

## Education & Training Committee Report

2025 AAFCO Midyear Meeting  
Thursday, January 23, 2025, 8:00 – 8:45 AM (CT), Little Rock, AR

### Committee Recommendations

None.

### Board Recommendations

None.

### Committee Participants

**Members Present:** Daniel Zangari (Chair) – CO, Marissa Kost (Vice-Chair) – NC, Blaine Brown – IN, Holly Jewell – SC, Tiffany Leschishin – MN, Bethany McAnulty – TN, Samantha Moran-Defty – CA, Taliaa Pendergrass – MO, Shaness Thomas – FL, Jim True – KY, Tim Weigner – Life Member

**Advisors Present:** Bill Bookout – APPA & NASC, Dr. Berit Foss – NGFA, Scott Ringger – AFIA, Amy Tryon-DaPrato – PFI

**Virtual Attendees:** Rick Manthei – MN, Kate Nelson – CT, Julie Berry – ME, Leah Wilkinson – AFIA

**Others Present:** Jenny Combs – KY, Jessica Gore – NC, Jamie Spencer (Chair ISC) – KS

### Committee Report

#### Committee Activities

None.

#### Subcommittee Activities

None.

### Committee Minutes

Dan Zangari, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:03 AM (CT). Introductions were done and attendance was taken. It was noted that Dan Zangari, CO, would take over as Chair of the committee, and the former Chair, Marissa Kost, NC, would remain on the committee as the Vice Chair. Additionally, agenda item modifications and removals were mentioned.

### Training Availability Updates

- FDA OTED Training Update
  - This update has been postponed to Annual 2025 (Omaha, NE). Marissa Kost, NC, noted that the FDA OTED training schedule is available online at the LearnEd site.
- AAFCO Basic Inspector Training Seminar (BITS) Update – Blaine Brown, IN
  - BITS 2024 – October 22-24, 2024 (Boise, ID)
    - The 2024 BITS was held in Boise, Idaho, with 53 participants (along with 6 cadre members) representing 21 states; some participants represented fertilizer, but the majority were feed.
  - BITS 2025 – September 22-26, 2025 (Harrisburg, PA)
    - The 2025 BITS will take place from September 22-26, 2025, in the Harrisburg area of Pennsylvania, with the specific location to be determined later.
- AAFCO Advanced Inspector Training Seminar (AITS) Update – Jessica Gore, NC
  - AITS 2025 – June 2-6, 2025 (Savannah, GA)
    - The AITS is scheduled for June 2-6, 2025, at the Bryce Hotel in Savannah, Georgia. The AITS proposal is nearly finalized for approval by the Committee and Board. It was noted that an environmental sampling module may be added to this year's AITS offering.
- AFRPS Face-to-Face Update – Jenny Combs, KY
  - March 3-7, 2025, Nashville, TN
    - The Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards (AFRPS) training will be held from March 4-6, 2025, in Nashville, Tennessee. Registration is open, and the training (table-top exercise) will consist of eight modules (e.g., sampling, AF complaints, animal deaths, violative samples) featuring highly interactive, facilitated scenario-based exercises. This will help states walk through their SOPs; looking for gaps; and hear best practices that other states are doing.

### Sub-Committee Updates

- Feed Administrators Seminar Sub-Committee – Jenny Combs, KY
  - FAS 2025 – May 5-9, 2025, Cliffview Resort, Campton, KY

- FAS 2025 will be held at the Red River Gorge in Kentucky from May 6-8, 2025 (travel days 5/5 & 5/9). Registration is also open. Lots of great content and discussion along with leadership and team-building activities.
- FAS 2026 & 2027 – TBD
  - No update was given regarding next year's FAS location during this meeting. After this meeting, the FAS sub-committee has noted challenges with hosting in SC during the next cycle. Additional host states have been identified as CT and WA. CT will tentatively be hosting in 2026 & 2027, with WA or SC to host in 2028 & 2029 now.

### **Workshop Calendar Request Updates**

- Annual 2025 (Omaha, NE) – Pet & Specialty Pet Food Labeling Workshop Update – Holly Jewell, SC
  - Holly Jewell, SC, reported that a AAFCO & NASC Pet and Specialty Pet Food Labeling Workshop will be held at the AAFCO Annual 2025 meeting in Omaha, Nebraska, on August 6 (1-6pm) and 7 (8am-4pm), 2025 (1.5 days post-meeting). More information will be available shortly.
  - During the New Business discussion, Mary Kostner, MO, requested that the committee(/sub-committee) consider offering the workshop online. Holly Jewell, SC, explained that while this was considered for the August 2025 workshop, it was not logistically feasible. However, the PFC Training & Outreach Planning Sub-Committee plans to provide online training for pet and specialty pet food labeling when possible.

### **Workgroup Updates**

- AAFCO Model Training Documents – Samantha Moran-Defty, CA (WG Lead)
  - Members: Jessica Gore, Bethany McNulty, Kevin Klommhaus, Marissa Kost, Kimberly Hull, Shaness Thomas, Tim Weigner, Dan Zangari, Jim True, Samantha Moran-Defty, Debra Brasel
  - The AAFCO Model Training Document Work Group identified Samantha Moran-Defty as its lead and has met six times since the previous ETC meeting. The work group expects to complete their review of the training document by the 2025 AAFCO Annual Meeting, which will then be voted on by the committee and a vote by AAFCO membership scheduled for the 2026 Midyear meeting.

