



## **Proficiency Testing Program Committee Report**

2019 AAFCO Mid-Year Meeting January 21, 2019 1:30 – 5:30 PM  
Savannah, GA

**Committee Recommendations – None at this time**

**Board Recommendations – None at this time**

**Association Action – None at this time**

### **Committee Participants**

*Members present:* Brenda Snodgrass – OK (Committee Chair), Louise Ogden – Life Member (Vice Chair), Ametra Berry – GA, Teresa Grant – NC, Tai Ha – NE, Kristi McCallum – CO, Patty Lucas – FL, Michele Swarbrick – MN, Victoria Watkins – KS, Sharon Webb, Ph.D. – KY,

*Members present by phone:* Nancy Thiex - Life Member

*Advisors Present:* Andy Crawford, Ph.D, Lars Reimann – AFIA, Ken Riter – PFI

*Others Present:* Alexis Huyghues-Despointes (JM Smucker Co), Sally Flowers – NE, Teresa Rygiel – FL, Lisa Ruiz (Eurofins NAC), Taylor Stadler (Eurofins US), Rebecca Mosely – AL, Adam Leaphart – SC, Liberty Sibanda (RANDOX), Michael Richardson (Midwest Labs), Jeff Horst (Agri-King), Bozeua Lusiau (Nestle Purina), Kyle Bennet (Neogen), Jenny Bailie (Milk Specialties), Solomon Kariuki – KY, Karl Nichols – (Eurofins), Less Ware – MS, Leo Schilling – (Eurofins), Robin Johnson – MT, Kristen Gilbert – NY, Mary Koestner – MO, Brenda Keavey – WV, Gale Hagood – MS, Casey Guccione – KS, Whitney Haslag – MO, Robert Sheridan – NY, Dorota Inerowicz – OISC, David Nabo – KS, Yvonne Salfinger – APHL, Krystal Gage (Cargill), Alejinda McComb (Enviro Flight), Morgan Steele (Anchor Ingredient)

### **Committee Report**

B. Snodgrass (Chair) called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm January 21, 2019. Members, Advisors and audience members introduced themselves.

#### **1) Program Leadership and Administrative Update**

##### **a) Accreditation Update**

- i) Our site visit has been delayed to mid-February, L. Ogden, PT Quality Manager, will travel to Able Labs for the site visit. The other team members will participate by phone and web session.

##### **b) Survey(s)**

- i) Planned Survey for 2019 - Minerals Program
- ii) Unplanned surveys will be sent out if needed.



- iii) Please make sure your information is up-to-date in the DRW. If your state or company has SPAM filters blocking Survey Monkey, please let L. Ogden know and the survey can be sent by PDF or by a different route into Survey Monkey.
- c) Continuity of Operations
  - i) Standing agenda item
  - ii) Discussed the loss of a key person, Victoria Siegel former PT Program Manager & Committee Chair, in 2014. Program operations continued by N. Thiex (Acting Program Manager), A. Crawford (Statistician) B. Kieffer (Able Labs) and FASS Exec. Assistant to AAFCO & FASS IT Services.
  - iii) L. Ogden is backing up N. Thiex for ordering (sourcing materials & procurement). Knowledge transfer is on-going and expected to continue for the next several months due to the complex nature of the process.
  - iv) B. Snodgrass and L. Ogden back-up for each other
  - v) Able Labs (Prep & Order Fulfillment) and A. Crawford (Statistician) do not have back-ups
    - (1) Agri-king uses Dairyland Laboratories for their sample prep, per J. Horst, and may be interested in contracting with the AAFCO PT Program for prep work now done by Able Labs if/when Able Labs closes.
- d) Official Publication
  - i) Analytical Variances (AVs)
    - (1) Discussion regarding limitations of currently published AVs which have not been revised or updated since at least 1990.
    - (2) Updated the OP with a new definition and corrected the method numbers
    - (3) AV paper to introduce the concept to the BOD. The work group formed at the Fort Lauderdale meeting will develop a paper to present to the BOD at the Annual Meeting in Louisville in August 2019.
    - (4) Office of the Texas State Chemist (OTSC) – plans to publish a paper with AV recommendations as presented by former grad student K. Fischer at the 2017 Annual AAFCO Meeting in Bellevue, WA (presentation slides posted with PTP Committee Minutes. OTSC requested data from the Program in CSV format because Fischer had finished graduate internship and OTSC did not have a copy of the data or statistical models used. Request was denied due to client confidentiality requirements. OTSC did eventually reach Fischer and obtained the data & statistical model(s).
      - (a) L. Reimann commented that OTSC's recommended AV for Moisture/Loss on Drying relied on merged analyte data from methods that are known to produce statistically different results. Stakeholders should be aware that recommendations based on data merged in this fashion may not estimate analyte variance well.
    - (5) Working group: volunteers were determined at August meeting

