



AAFCO
Association of American Feed Control Officials

Laboratory Methods and Services Committee Report

2023 AAFCO Annual Meeting

August 1, 2023 8:00am-3:15pm, Baltimore, MD

Committee Recommendations

None

Board Recommendations

None

Committee Participants

Members Present: Joshua Arbaugh (WV), Ametra Berry (GA), Sally Flowers (KS), Tai Ha (NE), William Hoek (NY), H. Dorota Inerowicz (OISC), Robin Johnson (MT), Patty Lucas (FL), Teresa Riegel (FL), Kristi McCallum (co-chair/CO), Sharon Webb (co-chair/UKY), Dancia Wu (OISC)

Advisors Present: Jenny Bailie (NutriQuest/AMA), Matt Nichols (Neogen), Lars Reimann (Eurofins), Ken Riter (PFI NPAL), Leo Schilling (Eurofins)

Virtual Attendees: Christine Belna (OH), Buddhika Galkaduwa (KS), Srinu Chigurupati (FDA), Christina Chrysogelos (FDA), Lawrence Novotny (Life member), Nancy Thiex (Life member), Brenda Snodgrass (AAFCO PTP), Hemakanthi De Alwis (FDA), Rebecca Moseley (AL), Tai Ha (NE), William Hoek (NY), Andy Crawford (Consultant AAFCO PTP), Jeff Horst (Agri King), Michele Swarbrick (MN), Angela Swinford (FDA)

Committee Report

Committee Activities

1. Dietary Fiber in Pet Food
 - a) Dr. Mangan gave a presentation on the many different ways to analyze for total dietary fiber in animal food. Each method is dependent on the type of dietary fiber present and there is no "one fits all" method.
2. The LMSC co-chairs have developed a library of technical training resources, including both internal and external sources, (videos, white papers, etc.) for laboratories. This is on-going as resources are being acquired and given to the AAFCO website developer.
 - a) Create a training resources library section on the AAFCO website – **Completed**
 - b) Create a training needs form and post on AAFCO website – **Completed**
 - c) Create a training proposal template that all labs can use to submit to the AAFCO BOD - **Completed**
 - d) At the 2024 MY meeting, the LMSC will evaluate the training resources library to determine whether any of them are appropriate for additional in-person training at future AAFCO meetings or other locations.
 - e) Identify and work to deliver one in-person training opportunity each year. The Colorado Dept. of Agriculture held an on-site hands-on Microbiology Workshop in April 2023. The LMSC discussed continuing this workshop program and several State labs were interested in hosting a workshop or allowing a laboratory to send staff to another state laboratory for in-person training on a particular method or technology. This program is still under development. A survey will be sent to state laboratories prior to the MY meeting in 2024 to gauge participation in this program.
3. The LMSC discussed and agreed to conduct a hazard and regulatory program method need survey every two years. This survey will then be used to determine training needs. The LMSC agreed that an annual survey would be redundant as hazards in animal feed do not often change.



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ACTION: Agenda approval

MOTION: Motion Joshua Arbaugh (WV)/Second Sally Flowers. Motion passes.

Subcommittee Activities

No update was given by the Quality Assurance sub-committee at this meeting. Kristi McCallum reached out to each member of the sub-committee to ensure that they were still willing to participate and that their objectives were clear.

1. Quality systems task
 - a. LMSC QA Sub-committee is to provide resources related to quality and accreditation. A link has been established on AAFCO website where state regulatory and state laboratory personnel can gain information on laboratory capabilities. Resources can be sent to Kristi McCallum and Sharon Webb by the sub-committee.
 - b. APHL to collaborate with LMSC to share resources or link directly to APHL ISO accreditation resource site.
 - c. Update the AAFCO QAQC in Animal Feed Testing Labs document to align with ISO17025:2017. The co-chairs have started revising this document. Help is needed from the QA sub-committee to complete this.

