



Inspection & Sampling Committee

2021 AAFCO Midyear Meeting

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Virtual Meeting

1:30 PM – 2:15 PM

Committee Action Items:

1. Sampling Study Proposal Review Work Group Charge: Review Proposals received to determine which candidate is the best fit to complete the study as outlined in the Request for Proposal. The group includes the following members: Miriam Johnson (ISC Liaison) – NC; Brett Groves – IN; Mark LeBlanc – LA; Steve Stewart – MN; Josh Arbaugh – WV; Louise Calderwood – AFIA
2. AITS & BITS Alignment Work Group Charge: Review current guidance document for hosting AITS & BITS and establish a consistent curriculum for future AITS seminars. The group includes the following members: Miriam Johnson (Lead) – NC; Jessica Gore – NC (POC for AITS); Brett Groves (POC for BITS) – IN; Chad Linton – WV; David Dressler – PA; Eric Brady – TN; Barb Schroeder – MN; Jamie Spencer – KS; Kevin Klommmhaus – FDA; Stephanie Adams – AFIA.
 - 2021 AITS Cadre: Jessica Gore – NC (POC for AITS); George Ferguson – NC; Eric Brady – TN; Stevie Glaspie – MI; Jamie Spencer – KS; Jordan Mancini – MN; Miriam Johnson – NC
 - 2021 BITS Cadre: Brett Groves – IN (POC for BITS); Eric Brady – TN; Steve McMurry – KY; Joe Slater – AAPFCO; Don Robinson – IN; Miriam Johnson – NC

Members Present:

Miriam Johnson – NC (Committee Chair); Chad Linton – WV (Committee Vice Chair); Austin Therrell – SC (BOD Liaison); Jessica Gore – NC; Bob Church – MT; Andy Gray – MT; Brett Groves – IN; Laura Scott – CFIA; Jim True – KY; Jacob Fleig – MO; Ethan Willis – MO; Samantha Moran-Defty – CA; Jenny Combs – KY; Barb Schroeder – MN; Tim Lyons – MI; Stevie Glaspie – MI; Caroline Wilkinson – VA; Isaac Carney – FDA

Advisors Present:

Maryam Yusuf – AFIA; Jan Campbell – NGFA; Chris Olinger – NGFA; Stephanie Adams – AFIA; Pat Tovey – PFI

Others Present:

Sue Hays – AAFCO Executive Director; Alan Harrison – KY

Committee Report/Minutes

Miriam Johnson (Committee Chair) called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM EST. 17 committee members and 5 industry liaisons were present via Zoom meeting room and associated phone line connections.

AAFCO Sampling Study – Miriam Johnson, NC

During the Annual Meeting held in Bellevue, WA in August of 2017 a work group was formed to create a Report for Proposal to conduct a sampling study. The charge of the work group was to write a Request for Proposal in which current sampling methods will be re-validated through independent peer reviewed research. The RFP (for re-validation of the AOAC $\frac{3}{4}$ inch trier sampling method) developed was approved by the Inspection and Sampling Committee and the Board of Directors. The link to the RFP was distributed to appropriate venues that could conduct the study. Proposals were received for 90 days to which 3 possible bids were received. Review group members were charged with the process of



selecting a researcher for the sampling study.

Work Group Update:

Dr. Alan Harrison and Jenny Combs presented the raw data collected from the AAFCO Sampling Study that was conducted by the University of Kentucky. This study was completed as a re-validation of the AOAC ¾ inch trier sampling method, using trained program inspection staff to collect to samples. The proposal outlined samples would be obtained from 4 manufacturing facilities and 2 feedstuffs collected from each location. Due to COVID restrictions the study was amended to include samples obtained from 3 manufacturing facilities and 2-3 feedstuffs obtained from each location. In total, the inspectors collected data from 8 feeds (40 bags of a single lot code per feedstuff): mineral feed, complete layer feed, complete beef feed, Soybean Meal, complete sheep feed to include a medication, Distiller's Dried Grains, complete game bird feed, and a dog food. Each of the samples were collected according to AAFCO sampling protocols with an AOAC ¾ inch trier. The preliminary findings look great, data collection is completed, the raw data is being analyzed currently, and once the review is completed it will be presented to the committee for further discussion.

Review Group Members: Miriam Johnson – NC (ISC Liaison); Brett Groves – IN; Mark LeBlanc – LA; Steve Stewart – MN; Josh Arbaugh – WV; Louise Calderwood – AFIA

Miriam Johnson, Chair, spoke about the possibility of still completing the AAFCO Basic Inspector Training Seminar (BITS) and the Advanced Inspectors Trainings Seminar (AITS) for 2021, either face to face or virtual, which she is not sure about yet with the current pandemic situation with states' ability to travel.