- (6) L. Reimann – Comment: Working Group needs to address with the sampling, standardize for industry and deal with the other steps, total error is not taken into account.
- (7) K. Riter – Comment: Permissible Analytical Variation was the original intent of the AVs, however this original intent has been lost since many stakeholders (regulators & industry) are not applying the AVs as they were originally intended. Ex. Variance applied to label Guarantees to determine acceptance criteria for product (incorrect use), rather than Variance applied to test result to quantify measurement uncertainty to determine product compliance with label Guarantee (more correct use). In either case, the AVs do not include field and laboratory sampling errors.
- (8) B. Snodgrass – Published AVs do not account for the matrix and should not be extrapolated to methods other than those listed in the tables. Laboratory Measurement Uncertainty does take matrices into account and are specific to the lab performing the testing and the analytical method used.
- (9) **Action Item: Program Manager and AV Working Group to develop internal report to AAFCO BOD on misuse of current AV tables, reasons to archive AV tables, and proposed replacement or guidance going forward.**

## 2) **Scheme Discussion** – A. Crawford, L. Ogden and B. Snodgrass

### a) Program Participation Report

- i) A. Crawford – Presented demographics and enrollments of participants for each scheme. Presentations “PTP 2018 Demographics” and “PT 2018 Participation”

### b) Animal Feed Scheme

- i) L. Ogden led the discussion about Canned Pet Food Add-on Survey – Pet Food Ingredient – An email will be sent to those labs that expressed interest in receiving the add-on. PT Program Managers will work with A. Huyghues-Despointes, L. Reimann, and K. Riter to produce a canned dog food. Presentation “Survey for Canned Pet Food Add-On”. **Action Item: Schedule coordinating conference call to explore options for acquisition of product in time for inclusion in 2020 Program Year.**

### c) Pet Food Scheme

- i) L. Ogden - Reviewed the Purpose of Scheme – Discussion of name change to Pet Food Ingredient Scheme to match scheme description. Committee approved change by unanimous vote. Presentation “Pet Food Scheme Purpose”. **Action Item: Identify use of term system-wide and revise.**

### d) Minerals Scheme

- i) L. Ogden - Review the Purpose of Scheme – Discussion: Concentration of minerals added are based on concentrations of health/toxicological concern. – Attendees’ consensus that Mercury be no more than 2 parts per million (ppm). Since its inception, the Minerals scheme has not exceeded this Mercury concentration. Mercury concentrations typically seen in regulatory programs are in parts per billion (ppb) rather than ppm. Presentation “Minerals Scheme Purpose”

## 3) **Roundtable**



- a) QRM purchases – Discussed the issues with purchasers of QRMs selecting participant price when their lab is not subscribing to any PT Program Scheme. **Action Item: Add program code to purchasing portal to authenticate whether a lab is a PT participant.**
- b) Question on knowing what to analyze for from commercial lab (i.e. amino acids) – Labs are able to choose which analyses to run. The Program has no requirements. Always a good idea to look for non-guaranteed analytes noted at the bottom of the PT Sample package label. Some labs run their entire testing suite, while others run just one or two analytes.
- c) Brief discussion on reissuing PT Reports for past Mycotoxin Contaminant rounds using the new AAFCO ffp Sigma (standard deviation); previous round reports will not be issued.
- d) Vitamin D – Four (4) state program officials have requested Vitamin D testing from their labs. Discussion on existing AOAC methods (one is a chicken bioassay, other uses an elaborate cleanup followed by LC determination.) Referred to LM&S and “Method Needs and Fitness for Purpose” criteria for Vitamin D methodology.

**4) Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 P.M.

**Action Items Table**

Responsible	Item	Action	Timing / Status
Committee Chair (Program Manager) & AV WG Volunteers	Analytical Variations from Official Publication	Internal Report on AV misuse, obsolescence, and proposed replacement/guidance.	August 2019 / Pending
Committee Chair (Program Manager) and Vice-Chair (Program Quality Manager) & Pet Food Industry Volunteers	Canned Pet Food Add-on	Source canned pet food material (dog) for inclusion in 2020 Program Year.	Coordinating call scheduled for April 10, 2019 / Pending
Committee Vice-chair (Program Quality Manager)	Scheme name change	Pet Food Scheme now named Pet Food Ingredient Scheme; identify locations for revising.	By May 1, 2019 / In progress
Committee Chair (Program Manager) & FASS IT	QRM purchase price	Add program code to authenticate whether buyer’s lab is a participant for costs.	By May 1, 2019 / In progress