



Education & Training Committee Report

2025 AAFCO Annual Meeting

Wednesday, August 6, 2025, 8:00 AM (CT), Omaha, NE

Committee Recommendations

ETC recommends approval of the updated AAFCO Model Training Documents from the BOD and to make them available to all AAFCO members.

Board Recommendations

None.

Committee Participants

Members Present: Daniel Zangari (Chair) – CO, Marissa Kost (Vice-Chair) – NC, Blaine Brown – IN, *Vanessa Capiz – AZ, Holly Jewell – SC, Tiffany Leschishin – MN, Samantha Moran-Defty – CA, Jo Lynn Otero – NM, Jim True – KY, *Pablo Viramontes – NM, Tim Weigner – Life Member

Advisors Present: Bill Bookout – APPA & NASC, Dr. Berit Foss – NGFA, Pat Tovey – PFI, Amy Tryon – PFI

Virtual Attendees: Bethany McAnulty – TN, Kate Nelson – CT, Taliaa Pendergrass – MO, Shaness Thomas – FL

Others Present or Virtual: Adam Betman – FDA (virtual), Jenny Combs – KY, Jessica Gore – NC, Leah Wilkinson – AFIA, Landon Kidd – UT, Amanda Anderson (virtual) – AFIA

***New members for this meeting.**

Committee Report

Committee Activities

ACTION: To forward the revised AAFCO Model Training documents to the Board of Directors for consideration and approval.

MOTION: “I move to send up to the Board of Directors” Samantha Moran-Defty, CA/Second: Jim True, KY — passes

Subcommittee Activities

None.

Committee Minutes

Dan Zangari, Chair, having a quorum, called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM (CT). Introductions were made, and attendance was taken. Agenda item modifications and removals were mentioned.

Training Availability Updates

- FDA OTED Training Update
 - Dan Zangari, CO, reported that the FDA training OTED program will be updated by August 29, 2025, and finalized by the end of December 2025. Plans call for transitioning to a new website address for OTED.
- AAFCO Basic Inspector Training Seminar (BITS) Update – Blaine Brown, IN
 - 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.
 - Future BITS locations have not been determined. Blaine Brown, IN, recommended reaching out to him with a need or a desire to be a host state.
- AAFCO Advanced Inspector Training Seminar (AITS) Update – Jessica Gore, NC
 - AITS 2025 – June 2-6, 2025 (Savannah, GA)
 - AITS 2025 took place June 2-6, 2025, at the Bryce Hotel in Savannah, Georgia. Jessica Gore noted that this year's seminar included environmental monitoring training and suggested offering the same option again in the future. The seminar attracted 36 attendees from nine states. South Carolina plans to host the next seminar during the first two weeks of June 2026. The exact date and location will be announced later.

Sub-Committee Updates

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



- Jenny Combs, KY, reported that the seminar was a success. Topics covered included inspections and program management. Connecticut will host the next seminar in May 2026 and 2027, with a specific location to be determined and announced later.

Workshop Calendar Request Updates

- Annual 2025 (Omaha, NE) – Pet & Specialty Pet Food Labeling Workshop Update – Tiffany Leschishin - MN
 - 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).
 - Tiffany Leschishin, MN, reported that all goals of the recent Pet Food Labeling Workshop were met with 75 attendees.

Workgroup Updates

- AAFCO Model Training Documents – Samantha Moran-Defty, CA (WG Lead)
 - Members: Jessica Gore, Bethany McAnulty, 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 completed their review of the training document. On a motion made by Samantha Moran-Defty, CA, and seconded by Jim True, KY, it was resolved to forward the AAFCO model training documents to the Board of Directors for consideration. Motion carried.
 - The documents will be available on the website after approval by the Board.

New Business

- IFSS RLTS Status Update:
 - Adam Batman of the FDA described the collaborative training opportunities available through FDA's IFSS aimed at ensuring a safe and secure food system. Recently introduced under IFSS and now being rolled out is the Regulatory and Laboratory Training System (RLTS). RLTS is designed to provide training opportunities on an on-demand and nationwide basis. Currently, RLTS is undergoing testing to determine how it can be coordinated with other FDA systems. A full launch is expected in the coming months. Alongside RLTS efforts, the FDA will continue working within the OTED framework. Adam Batman reported that RLTS has a communications component to keep partners informed and promote transparency. It also includes a market analysis system. The goal of RLTS is to deliver consistent and standardized training. The training records are meant to follow professionals throughout their careers. Trainers, including training companies, will receive competency and quality scores within the RLTS.
- Continuing Education & Scholarships Workgroup:
 - Marissa Kost, NC, invited attendees to suggest content training ideas that AAFCO could offer after AITS and BITS. One attendee recommended feed mill inspection training. The Committee discussed sending out a survey to gauge interest in new training and gather feedback on how the training is being delivered. It was suggested to include information in training documents that explains "why" each issue is important.
 - Members of the Continuing Education Work Group were recognized. The need for more members and a leader was highlighted. The goal is to hold the group's first meeting in September 2025.

Adjourn 9:04 AM (CT).

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. Send to BOD for AAFCO membership vote.	Voted to send to BOD. COMPLETE
WG(s): Dan Zangari, Tim Weigner, Jim True, Marissa Kost, Ashlee-Rose Ferguson*, Kate Nelson, Taliaa Pendergrass, Tory Woods, Julie Berry*, Kevin Klommhaus, Wendy Powell*, Holly Jewell, Berit Foss, Ryan Morgan* *Non-ETC member	Continuing Education & Scholarships	Choose a lead and begin discussions regarding charge(s) from the work group(s). 1. Implement something to follow BITS and AITS as regular AAFCO business. 2. Refer development of AAFCO course on feed regulation & inspection for formal ag institutions to use in their curriculum to Board for consideration.	Midyear 2026 – update on WG(s) progress
WG: Kimberly Hull (lead), Marissa Kost, Kevin Klommhaus, Jennifer Godwin, <u>Jacob Fleig</u>	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).	Midyear 2026
WG: Marissa Kost, <u>George Ferguson</u> , Jo Lynn Otero, Jim True, <u>Jacob Fleig</u> , Danielle Borchert	Leadership Training	1. UPDATE: Paused pending outcome of IFSS/RLTS outcome. 2. ON HOLD 3. ON HOLD 4. ON HOLD 5. ON HOLD	ON HOLD – 2026 (launch expected)
WG: Nathan Price, Kate Nelson, <u>Erie Brady</u> , <u>Scott Absher</u> , 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.	December 2025 – eVote
WG: TBD	RLTS Course Evaluations	Score OTED courses applicable for feed inspections (VM courses and courses required for contract inspections), BITS and AITS for alignment with the RLTS curriculum standards. After self-assessment, submit the score sheets for verification. Q-Score sheet available; C-Score sheet being developed.	TBD
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.	COMPLETE