

**ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN FEED CONTROL OFFICIALS (AAFCO)
1800 SOUTH OAK STREET, SUITE 100
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS**

**MINUTES OF THE FEED LABELING COMMITTEE MIDYEAR MEETING
HELD AT THE STATEHOUSE CONVENTION CENTER
101 EAST MARKHAM STREET
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
JANUARY 22, 2025, 8:00 A.M. CT**

MEMBERS:

David Husner
Bailey Whiten
Jamie Good (Chair)
Amy Penot
Jamie Spencer

Jordan Mancini
Justin Hill
Dragan Momcilovic
(via teleconference)
Adam Orr

Lisa Fantelli (via
teleconference)
Lizette Beckman

ADVISORS:

Bill Bookout
Steve Younker
Charles Starkey

Patrick Tovey
Patrick Fulling
Jay Stapp

Cathy Alinovi (via
teleconference)
Chris Olinger

GUESTS:

Trish Dunn
Brigid McCrea

Sandra Tudge

Office of the Indiana State Chemist
Extension Poultry Specialist, Small Flock, Alabama Cooperative
Extension System, University of Auburn
Recording Secretary, Minutes Solutions (via teleconference)

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, and adequate and proper notice of the meeting having been given, the meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m.

2. NON-STRUCTURAL CARBOHYDRATES WORKGROUP

2.1 Recommendation

ACTION – Jamie Good will contact industry partners and academia to form an expert panel to further explore the requirement of adding separate guarantees for starch and sugar to all horse feed labels and will present a report to the Committee by the summer of 2025.

Jamie Good reported that the Non-Structural Carbohydrates Work Group met twice after its formation at the 2024 Annual Meeting to discuss the current guarantees on horse feeds and the potential for expanding them to better reflect the needs of horses and horse owners. The Work Group's report was distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting.

The Committee agreed to the recommendation of the Non-Structural Carbohydrates Work Group to form an expert panel consisting of five experts from land-grant universities and five from the regulated industry to further explore the requirement of adding separate guarantees for starch and sugar to all horse feed labels, using the "criteria for labelling nutritional indicators" on Page 134 of the AAFCO original publication for evaluation. The Committee suggested that the expert panel also consider laboratory capabilities during their deliberations.

Individuals interested in participating as an expert panel member to further explore this requirement were asked to contact Jamie Good.

With no objections stated, the Committee agreed to disband the Non-Structural Carbohydrates Work Group.

3. LABELING DEFINITION WORK GROUP

On a motion made by Dave Husner, seconded by Jamie Spencer, it was resolved to accept the definition of labeling as presented. Motion carried.

Dave Husner highlighted the addition of “or electronic form” in the new labeling definition to address websites or company social media that promote the sale of or marketing claims of commercial feed. It was confirmed that “electronic form” does not include e-mails or other personal communications that would be outside of a company’s ability to control.

Steve Younker with AFIA said that the feed industry was good with the language under that intent.

Austin Therrell explained that the definition must be approved by the Feed Labeling Committee and the Pet Food Committee. If approved by both Committees, the definition would be presented to the Board for approval and then to membership for a vote. If the definition is not approved by the Committees, it would be reviewed by the Work Group.

Dave Husner confirmed that the term “pet food” does not need to be specified in the labeling definition in addition to the term “commercial feed,” as pet food is commercial feed by definition.

4. FEED THROUGH PESTICIDES LABEL WORK GROUP

Trish Dunn reported that the Work Group, consisting of feed regulators and pest regulators, has met three times and drafted a guidance document on feed through pesticides. Trish Dunn reviewed the document’s table of contents and requested that any comments on the document be e-mailed to her. The Committee expressed support for the general direction of the guidance document.

5. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON REQUIRED GUARANTEES FOR FORMULA POULTRY FEEDS

Charles Starkey noted that previous meetings have discussed describing feeding stages for poultry but have recognized the complexity of the topic. He introduced Brigid McCrea to provide insight into guarantees for formula poultry feeds.

Brigid McCrea provided an overview of the backyard poultry industry, highlighting that, despite being estimated as the fourth-largest poultry industry in the United States, it remains largely underserved and unorganized. Chickens are considered both livestock and pets. The main types of chickens within the backyard flock industry include egg producers, meat producers, dual-purpose producers, and heritage genetic banks. Some breeds have even been retained as athletes, while other types include forage masters, couch potatoes, and showy chickens. There is a wide variety of owners, and most flock owners seek to feed their chickens based on their specific function.

It was noted that there are significant differences between commercial and non-commercial chicken breeds. Some backyard flock owners trust that commercial feed is adequate, but the area of backyard flock feed remains under-researched.

Dave Husner asked what percentage of backyard flock owners work with experts to develop a custom blend to adequately meet their flock's diet. Brigid McCrea responded that many owners lack trust in experts and the information provided by them. She added that her nutrition colleagues focus on commercial bird feed, which is the only topic studied in the classroom.

Cathy Alinovi asked if there exists a one-size-fits-all commercial specialty feed. Brigid McCrea replied that this is an area that warrants further research, and backyard flock owners would welcome assistance from AAFCO. She suggested that owners begin a base diet and then supplement it as needed.

David Husner asked about the education of backyard flock owners regarding nutrition of feed. Brigid McCrea shared that some owners are interested in raising flocks for enjoyment and eggs and typically learn about feed from friends and Facebook. Approximately 50% of this group wishes to increase their knowledge but are disappointed by the knowledge provided by land-grant universities. The second type of flock owners raises poultry to maintain a genetic bank. These owners design their own feed to meet the standards of the American Poultry Association but have also been disappointed when seeking information from universities.

The Committee discussed methods for writing guarantees to address variability between commercial production and backyard production. They considered creating classes of birds for regulators, similar to those used in pet food labelling.

The Committee agreed to create a Work Group led by Charles Snarkey with Brenda McCrea's assistance. Charles Snarkey invited any Committee members interested in joining the Work Group to contact him.

6. PARKING LOT ITEMS

6.1 Comprehensive Feed Labeling Guide Update

This item was not discussed.

6.2 Medicated Feed Labeling Workshop

On a motion made by Dave Husner, seconded by Bailey Whiten, it was resolved to hold a medicated feed labeling workshop at the next available opportunity. Motion carried.

ACTION – Jamie Good will contact the Education and Training Committee Chair about availability in their schedule to host a medicated feed labeling workshop.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Expert Panel Structure

Cathy Alinovi asked the Committee to consider reviewing whether AAFCO's expert panel structure, which includes five representatives from land-grant universities, remains the ideal setup. Jamie Good noted that the structure of expert panels, as outlined on page 134 of AAFCO's Original Publication (OP), has been discussed by the Board and is currently under further investigation.

7.2 Feed Ingredient Manufacturing Committee

Jamie Good mentioned that there have been ongoing discussions regarding the possibility of combining the Feed Labeling Committee and the Feed and Feed Ingredient Manufacturing Committee to form the Feed Committee as a forum for more expansive discussions.

Jessica Gore requested that members contact her, as the Chair of the Feed and Feed Ingredient Committee, with any questions.

8. ADJOURNMENT

It was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 9:05 a.m.

DISCLAIMER

The above minutes should be used as a summary of the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting. This document shall not be considered a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.

Director

Director

Date

Date