**Common Food Index Policy Guidelines**

**Purpose:**

The Common Food Index (CFI) is a repository of common foods that may be appropriate for use in animal food and are not defined by AAFCO. The CFI is provided as a tool for use during review of ingredients on an animal food label and provides harmonization and transparency. Label reviews will continue to rely on the expertise of the individuals performing the reviews. The acceptance of indexed items in animal food continues to be at the discretion of regulatory agencies.

These common foods must align with the feed term *Common Foods* in the Feed Terms and Definitions within Chapter 6 of the AAFCO *Official Publication.* The CFI is not a substitute for the AAFCO process for new feed ingredient definitions; Chapter 6 of the *Official Publication*, alone, contains the officially recognized feed ingredient definitions.

**Subcommittee:**

A CFI subcommittee of four (4) AAFCO members will be appointed by the Chair of the Ingredient Definition Committee (IDC).

The subcommittee will investigate the proposed common foods alone or with assistance of experts anytime the subcommittee deems it necessary. Experts are not limited to regulatory officials or academia and may include other stakeholders with relevant knowledge. Experts shall declare any conflicts of interest as a condition of consideration of their participation.

**Indexing:**

The CFI will be maintained on the AAFCO.org website and the indexed common foods incorporated into the Online Database of Ingredients (ODI) for reference.

**Note:**

Feed/food manufacturers are still responsible for evaluating and documenting the safety of all ingredients for their intended use prior to distribution.