

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

**MINUTES OF THE PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT 555 CANAL STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
JANUARY 20, 2026, 2:15 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rebecca Moseley (Chair/AL)	Tai Ha (NE)	Josh Arbaugh (WV)
Teresa Rygiel (Chair/FL)	Naomi High (NC)	Deepika Curole (LA)
Gail Swinford (FDA)	Dominika Kondratko (CO)	

ADVISORS PRESENT:

Ken Riter (PFI NPAL)	Leo Schilling (Eurofins)	Berit Foss (NGFA)
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VIRTUAL ATTENDEES:

Andy Crawford (AAFCO)	Julie Berry (ME)	Melissa Nichols (MO)
Alexa Bombich (AAFCO)	William Hoek (NYS)	Robin Johnson (MT)
Frank Sikora (AAFCO)	Denice Mittlestaedt (NM)	Ametra Berry (GA)
Lars Reimann (AFIA Eurofins)		
Abbey Stieferman	Nancy Thiex (AAFCO Life)	Melanie Titley (CFIA)
Dancia Wu (IN)	Molly Peters (Tyson Foods)	Michele Swarbrick (MN)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Erik Pearson (NB)
Jordan Kiefer (NP Analytical Laboratories)
Ed Boice (Recording Secretary, Minutes Solutions Inc.; virtual)

1. CALL TO ORDER

There were a total of 42 participants including those who joined online. There being a quorum present, and adequate and proper notice of the meeting having been given, the meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion from Naomi High and seconded from Tai Ha, it was resolved to approve the agenda for the Proficiency Testing Program Committee meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Brenda Snodgrass, the PTP Program Manager, is on temporary leave of absence, and so agenda items led by her will not be discussed.

3. INTRODUCTIONS

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

4. PROGRAM LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

4.1 Quality Management System Update

Alexa Bombich explained surveillance assessment was postponed due to conflicting schedules and is currently being rescheduled. She is attempting to move the assessment to online. For quality documentation, the Committee has until May 2026 to change to the new standard. Alexa Bombich confirmed the documentation will be changed on time.

Since their last assessment, five non-conformities (2 lost shipments, 1 missing item, 1 DRW missing report, and 1 DRW incorrect label) were confirmed. All the non-conformities were rectified once Alexa Bombich was alerted to them.

4.2 Committee Membership Update

4.2.1 Updated Roster

The updated roster was not discussed.

4.2.2 New Statistician

ACTION – The Committee will release a notice about the new laboratory report card templates.

ACTION – Frank Sikora will add Result 1 and Result 2 to the laboratory report card and will replace the %RSD with standard deviation.

ACTION – Frank Sikora will start generating reports for the April samples.

It was announced that Andy Crawford will retire at the end of March. The committee thanked him for his excellent work and support for the committee and AAFCO over the many years.

Frank Sikora was introduced as the new statistician for the Committee. Frank Sikora is cross-training with Andy Crawford; he retired from the University of Kentucky in 2025; from 2014-2024 statistics with Magruder PT Program; started a hemp PT program in 2017; currently serving as statistician with AAPFCO Magruder PT; double majoring in math and statistics. April 15th will be first report that Frank produces.

Frank Sikora presented new laboratory report card templates, noting that the format of the template will change, but the analyses will remain the same. There are different report cards for ANALYTE and Method evaluations. Frank made some improvements to the reports, and he gave us a preview of the reports by analyte. Z scores have a red, orange, and green color. If number of data points is less than 6, then robust statistics cannot be used (color white). Teresa recommended we send out a notice to participating labs before April 15th. Frank and Andy have been working on the fit for purpose calculations. Frank and Andy are generating the same data on both reports.

Teresa asked if the accrediting body needed to be notified of the new format and if there is anything that needs to be added to the template to make it meet ISO requirements. Alexa Bombich confirmed that no additional information needed to be added to the template to meet accreditation requirements. Regarding whether any additions are needed since the new template is generated by a different program from the current template, she noted that they will need to document Frank Sikora's training on the PT program, and both programs show consistent results. Solomon asked if we could keep the header the same and use Lab Code instead of Lab Number. Naomi said she noticed that leading zeros were present before and

now they're not, which caused problems with her documents. Frank said he could fix the Lab Code to add the leading zeros. Melanie Titley noticed that Std. Dev. Is missing from the report. Kansas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Canada all would prefer Std. Deviation to %RSD.

5. **UPDATE ON AUGUST 2025 ACTION ITEMS**

This item was not discussed.

6. **2026 SUBSCRIPTION AND BUDGET UPDATES**

This item was not discussed.