AITS Seminar Review – Miriam Johnson, NC

At this time, the workgroup is still tentative to schedule a seminar for July 2021. Colorado has shown interest in hosting a face-to-face meeting for 2021, and the workgroup will follow up with them, as initial scheduling and logistics discussions have begun. The committee will continue to plan to host this meeting, but the reality of moving AITS to a virtual platform has become more apparent. In the interim all CADRE members need to make any last-minute corrections and additions to presentations and send them to Miriam Johnson. The completed materials need to be sent to the Education and Training Committee for review and feedback. Additionally, Miriam Johnson will reach out to Information and Technology Committee for more info on hosting a virtual training. As always, please contact Jessica Gore if interested in hosting future trainings.

BITS Seminar Review – Brett Groves, IN

Currently the workgroup is tentatively planning to schedule a seminar for 2021. Oklahoma has shown interest in hosting for Fall 2021 or when we can continue this training opportunity. BITS will be more difficult to host virtually with other organizations involved as part of the teaching cadre and with the second day of training consisting of a field day focused on sampling techniques in real time. Brett will check with the other associations to get their thoughts on hosting BITS virtually. Future trainings will be considered as normal unless otherwise driven by travel restrictions. The group is waiting for states to be able to return to meetings and trainings without travel restrictions. If a state would like to host a BITS training, please let Brett Groves know that you are interested.

***Post Midyear meeting update:** Discussions have occurred with key players regarding the status of AITS and BITS for 2021. From those discussions it has been agreed upon by all that we will postpone AITS and BITS until 2022. We feel the face-to-face setting is critical for inspection staff at this time and



do not believe states will have the resources for AITS, or BITS, as other training needs will take precedence once we are able to start those back up.

AITS & BITS Alignment Workgroup – Miriam Johnson, NC

A workgroup was formed prior to the Midyear Meeting in Anaheim, CA in 2018. The charge of the work group is to review current guidance documents for hosting AITS and BITS and establish a consistent curriculum for future AITS seminars. Discussion during the Feed Inspector's Manual update at the Annual Meeting in Louisville, KY revealed a charge will be placed on the workgroup to find a replacement Model Bill Regulation for the GMP checklist that has been removed from the AAFCO Official Publication and Feed Inspectors Manual.

Workgroup Update:

The workgroup will continue to update the presentations and course materials for AITS based off survey results from the 2019 AITS seminar to include finding a replacement for the GMP checklist previously housed in the Official Publication.

The work group has been charged with determining if there are available materials in draft, or that have been created, that could be reviewed for help in replacing the former cGMP checklist with an Inspector Inspection Guidance Tool. The question was posed to the committee, does this committee see a need for a guidance tool to replace the previous checklist to assist state inspectors? We still have time to consider how to structure the tool, Miriam Johnson will reach back out to workgroup to evaluate the charge and determine the next steps forward. Documents have been provided by WA and CA for review. If additional documents exist that the workgroup and committee could review, those would also be appreciated.

Austin Therrell – SC, Co-Chair Feed and Feed Ingredient Manufacturing Committee, stated that the Ingredient Statement Verification Tool has been finalized. This could be a helpful tool for advanced inspection staff and could potentially be incorporated into AITS trainings. Austin will be presenting the tool to the Feed and Feed Ingredients Manufacturing Committee for vote. If this guidance is passed, the document will be sent to this committee for consideration of inclusion in the next edition of the AAFCO Feed Inspector's Manual. The committee looks forward to reviewing this document for consideration as an inspector guidance tool.

Alignment Workgroup Members: Miriam Johnson (Lead) – NC; Chad Linton – WV; Brett Groves – IN; Eric Brady – TN; Barb Schroeder – MN; Dave Dressler – PA; Jamie Spencer – KS; Stephanie Adams – AFIA; Ashlee-Rose Ferguson – WA

Virtual Training Workgroup Members: Miriam Johnson – NC; Chad Linton – WV; Brett Groves – IN; Jessica Gore – NC; Tim Lyons – MI

The request to evaluate methods for bulk tote sampling is still a topic of discussion for the committee, however at this time we will continue to keep the topic as a discussion item until further work to complete the current AOAC ¾ inch trier sampling method study has been finalized and the committee is comfortable with creating an additional sampling study proposal.

No further discussion or topics were brought to the attention of the committee and discussion points not addressed in this meeting will be further updated during the 2021 Annual Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 PM EST.



Action Item Table

Responsible	Item	Action	Timing / Status
Work Group	AITIS Guidelines & Curriculum	Update and Standardize AITS Guidelines & Curriculum; Virtual Setting Options	March 2021
Brett Groves	BITS Training	Work with host state to set up	March 2021
Work Group	Guidance for Tool Inspections	Review and send to industry for review. Make available for all to see	January 2022
Miriam Johnson/Sue Hayes	Small Meetings Grant	Apply for the trainings in the future	Per Grant Request Submission Dates
Ben Jones	Bulk Tote Sampling	Review to see if any information is available on this already, report back to committee	January 2022