

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

**MINUTES OF THE LABORATORY METHODS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE STATEHOUSE CONVENTION CENTER
101 MARKHAM STREET E.,
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
JANUARY 22, 2025, 8:00 A.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Josh Arbaugh (WV)	Erik Pearson (Co-Chair)	Dominika Kondratko (Co-Chair)
Teresa Rygiel (FL)	Ametra Berry (GA)	Rebecca Moseley (AL)
Naomi High (NC)	Dancia Wu (IN)	Tai Ha (NE)
Christina Chysogelos (FDA)		

ADVISORS PRESENT:

Jenny Baillie (NutriQuest)	Lars Reimann (Eurofins)	Sally Flowers (AFDO)
Jeff Horst (AgriKing Inc)		

VIRTUAL ATTENDEES:

Ken Riter (PFI NPAL)	Lawrence Novotny	Abbey Stieferman (MO)
Alexa Bombich	Kevin Wolter	Brenda Snodgrass
Melanie Titley	Denice Mittelstaedt (NM)	Melisa Nichols (MO)
Dr. Andy Crawford	Michele Swarbrick (MN)	Michelle Sandau
Molly Peters (Tyson)	Robin Johnson (MT)	Susan
William Hoek (NYS)	Nancy Thiex	Justin McKenney
Jackie Lissolo	Anne Huss	Solomon Kariuki (UKY)
Wan Jun Wu	Julie Berry	Kelly Gardner
Roxanne Stone	Melanie Hoar-Phillips	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Macy Harris	Darrel Clinton	Stephanie Harny
Kimberly Roewe	Justin Kenny	Selam Ghebreamlak
Cecily Wood	Raymond	Jiri Kratochuil
Roxanne Stone	David Snell	
Paul Mostyn	Macy Harris	

Jodie Percy, Recording Secretary, Minutes Solutions Inc. (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 8:01 a.m.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved to approve the agenda for the Laboratory Methods and Services Committee meeting as presented. Motion carried.

3. INTRODUCTIONS

All members and guests introduced themselves and the sign-in sheet was completed.

4. COMMITTEE RESTRUCTURING

The Committee discussed the possibility of having the PTP Committee join the LMSC to prevent overlapping of meetings. It was noted that the PTP could become a sub-committee of the LMSC since both committees require access to the same people. Joining the committees could also make it simpler to access necessary funding.

It was noted that combining the committees would not minimize the time commitment required from committee members. It was further noted that although regulators would like to attend the meetings that are running simultaneously there are recordings available, and these could be distributed upon request.

The Committee did not see a strong value in combining the PTP and LMSC. It was also noted that running concurrent sessions allowed for more meeting attendees as companies will provide funding for more than one person to attend a meeting in order to obtain all the information available.

5. AAFCO LMSC TRAINING PROGRAM

It was reported that a resource page with training is available on the website but there has not been much activity on the page. The Committee explored how this can be promoted to laboratories and discussed creating a webinar to detail the resources available, as well as creating a separate email for training requests. It was further noted that the Committee has access to the email addresses of the meeting registrants and a broadcast email with a focus on laboratories could be used to advertise the resources and training available.

It was suggested that using the PTP training model may be beneficial as this gives laboratories plenty of notice in advance of a training session. The Committee discussed ensuring that the training meets the current needs of the industry to increase participation. It was further suggested that due to a lack of space for training in many laboratories, it could be beneficial to partner with a laboratory during the meetings to offer a training day.

Recommendation: The Committee agreed to collect data on what training is currently required through a training survey and request that each laboratory list the training available at its location.

6. AAFCO CERTIFIED LABORATORY PROGRAM

On a motion made by Josh Arbaugh and seconded, it was resolved to create a working group for the Recognized Laboratory Program. Motion carried.

The work group volunteers included Denice Mittelstaedt (NM), Melisa Nichols (MO), and Molly Peters (Tyson).

It was noted that having a “certified” laboratory program was an idea that required further exploration, and the Committee was asked if there was interest in pursuing a work group to investigate the project. The program would examine having laboratory abilities publicly available to provide a centralized location to determine which laboratories could complete a method required by a regulator or other interested party.

The Committee discussed how this would differ from the existing PT program, and it was noted that the testing results would be available publicly. It was further discussed that chemists would need to be “certified,” as a laboratory is only as good as its people. The need for confidentiality was discussed and it was noted that the program would be opt-in so that laboratories and chemists would know what would be made public prior to joining the program. The Committee discussed the resources that would be required along with the costs associated with running a second program. Concerns were raised about the possibility of duplicating work from the PT program as well as the legal issues with providing certification.

It was noted that if the program could provide a “stamp” of approval rather than a “certification,” this could be beneficial financially both for the laboratory and for AAFCO. It may also encourage more participation in the PT program. The Committee suggested the use of the word “recognition” rather than “certification.” It was further noted that the new program was not intended to replace the ISO certification but instead to supplement it by showing which laboratories do well with a method although they do not have ISO certification. It was also suggested to link laboratories to their accreditation site to indicate what test can be performed.

It was noted that APHL provides a map to members of laboratories, but this does not include the methods run in each laboratory and the information would be beneficial.

7. PATHOGEN TESTING

The Committee discussed the use of microlabs, and the methods generally used for pathogen testing. It was noted that there are FDA and USDA-FSIS methods that are approved. The laboratories that are involved with pathogen testing are more than willing to share their methods and information on completing testing accurately. The cost of test kits range between \$800 and \$2,000, depending on the method used. Many laboratories work with Public Health to complete pathogen testing as Public Health has the appropriate equipment available.