7. **CUSTOMER FEEDBACK**

While Brenda was not here to provide any overview we did receive the following feedback during the meeting:

Naomi said Q3 report is missing on the website and the date/year got changed. Josh said FASS can fix the due dates.

Michele said Melanie and she had reached out to the PT program by email but received no response.

8. **LABORATORY UNGROUND FEED INGREDIENTS SAMPLE PREP STUDY UPDATE**

ACTION – Andy Crawford will post the Quarter 3 unground feed ingredients study results and correct the due dates.

ACTION – Nancy Thiex and Ken will meet to discuss a working group to analyze the unground feed ingredients study data.

Nancy Thiex shared that the fourth round is currently ongoing and should be complete around March 1, 2026. Ken Riter said there was a workgroup created to look at the Unground Feed Ingredient scheme data. After completion, the team will summarize the data and issue a final report. The final report should be completed before the Committee's August 2026 meeting. Dr. Foss asked about what ingredients were used in the unground ingredient sample prep – cracked corn, soybeans, sunflower seed, fish meal, whole rolled oats, zinc, salt, urea, lysine, selenium, and copper, etc. 400g per bag.

9. **ANALYTICAL VARIATION (AV) WORKGROUP UPDATE**

Josh Arbaugh noted the work group has not met since the Committee's previous meeting. He recapped what the group is working on. Josh said the AV workgroup would need to meet after the unground feed ingredient sample prep study concludes.

Ken Riter noted the variability of dietary fiber assessment will not be the same as crude fiber variability. There is no AV for dietary fiber. Method Code 014.02 based on AOAC 993.43 is not in the DRW. FASS action item. Frank said it's important for him to know if Method Codes are added. Between two to four laboratories are currently reporting dietary fiber.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Open Discussion

ACTION – Nancy Thiex will investigate if Round 2025-52 went through homogeneity testing and whether something was wrong with the sample.

ACTION – Frank Sikora and Andy Crawford will explore adding new standard deviations for the animal feed program and mineral program.

ACTION – The Committee will reach out to the laboratory for an answer regarding the testing status for Round 2025-24.

Ken Riter asked if states are testing for taurine in dry cat food. Only six laboratories total reported data.

Melanie Titley asked if the statistical approach for the animal feed program is different than the mineral program. Frank Sikora confirmed that the statistical approach is different for each program.

An attendee noted that the sample for Round 2025-24 was sent on December 15, 2025, but testing status is unclear.

Josh Arbaugh asked the Committee about their thoughts and interest in a microscopy PT screen. The topic came up in a board meeting he attended. Lars Reimann expressed approval of the technique, but previous attempts were discontinued due to a lack of participation. Melanie said that her organization performs microscopy, and she can connect the Committee with them. Lars said not many people participating so there's not a huge demand for it. Lars said it will be difficult to build it. Tai said it was a hot topic 30 years ago. Josh said he took a microscopy course at K-State.

Deepika Curole asked about adding a canned pet food sample to the Animal Feed scheme. The last time was 2014, 2018, and 2021. Josh said it could be an extra sample (optional to participate). Lars said the cost to purchase cans would be more costly for the program, but maybe leftover can be used for QRM. The Committee agreed to reach out to laboratories to gauge interest.

Michele had some questions about the homogeneity testing done on the minerals round 202552 – high Z scores on minerals. Nancy said she would have to go back and look through the files and get with Mo. Melanie questioned if the statistical approach were the same for the different schemes (mineral vs. animal). She would be in favor of adopting the same statistical approach used in the animal scheme for minerals if there is enough data available. Frank suggested we move to a more robust std. deviation as fit for purpose instead of Horwitz. Andy cautioned that clients could have conflicting concerns, so look for a process that gives you a 2% failure/red & 10% orange. When the numbers get close to the detection limit, that often messes up the data. Labs shouldn't report zeros.

Solomon suggested shipping earlier in December 2026. UKY lab only had 1 week to test before 12/15 due date.

Jordan Kiefer asked if there were any thoughts on adding Salmonella pet food to PT program schemes. Rebecca Moseley answered there is nothing available through AAFCO.

Deepika suggested AAFCO could survey labs interested in animal feed pathogens PT. Deepika suggested microscopy, dietary fiber, and pathogens. Michele suggested survey to see if interest in vet drugs. Josh said the director of your state labs received a long survey on lab network (yes/no) and testing capabilities. Josh said it went to the email contact listed in the OP. Deepika and Dominika volunteered to help with the AAFCO survey questions.

Distiller's association is working with ASTM to develop a standardized sample prep.

11. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was not scheduled.

12. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from Josh Arbaugh and seconded by Tai Ha and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 5:08 p.m.

DISCLAIMER

The above document 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