ACTION: None

MOTION: None

Committee Minutes

- 1) Welcome, Introductions, & Adoption of Agenda
 - a) Motion to approve - Josh Arbaugh (WV) / Second - Sally Flowers (KS)
- 2) Review of Committee Roster and Announcements
 - a) Kristi McCallum discussed the committee roster and will be reaching out to those members who do not attend meetings to confirm committee status.
- 3) Presentation: Dietary Fiber: Old Dog & New Tricks (Dr. David Mangan, Neogen)
 - a) Refer to PowerPoint posted on AAFCO website.
 - b) LMSC agreed that it should be up to manufacturer of the feed/pet food as to what method they use based on the manufacturing process.
- 4) FDA FSMA Laboratory Accreditation for Analyses of Food (LAAF) Program (Dr. Marla Keller, FDA)
 - a) Refer to the PowerPoint posted on AAFCO website.
 - b) Dr. Keller presented an overview of the FDA LAAF program. The requirements to participate in this program are detailed in the presentation. The program is voluntary but would make submitting laboratory reports and results to FDA easier.
- 5) Discussion on Carbohydrate Guarantees and ME Calculations (Josh Arbaugh, WV)
 - a) Josh Arbaugh suggested forming a working group. A Dietary Fiber working group was created but Josh stated that he will need to reach out to the Pet Food committee prior to starting any work on this.
 - b) A joint working group between the Pet Food committee and the LMSC Dietary Fiber WG is the best course of action.
- 6) Presentation: LMSC Training Program (Kristi McCallum, CO)



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- a) Refer to the PowerPoint titled: posted on AAFCO website.
 - b) This program is an attempt to provide additional training for employees. A webpage under the AAFCO site has been created and a training request form has been created. The site will provide a consolidated location for training resources and training materials and will provide links to other repositories of training materials.
 - c) Potential partners -APHL, State Labs, Instrument vendors (many have extensive training libraries/resources), FDA.
 - d) Next steps: Identify and contact potential partners, have system in place to monitor and respond to training request, identify labs willing to host training, and connect with BOD and AAFCO etc. for funding and completion of necessary paperwork. Discussed the need to align the training requests with available/existing trainings. Kristi McCallum will start working on a timeline for the training project and will contact some technology vendors to seek approval to link their training to our existing website.
- 7) Working Group Updates (LMSC)
- a) Hemp – Hunter Buffington gave a presentation on the updates and progress. See presentation posted on AAFCO website. ASTM is in the position to lead the development and validation for methods and standards for: Shelf-life stability, Sample Preparation, Pesticide panel recommendations and validation, quantifying very low concentrations of cannabinoids in animal tissue. Consideration for holding a Symposium to review literature and discuss what the limit of cannabinoids. ASTM Inter-Laboratory Study with USDA -The variability study will expand the previous study to include more labs and low THC products; to try to understand what is affecting the results. ASTM is looking for labs to participate and for low THC hemp product for sampling.
 - b) Metals – Working on moving files to new folders and organizing WG.
 - c) Fat Soluble Vitamins – Working on validation methods for Vitamin A, D and E. Vitamin D -Texas plans to submit their method in the fall for publication. Vitamin A -Larger test portions (100g) will be investigated using enzymes for coating dissolution with a subsample going to saponification extraction starting in Fall 2023. Vitamin E -Plan to include this with Vitamin A analysis once a Vitamin A method is selected, as these can be determined in a run.
 - d) Mycotoxins – No update. Methods are well-established. The WG would work on Best Practice guidance only.
 - e) Moisture – Lawrence has received data from labs and is processing it.
 - f) Microbiology – CDA hosted a hands-on Microbiology Workshop in April 2023. All materials and resources are available for other labs to host a similar workshop. Methods for detection of microbial/pathogens in food and animal food are well established. Danci Wu is working with the Labeling Committee as there are many questions regarding labeling pre/probiotics.
 - g) Dietary Fiber - had a general discussion about what the next step would look like. Discussed bringing in a nutritionist. The primary purpose of dietary fiber is labeling. Also, the labeling requirements apply to specialty pets as well. Part of the workgroup outcome will be to identify best practices for labs.



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Action Items

Responsible	Item	Action	Timing / Status
Co-chairs	Hazards/Contaminants Survey	Revise and send survey to regulators for 2025	December 2024
LMSC QA Sub-committee	QAQC Guidelines	Revise the QAQC Guidelines to align with ISO17025:2017	September 2022 – January 2023/In progress
LMSC	Training Resources	Collect training resources for new AAFCO website/LMSC Training Need volunteer labs to host trainings	January 2023 – January 2025/Resources are being obtained and are posted on website. This is on-going. APHL is coordinating with LMSC to link existing training resources to LMSC webpage. Survey sent August and September 2023 to state labs, responses being gathered for presenting at MY meeting in 2024
Co-chairs (K. McCallum)	Training Program	Develop proposal and timeline for LMSC training program. Send survey to labs willing to host training	Proposal and timeline draft/January 2024; In Progress Submit proposal to BOD and EIC/2024 MY meeting. Survey created and sent to Dani 9/22/2023