

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

**MINUTES OF THE ANIMAL FEED COMMITTEE MIDYEAR MEETING
HELD AT THE NEW ORLEANS MARRIOTT
555 CANAL STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
JANUARY 21, 2026, 8:00 A.M. CT**

MEMBERS:

Jamie Good
(Co-Chair)
Jessica Gore
(Co-Chair)
Bailey Whiten (via
teleconference)
Dave Edwards

Amy Penot
Justin Hill
Dragan Momcilovic
(via teleconference)
Lizette Beckman
KC Gutenberger

Jamie Spencer
Jordan Mancini
Charles Hubenka
Ryan Morgan
Trish Dunn

ADVISORS:

Bill Bookout
Charles Starkey
Cathy Alinovi (via
teleconference)

Chris Olinger
Berit Foss
Patrick Foley
Patrick Tovey
Dan Frank

Renee Streeter
Emily Helmes
Stephanie Adams

GUESTS:

Lori Goshert

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 8:02 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND ADVISORS

A roll call of members and advisors was conducted.

3. WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jamie Good welcomed the new Committee members and advisors.

4. UPDATED CHARGE/PURPOSE STATEMENT

Jamie Good read the updated purpose statement, highlighting the goal to promote structure and consistency within the industry.

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Non-Structural Carbohydrates Expert Panel Update

A task force has been formed to select expert panel members: five members from academia and five members from industry. The members of the task force are Dave Edwards, Trish Dunn, Louise Calderwood, Jackie Lissolo. The task force has identified more than five members of the regulated industry for the expert panel but is seeking additional academic members from land-grant universities. Interested parties should contact the task force members. Priority will be given to candidates with laboratory experience and/or experience with horses.

5.2 Feed Through Pesticides Label Workgroup

The Feed Through Pesticides Label Workgroup last met on December 11, 2025. The smaller feed group will meet in February, 2026, and the whole workgroup will meet in March or April, 2026. There have been delays due to the recent U.S. government shutdown, as the Workgroup relies on federal partners.

During the December 11, 2025, meeting, there was a discussion regarding whether medicated feed would need to be state-registered as a pesticide; those knowledgeable about pesticides said it would not. If animal feed contains pesticides, it should be indicated on the label so that feed inspectors can easily see it. It was noted that information regarding tolerances and species should be listed in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Currently, no restricted-use pesticides are approved for feed.

The Workgroup plans to draft a decision tree and further discuss what should be done if a commercial brand of feed is found to be medicated.

5.3 Third-Party Audit Data Workgroup

The Third-Party Audit Data Workgroup met on December 16, 2025. Jessica Gore reported that the Workgroup decided to first survey states enrolled in the Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards (AFRPS) on whether they use or would use third-party audit data and which kind of data they would prefer, as they use a risk-based approach. She suggested launching the survey during a face-to-face meeting to obtain a broad range of feedback.

5.4 Required Guarantees for Formula Poultry Feeds

On a motion made by Jamie Spencer, seconded by Jordan Mancini, it was resolved to accept the Required Guarantees for Formula Poultry Feeds Workgroup report. Motion carried.

Charles Starkey reported that the Required Guarantees for Formula Poultry Feeds Workgroup is working to address outdated language regarding stages of life and ways of supplementing poultry. In standards and on labels, animal classes such as starter, grower, finisher, and layer are tied to the age of the bird. This is problematic because poultry genetics have changed over time, there is variation between poultry species, and there are differences between backyard flocks and poultry on commercial farms. The Workgroup would like to create broader internal nomenclature that allows for flexibility and does not specify age in days.

It was noted that language regarding feed for other types of animals may need to be reviewed, as their genetics have changed as well. Cathy Alinovi and Dave Edwards expressed agreement, noting that a workgroup may need to be created for this purpose. Dave Edwards

suggested consulting FDA's Guidance For Industry 191, Appendix 3, regarding classes of animals.

5.5 Criteria for Labeling Nutritional Indicators

Jamie Good noted that additional volunteers are needed for the Criteria for Labeling Nutritional Indicators Workgroup. Mr. Good proposed this criteria can be used for all species, livestock and pets. Mr. Good will work to have a report to present to the committee by the annual meeting. Anyone interested in joining the Workgroup should contact Jamie Good or Jessica Gore.

5.6 Comprehensive Feed Labeling Guide Update

On a motion made by Jamie Spencer, seconded by Trish Dunn, it was resolved to accept the Comprehensive Feed Labeling Guide Workgroup report. Motion carried.

ACTION – Lizette Beckman will add the updated table of contents to the Committee report and the Bin.

Lizette Beckman reported that the Comprehensive Feed Labeling Guide Workgroup has been reviewing the labeling guide to determine what needs to be updated or changed. The Workgroup has reviewed the table of contents, discussed the best layout, added new topics, and changed some headers. She requested the Committee's feedback regarding whether the Workgroup should update its charge. She suggested that the Workgroup add new examples for topics such as microorganisms and enzymes to the guide's content.

It was suggested that the Workgroup's new charge be to review the glossary and develop content. Anything that is updated in the guide or the OP needs to be updated in other manuals to ensure consistency.

The Workgroup has also discussed the addition of extra labels, enzymes as ingredients, and the appearance of finished feed labels.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Strategic Plan – Develop and Retain Animal Feed Regulators (Regulatory and Lab), Including Training Resources

As part of the 2026 to 2030 strategic plan, the Committee has been assigned the tasks of exploring and creating a roadmap for members to reach out to academic institutions and promote their regulation and lab programs, and of developing supporting materials and templates. A workgroup will be formed to achieve these objectives and present progress by the 2027 annual meeting. The Animal Feed Committee will lead the effort, with the support of the Education and Training Committee and Current Issues and Outreach Committee.

