

Committee Report/Minutes

2022 AAFCO Annual Meeting
Aug 5, 2022 10:00 – 12:00 PM

Committee Recommendations

Committee recommendation summary or list.

(1)

Board Recommendations

Board recommendation summary or list.

(1)

Association Actions

Association action summary or list.

(1)

(2)

Committee Participants

Members Present:

Liz Beckman (WA – Chair), Stan Cook (MO – Co-chair), Darrell Johnson (BOD Liaison), Chris Berg (IA), William Burkholder (FDA-CVM), Charlotte Conway (FDA-CVM), James Embry (TX), George Ferguson (NC), Madison Fink (MO), Kristen Green (KY), Kristen Hamilton (ID), Tiffany Leschishin (MN), Barbara-jean Schliecher (KS), Katie Simpson (IN), Austin Therrell (SC), Justin Hill (NC), Holly Jewell (NC).

Advisors Present:

Bill Bookout (NASC), Louise Calderwood (AFIA), Dave Dzanis (ACVN), James Emerson (US Poultry and Egg), Dave Fairfield (NGFA), David Meeker (NARA), Chris Nash (PFAC), Angele Thompson (PFI), Pat Tovey (PFI), Cathy Alinovi (NGPFMA)

Committee Report

Meeting called to order at 10:00 CST

Announcements

Holly Jewell and Justin Hill were announced as new members.

Committee Activities

Committee Minutes

Human Grade Working Group – Holly Jewell, NC

The human grade workgroup has been meeting with the USDA-AMS. The workgroup has a checklist, guidelines and example documents. The workgroup decided to modify the labeling requirements section on the checklist to limit the need for a label review by the AMS auditor. The documents are available in the PFC Members and Advisors team site in BIN for 2 weeks for full members and advisors to comment. The plan is to conduct an e-vote by the PFC on the documents at the end of August so that the documents can go to the BOD for final approval. The current checklist for the AMS audit can be found in **APPENDIX A**.

The new Human Grade Guidelines and a new definition for the term 'human grade' passed by Membership vote on Thursday, August 4th and will be published in the 2023 Official Publication.

Implementation of the USDA-AMS Human Grade audit process will start as soon as the checklist is finalized.

FINAL:

Copper Workgroup – Dr. William Burkholder, FDA-CVM

The copper workgroup has completed their work and the report will be made available in the Feed Bin for comment. The report will be discussed publically at the January 2023 mid-year AAFCO meeting.

Kristen Green moves that the PFC accept the Copper Workgroup Report (APPENDIX B). Charlotte Conway seconds. Motion carries.

PFLM Implementation Workgroup – Stan Cook, MO

There has been lots of work done by industry and members both.

The groups are still working on some language for nutritional adequacy and safe handling. The group is very close to having the draft Model Bill language ready. Regulators came together on Wednesday August 3rd and went over the four parts of the PFLM project to get feedback in real time from those who are looking at this fresh. The meeting was put together quickly and AAFCO appreciates the organizers as well as those that attended and provided input.

The nutritional adequacy statement will be included at the bottom of the facts box. Right now this is in consumer research for quantitative review. The group is also assessing 3 intended use statements. The Consumer Research report should be available in September.

The PLFM Implementation challenge is to implement the new labeling requirements across 50 states and industry will be a challenge, group continues to work, open to suggestions for how to get this information out to industry. Education will be required for small pet food manufacturers, especially those that are not aware of the work being done.

- 50 state webinars –to start in next few months. To educate regulators.
- Develop and provide educational materials for industry, states, consumers. Going to need help in identifying and providing opportunities to educate.
- Timeline (keeps moving) – seeing progress
- PFC is trying to keep process transparent, hoping to pull more folks in to help.

This presentation (APPENDIX C) will be attached to the minutes on the PFC website. Still working on the final language, market research done in September, no plans yet for how to make that public. Qualitative and quantitative research (600 people total) has been done or is in the process of being completed.

The current tentative timeline is available in the presentation. In general, the comment period will be open in the next month or so. Workgroups will convene to make updates to the Model Regulation in mid-November based on comments. The draft Model Regulations will then go to the full committee for review. In December, PFC hopes to vote on the Draft Model Regulations, , and send the Draft Model Regulations to the Model Bill and Regulations Committee (MBRC). January will have more information about implementation and planned trainings.

Implementation will be difficult, and lengthy, and some states will struggle to adopt within a couple of years, during this period, states will need to utilize discretion. AAFCO sent out a survey to state members asking about how states apply discretion. Implementation is going to require a lot of education. There is concern by industry that they will start implementing, but that certain states will require the old labels still.

The logistics of changing labels is going to be challenging Getting the resources to make the changes will be difficult, as firms will be competing for limited resources. Time and patience will be important.



FINAL:

The formatting changes for labels are significant and the crude fiber guarantee will be replaced by dietary fiber.

PFC intends to send out another survey after doing the 50 state webinars. Industry is interested to know if there are any states that would be a roadblock to the overall implementation process.

Training and Outreach Sub-Committee - Chris Berg, IA

Pet Food Labeling Guide is being updated to match the 2022 Model Regulations, currently in track changes mode. A workgroup will be put together to see how to publish (maybe just electronically) an updated version while PFLM finishes.

Upcoming training ideas:

- Pet Food Forum – Labeling workshop. May 2022 workshop was successful. Did three 15 min talks.
- AAFCO meeting – have a labeling workshop.
- Maybe include some industry meetings – such as Super Zoo, IPPE, industry association Meetings.

There will be a lot of upcoming training/outreach needs.

- Regulatory
 - Legislative
- Industry
- Consumers
- Veterinarians

It was suggested that PFC put forth a template document listing trainings, places, audiences for PFLM implementation and send this as a single proposal to the BOD. This roadmap should list the majority of items, for ex: 18-24 months out. Consideration of getting a project manager for the implementation.

Website Update - Chris Berg, IA

AAFCO as a whole is completely updating AAFCO's websites. AAFCO requests industry associations for a single email about how their industry and other groups use the AAFCO website. For ex. what is important, etc. in 30 days. aafco@aafco.org. This request is regarding the website only and does not include the Feed BIN.

Contact Chris Berg if you are interested in assisting.

Meeting concluded at 12:00 PM.