The Committee discussed training for pathogen testing and it was agreed that Hygiene provides very good training. The multi-testing methods for verifying PCR testing was discussed in detail.

8. UPDATE ON AUGUST 2024 ACTION ITEMS AND AAFCO STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

This item was not discussed.

9. WORKING GROUP UPDATES – LMSC WG LEADS

9.1 Hemp

It was reported that the AAFCO Hemp Working Group had lost participants and was no longer functioning. A group at ASTM was continuing to complete work with hemp seed products. Difficulties were noted in the process as the FDA has lowered the tolerance from 10 ppm to 2 ppm and the standard deviation brings the tolerance back up to 10 ppm when the method is used to reach 2 ppm. A discussion was held on how to address this issue.

The ASTM methods were reviewed, and it was noted that the group is looking for volunteers to participate in method validations. The methods are currently undergoing triple blind testing. The Committee agreed that the Hemp Working Group could be dissolved and those who were previously involved could continue to volunteer with the ASTM group if they were still interested.

9.2 Metals

The Committee discussed the necessity to maintain the working group as there is no current participants list. The Committee agreed the Metals Working Group would include Michele Swarbrick (MN), Melanie Titley, and William Hoak (NY). Brian Dockins and Justin McKenney (Nestle-Purina) volunteered to be part of the metals working group.

9.3 Fat Soluble Vitamins

Ken Riter presented for the Fat Soluble Vitamins Working Group, noting that Robin Johnson is Co-Chair. The information on vitamin A will be presented at the annual general meeting. The information on vitamin D is awaiting method publication and will be reported on as soon as this is confirmed with Dr. Lee from Texas State Chemists. The working group's goal is to continue to have methods with multi-laboratory validation. There have been some obstacles due to the need for a large sample size to test fat-soluble vitamins.

9.4 Mycotoxins

It was noted that Leo Schilling had chaired the Mycotoxins Working Group, and a best practice paper was in progress. The Committee agreed that the working group was no longer required, and the best practice paper would be forwarded and reviewed.

9.5 Moisture

On a motion made by Josh Arbaugh, seconded by David Snell, it was resolved to accept the paper presented by the Moisture Working Group for adoption and that it be posted on the LMSC webpage under Best Practices. Motion carried.

Lawrence Novotny presented the findings from the Moisture Working Group. It was noted that there had originally been only an approved method for semi-moist food and extraction was run on dry, wet, and semi-moist food to determine if and how the method could be used for all three. The study concluded that semi-moist food could continue to be reliably extracted at 30 minutes, dry food should be extracted overnight, and wet food could be extracted using either method. The paper was recommended for adoption.

It was reported that Lawrence Novotny would be stepping down as Chair of the working group and the Committee was asked for volunteers to assume the position if there is interest in continuing the work.

9.6 Microbiology

There was no clear task for the Microbiology Working Group, and it would thus be dissolved.

9.7 Drug Residues

The Drug Residues Working Group had no clear task and the previous description was overly broad. It was further noted that state feed laboratories do not have the ability to run the methods in use. The Committee agreed the working group would be dissolved.

9.8 Dietary Fiber

It was reported that the original task of the Dietary Fiber Working Group had been completed and the Committee discussed whether the working group should continue. It was noted that there is a need to be able to reproduce results within and between laboratories and this could

be linked to a best practice paper or sample testing. The Committee discussed the need for inclusion of sugar testing, and it was noted that regulators do not require sugars on labels.

The working group was tasked to explore the creation of a baseline bias for all laboratories to use. The working group previously included Naomi High (NC), Lars Reimann (Eurofins), Ken Riter (PFI NPAL), David Snell, and Josh Arbaugh (WV) and will be reestablished.

9.9 QA/QC

David Snell reported that he had served as Chair for the QA/QC Working Group, and the purpose was to update the QA/QC guidelines. The guidelines need to be updated to meet the ISO standards because some laboratories are allowed to follow QA/QC or ISO. Brenda Snodgrass provided a history of the previous guideline updates. David Snell agreed to remain the Chair of the working group. Denice Mittelstaedt and Erik Pearson volunteered to help update the guidelines.

9.10 Toxins

On a motion made by Josh Arbaugh, seconded by Rebecca Moseley, it was resolved to create an Emerging Hazards Working Group. Motion carried.

The Committee discussed the need for a working group to explore emerging hazards, including drug residues and adulterants. The task of the working group would be to compile existing methods that would be easily accessible if they became necessary for use. The Committee discussed what would be considered an emerging hazard and agreed that these could include a variety of things including pesticides and industrial waste but would not be limited in scope.

The working group was tasked with creating a living document of emerging hazards and the available methods for testing. The working group will include Lars Reimann (Eurofins), Denice Mittelstaedt (NM), and Josh Arbaugh (WV).

9.11 Ash

It was reported that an Ash Working Group had been created but had not yet met. Brenda Snodgrass noted that documents had been acquired by the previous working group and these documents would be shared with the new working group.

The working group was tasked with providing definitions for the terms for ash as listed in feed. The working group volunteers include Josh Arbaugh (WV) and David Snell.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Lab Safety – HPAI Testing

The Committee was asked if laboratories are taking extra safety precautions when testing for HPAI. The majority of laboratories responded that normal decontamination protocols are being followed until the testing is occurring on splash hazard samples. Splash hazard samples were noted to include raw milk. Further PPE and decontamination protocols are followed in these situations. It was further noted that the risk of HPAI making it into a laboratory in feed remains relatively low, however sample size does impede proper testing at times.

11. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 2:35 p.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.

Committee member

Committee member

Date

Date