Jessica Gore agreed to lead the new workgroup and invited others to contact her if they wished to join. Jamie Spencer agreed to join.

6.2 Enzyme Marketing Coordination Workgroup

Emily Helmes reported that during the Ingredient Definitions Committee meeting, Marissa Kost noted that the Enzyme Marketing Coordination Workgroup was addressing a lack of clarity between model bill regulations and pet food regulations regarding when the enzyme unit meaning or definition is required to appear on the label. She suggested that the Workgroup investigate whether it is legally required.

Marissa Kost noted that the Ingredient Definitions Committee should review the Workgroup report before deciding where the Workgroup best fits. Members of the Animal Feed Committee, Pet Food Committee, and Model Bills and Regulations Committee should participate. Emily Helmes agreed to join. It was noted that there may be overlap between the objectives of the Enzyme Marketing Coordination Workgroup and the Comprehensive Feed Labeling Guide Workgroup, and that the workgroups should coordinate.

7. REMINDERS

7.1 Medicated Feed Labeling Workshop

The Food and Drug Administration will lead a full-day medicated feed labeling workshop in San Diego on August 25, 2026, which is the day before the annual meeting.

8. PARKING LOT ITEMS

8.1 Selenium Inconsistencies

Labeling requirements for selenium are inconsistent, causing confusion in the industry. Animals have died from selenium toxicity. Louise Calderwood noted that the information regarding selenium in the OP is accurate but confusing, and editorial changes are needed for clarity. She offered to share a short synopsis on selenium that cites the OP and the CFR.

Jamie Good noted that he asked Ava, AAFCO's AI assistant, for information about selenium and was impressed with its answers. He suggested that this topic be included on the Committee agenda at the annual meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Trish Dunn, seconded by Jamie Spencer, and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 8:55 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

Animal Feed Committee
Poultry working group report

The working group has met and discussed the current text and descriptions included to define “Stages of growth” of poultry species within the model bill language. The charge of this working group was to try and provide revised language that allows regulators to ensure consumer understanding, and standards that allow for appropriate regulation. Additionally, this language should allow for flexibility for industry and the ability to better apply proper nutrient supplementation for the vast variety of growing poultry and the diversity of both rearing practices and genetic variances.

Some items raised during the discussions are the distinctions between integrated poultry operations and more personal poultry rearing that would include backyard, hobby, heritage breed production and other similar operations. Additional items discussed are the need for inclusion of broader terms to allow for the diversity in the production systems and genetics. This will need to align with the needs of regulators to enforce consumer protections and animal nutrition and welfare. Alignment of these pathways will be a necessary, and perhaps difficult task.

The working group will continue to address these needs and attempt to come up with additional language that appeals to all involved (industry, regulatory, consumer). Additionally, clear standards should be included that prevent the inability of regulators to protect consumers, and the industry to promote innovation and change, both without either being forced into scenarios that compromise the ability to further animal health and performance. Highlighted below are examples of current language that is either no longer correct, or limits the ability of producers to rear birds appropriately and can be confusing to consumers.

II. Required guarantees for Formula Poultry Feeds (Broilers, Layers and Turkeys)

a. Animal Classes

(1) Layer - Chickens that are grown to Produce eggs for food, e.g., table eggs

(a) Starting/Growing - From day of hatch to approximately 10 weeks of age.

(b) Finisher - From approximately 10 weeks of age to time first egg is produced. (Approximately 20 weeks of age).

(c) Laying - From time first egg is laid throughout the time of egg production.

(d) Breeders - Chickens that produce fertile eggs for hatch replacement layers to produce eggs for food, table eggs, from time first egg is laid throughout their productive cycle.

(2) Broilers - Chickens that are grown for human food.

(a) Starting/growing - From day of hatch to approximately 5 weeks of age.

(b) Finisher - From approximately 5 weeks of age to market, (42 to 52 days).

(c) Breeders - Hybrid strains of chickens whose offspring are grown for human food, (broilers), any age and either sex.

(3) Broilers, Breeders - Chickens whose offspring are grown for human food (broilers).

(a) Starting/Growing - From day of hatch until approximately 10 weeks of age.

(b) Finishing - From approximately 10 weeks of age to time first egg is produced, approximately 20 weeks of age.

(c) Laying - Fertile egg producing chickens (broilers/ roasters) from day of first egg throughout the time fertile eggs are produced.

(4) Turkeys

(a) Starting/Growing - Turkeys that are grown for human food from day of hatch to approximately 13 weeks of age (females) and 16 weeks of age (males).

(b) Finisher - Turkeys that are grown for human food, females from approximately 13 weeks of age to approximately 17 weeks of age; males from 16 weeks of age to 20 weeks of age, (or desired market weight).

(c) Laying - Female turkeys that are producing eggs; from time first egg is produced, throughout the time they are producing eggs.

(d) Breeder - Turkeys that are grown to produce fertile eggs, from day of hatch to time first egg is produced (approximately 30 weeks of age), both sexes.

b. Guaranteed Analysis for Poultry Complete feeds and Supplements (all animal classes)

(1) Minimum percentage of Crude Protein

(2) Minimum percentage of Lysine

(3) Minimum percentage of Methionine

(4) Minimum percentage of Crude Fat

(5) Maximum percentage of Crude Fiber

(6) Minimum and maximum percentage of Calcium

(7) Minimum percentage of Phosphorus

(8) Minimum and maximum percentage of Salt (if added)

(9) Minimum and maximum percentage of total Sodium shall be guaranteed only when total Sodium exceeds that furnished by the maximum salt guarantee

While the working group is hopeful that they can establish clearer recommendations with time, they also hope to provide a template to future efforts to revise language for other species that may also need revising.

Comprehensive Feed Labeling Guide
Workgroup update and proposed table of contents.

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