needed. Mike Davidson may attend in Andy Gray's place to fill in for feed topics. Gloria Dunnavan discussed how the staff could handle different types of inspections.

It was decided that the breakdown of time spent on each program would be as follows:

- Seed = 1 day (7 hours)
- Fertilizer = (3 hours)
- Feed = (4 hours)

Dave Fairfield mentioned that a GMP overview happened in Utah. The committee discussed that it may be a good opportunity to have Dave Fairfield present again at the Colorado BITS.

Old Business

Feed Probe Inventory Update:

The Chairman stated that AAFCO has no more probes left. The Chairman had spoke with Harwood Owings in Maryland who knows a company that makes Aluminum probes and the cost will be \$100.00 each. The Chairman stated that he would follow up to get information on ordering probes and the final cost analysis and breakdown; he will bring all the information to the next meeting.

AAFCO/FDA Inspector Certification Program Report:

The Chairman reported that work is being done on the document and curriculum currently. The anticipation is that by the midyear meeting the document will be ready to send out to all the states for implementation.

Discussion ensued regarding AAFCO's sampling methods and labeling compared to FDA's. The committee voiced concerns that the course is going to become an FDA certification course and not an AAFCO relative course if AAFCO will be using FDA's courses available. The Chairman stated that AAFCO needed to bring current sampling methods and labeling synonymous with FDA's methods. There are a few areas where AAFCO needs to revise their standards to meet FDA's.

Feed Tub Sampling Methods Procedures:

A discussion was had regarding Tony Claxton's photos and details of sampling methods with feed tubs and agreed that they will be included in the manual based on approval of Tony's methods as detailed.

Web Course Design for Inspection Update:

Gloria Dunnavan passed out a draft document on Animal Feed and Feed Ingredient Sampling with a request for feedback on the layout and topics covered in a web-based course description and general sections covered with visual aids, and photos as suggested (in the document) that would be helpful. Comments on the draft outline for the on-line Sampling module for the Inspector Certification curriculum are due to Gloria Dunnavan by September 15, 2009. Once the committee approved the document, the FDA instructional designer at ORA-U will work with the AAFCO committee members to carry out the implementation and development of a web-based course.

Psychometrician Review of AITS Testing Policy:

Jim Fear reported on a Psychometrician that was hired to measure competencies and statistical information. Based on exposure to incidents of experience, Psychometrician can review verbiage for things such as, double negatives, misleading questions, etc. Mr. Fear will ask the Psychometrician what type of information he needs from the committee, such as training materials and testing material and the Psychometrician can review the material to ensure that we have developed a fair and objective exam for the training in place.

CFIA Sampling CD Modifications:

CD's were going to be modified to see if the Canadian sampling can be incorporated into a CD. FDA is working with Kaplan engineering to open courses to Canadians, French and Mexico.

Sterile Sampling Techniques for E. coli and Salmonella:

Mike Davidson reported that California uses individual sealed sterile gloves, suits and whirl pack bags to perform sterile sampling of product. The concern is that there is no large sampling equipment. Canada uses a stream cutter and autoclaves it.

Bob Geiger reported that they use the same techniques and was looking into sterile alcohol wipes; however, it doesn't work since there is too long of a dry time.

Discussion ensued regarding serotyping salmonella and how the products are reported with those firms who are testing. Brett Groves suggested that we look into adding the sterile sampling techniques from FDA into AAFCO's sampling methods manual.

Committee make-up for 2009:

The Chairman reported that if anyone needed something changed or addressed in the AAFCO Official Publication for the committee to contact him.

Other Business:

If industry wants to use the training courses offered by FDA they will need to contact Kaplan Engineering training course resources for online work. If it is classroom or written training materials the industry will need to contact FDA for further information and resources on training needs.

No other business was presented; Chairman, Chad Linton adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Natalie Krout-Greenberg, CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture 8/25/09