### **New Business**

- Survey – Blaine Brown, IN & Jamie Spencer, KS
  - Jamie Spencer reported that the Inspection and Sampling Committee (ISC) discussed the progress of the survey related to Strategic Plan objective 3.1.5a at their meeting on January 22, 2025. The ISC aims to collaborate with the ETC on the survey.
- Additional Work Groups Needing Members – Marissa Kost, NC
  - Marissa Kost, NC, discussed the need for more members to join the Continuing Education & Scholarships work group and requested any volunteers at that time – Taliaa Pendergrass, Kate Nelson, Dan Zangari, Julie Berry – ME (non-committee participant) agreed to
- Global Pet Expo & NASC Annual Conference – Bill Bookout, APPA & NASC
  - It was noted that AAFCO will participate in the Global Pet Expo from March 26-28, 2025 (Orlando, FL).
  - The NASC Annual conference will take place in Columbus, OH from April 22-24, 2025.
  - Both opportunities are good education and training initiatives.
- American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) Food Safety Plan Training
  - Leah Wilkinson reported that AFIA is offering a new online course focused on designing, implementing, and updating animal food safety plans. It is meant to help facilities design, implement, and update their FSPs as necessary; it will be provided two more times this year (all online, at your own pace). AFIA will continue to offer PCQI training. Additionally, a new PCQI refresher course will be offered in December 2025 (Nashville, Tennessee • Dec. 9-10, 2025), involving hands-on discussion with instructors and scenario-based learning.
- IFSS RLTS Status Update & QA – Alan Tart, FDA OP & Craig Kaml – IFPTI
  - This presentation was rescheduled for Annual 2025 (Omaha, NE).
  - Trisha Dunn, IN, an AAFCO representative on the IFSS RLTS Steering Committee provided a brief update on the progress of IFSS. They are working on developing standards for trainings along with modules. The next IFSS Steering Committee is scheduled for the end of April 2025.

**Adjourn 8:29 AM (CT).**

**Dan Zangari called for a motion to adjourn early. Bethany McNulty moves/Second: Marissa Kost.**

## Action Items

| Responsible  | Item                                | Action  | Timing / Status                            |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| WG: Samantha Moran-Defty (lead), Debra Brasel Jessica Gore, Kimberly Hull, , Kevin Klommhaus, Marissa Kost, Bethany McAnulty, Shaness Thomas, Jim True, Tim Weigner, Dan Zangari | AAFCO Model Training Documents      | Complete review of current Model OJT Manual/Documents. Send to ETC for committee vote.<br><br>Send to BOD for AAFCO membership vote.  | Annual 2025<br><br>September 2025          |
| WG(s): Julie Berry (non-ETC), Holly Jewell, Kevin Klommhaus, Marissa Kost, Kate Nelson, Taliaa Pendergrass, Jim True, Dan Zangari  | Continuing Education & Scholarships | Choose a lead and begin discussions regarding charge(s) from the work group(s).<br>1. Implement something to follow BITS and AITS as regular AAFCO business.<br>2. Refer development of AAFCO course on feed regulation & inspection for formal ag institutions to use in their curriculum to Board for consideration.                | Annual 2025 – update on WG(s) progress     |
| WG: Kimberly Hull (lead), Marissa Kost, Kevin Klommhaus, Jennifer Godwin, <del>Jacob Fleig</del>   | Course Curriculum Update            | WG needs to reconvene to update ComplianceWire links for AAFCO document (Job Aid-AFRPS). Also consider adding column to assist with defining curriculum for type of inspection (AFRPS 2.3.1.1.1 & 2.3.1.1.2).   | Annual 2025                                |
| WG: Marissa Kost, <del>George Ferguson</del> , Jo Lynn Otero, Jim True, Jacob Fleig, Danielle Borchert   | Leadership Training                 | 1. UPDATE: Paused pending outcome of IFSS/RLTS outcome.<br>2. ON HOLD<br>3. ON HOLD<br>4. ON HOLD<br>5. ON HOLD   | <b>ON HOLD – 2025</b><br>(launch expected) |
| WG: Nathan Price, Kate Nelson, <del>Eric Brady, Scott Absher</del> , Marissa Kost, Kevin Klommhaus   | Training Endorsement Policy         | Send updated SOP (additional guidance document) to committee for e-vote. No changes to OP Table 5 or Training Endorsement Policy.   | April 2025 – eVote                         |
| WG: N/A - DISBANDED  | Laboratory Survey                   | Consulted with LMSC who are already doing survey work and will integrate animal food regulators. The form to identify training needs for LMSC is complete and on website. The surveys are created and on a set schedule to be sent out to both regulators and labs. Expect it to be ready Spring 2024 and distributed by Annual 2024. | <b>COMPLETE</b>                            |