

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SERVICES (AHFSS)
MEAT, POULTRY AND EGG SAFETY BRANCH (MPES)
SHELL EGG ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 2022**

California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N St, Room 133
Sacramento, CA 95814

Item
No.

(1) ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Mr. Michael Abbott, Egg Quality Manager, Egg Safety and Quality Management (ESQM). A quorum was established at 10:03 a.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

David Will, Chair/Vice Chair
Michael Gemperle, Vice Chair/Chair
Mike Sencer, Hidden Villa Ranch
Kaliko Orian, Kaliko Farms
Glenn Hickman, Hickman Family Farms
Richard Breitmeyer, Public Member
John Bedell, Alternate
Frank Hilliker, Alternate
Cathy Roache, CACASA Representative, Non-Voting Member

INTERESTED PARTIES:

Debbie Murdock

CDEA:

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| Penny Arana | Michael Abbott |
| Dr. Annette Jones | Logan Bartley |
| Paul Roos | Casey Luna |
| Paula Batarseh | Dr. Elizabeth Cox |
| Marc Shaw | |

(2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

David Will asked SEAC to review the meeting minutes from December 7, 2021.

Motion #1: Mike Sencer made a motion to accept the minutes. Michael Gemperle seconded the motion. All members agreed with no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

(3) **BORDER STATION UPDATE**

Casey Luna introduced this update by stating that the Border Stations have been keeping track of the number of loads using the new proposed labeling requirement on the Bill of Lading. Additionally, he stated that the number of holds on egg loads have been very low.

It was inquired if Casey Luna knew the number of trucks that were inspected by Border Stations with the percentage of egg loads imported versus inspected. Casey Luna replied that he would create and provide a report stating those statistics for the next SEAC Board.

(4) **COMPLIANCE UPDATE**

Paul Roos showed a compliance document and briefed by exception, explaining that he expects the number of violations caused by unregistered handlers to increase due to non-renewals being done for the current year.

(5) **CERTIFIED FARMERS MARKET UPDATE**

Michael Abbott began this update by stating that this would likely be the last brief given for the cooperative agreement on the Certified Farmers Markets. Staffing management issues and the COVID-19 Pandemic have caused Inspection Services to not meet their obligations needed to conduct these inspections. Consequently, when CDFA attempted to renew the agreement, it was not signed. ESQM will be adjusting inspector schedules to account for the absence of external inspections and will increase presence in the farmers markets.

(6) **PROGRAM UPDATE**

Michael Abbot introduced this item by stating that the vacant Agricultural Program Supervisor II (APS II) would soon be listed to fill the vacancy. Additionally, there is a listing for a vacant Agricultural Program Supervisor I (APS I) and a listing for a vacant Environmental Scientist (ES).

Mr. Abbott continued that ESQM has been working on inspection protocols regarding Out of State producers that have both Cage Free and Caged eggs, to ensure that the eggs are being efficiently segregated and packaged correctly. Additionally, the program is making sure that the number of eggs brought into California does not exceed the number of eggs registered for Cage Free.

He continued that because of High-Path Avian Influenza (HPAI), ESQM is continuously monitoring and adjusting inspections as required. If the current outbreak continues or worsens, the program will transition to modified desk audits.

(7) **BRANCH UPDATE**

Paula Batarseh introduced this item by introducing Penny Arana as the new Staff Services Manager I (SSM I) for the Meat, Poultry, and Egg Safety Branch (MPES).

Further, she stated that the demonstration day for the Emergency Compost Course went well and that the course documents will be shared with the Board.

(8) DIVISION UPDATE

Dr. Annette Jones introduced this item by disclosing that HPAI was found in three states in the southeastern region of the United States. She stated that the concern over HPAI has heightened the awareness of the Animal Health Branch (AHB), and that they are determining if to proceed with more extensive biosecurity protocols in the State of California. Currently, the concern is mainly associated with live birds rather than eggs, however the import of unprocessed eggs from quarantined regions is something to keep an eye on going forward. Extensive quarantine protocols have not yet been put into effect, however CDFA is ready to act immediately if necessary.

Additionally, she stated that CDFA is starting up a new Canine Blood Bank Program, it is a new version based on legislation that passed last year. Currently, CDFA is looking to hire someone to run that program.

(9) PROPOSITION 12 DISCUSSION

Dr. Annette Jones began by stating that there are currently three ongoing lawsuits involving Prop 12. Additionally, she stated that the Animal Care Branch have reviewed the public comments from both comment periods and are currently going over additional legal review to determine whether changes need to be made to the regulations. If change is needed, there will be an additional public comment period.

However, they are moving forward as quickly as possible to put together the final regulatory package to submit to the Office of Administrative Law.

(10) COUNTY CONTRACT SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Motion #2: David Will motioned to approve the minutes for the January 12, 2022 County Contract Subcommittee Meeting. Mike Sencer seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

Michael Abbott introduced this item by recapping the County Contract Subcommittee Meeting, held on January 12, 2022. He stated that CDFA will continue exploring other options to bring more counties into contracts. The larger counties will still maintain more detailed agreements for the cost risk-based inspections. Further, it was proposed that the reimbursable mileage amounts should be increased, to compensate an increase in travel. CDFA discussed looking into an administrative rate for future agreements and will propose additional funding to SEAC. Additionally, CDFA will send out a survey to the counties to generate feedback on how to make it more desirable for counties to become involved and what can be done differently to facilitate increased county involvement. Furthermore, the program and some members of SEAC may participate in future County Deputy Commissioner meetings to expand outreach and to increase County involvement. CDFA will update the agreements with some of the changes mentioned and will release further implementation details later.

The Counties discussed looking into the reimbursement rate per inspection to be a more comparable rate for the time it takes to travel to each retail location and complete the inspection. Currently the reimbursement rate per retail location is \$29.19, with only thirty minutes allowed for each location. It was stated that thirty minutes allotted for each location would not be sufficient to travel to each location and conduct an adequate

inspection. It was expressed by the counties that the classification of inspector and the rate for egg retail inspection does not justify the time, when other program inspections cover the inspectors at a much higher rate

(11) **BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

The Budget County/Contract Subcommittee will reconvene for further discussion regarding next fiscal years budget on March 18, 2022. The subcommittee will consist of Frank Hilliker as Chair, David Will, Michael Gemperle, and Glenn Hickman, all as voting members. Cathy Roache and Debbie Murdock will be non-voting members on the subcommittee.

Dr. Richard Breitmeyer and Mike Sencer were substituted for Glenn Hickman and Frank Hilliker, due to scheduling conflicts.

No motions were made.

(12) **ELECTIONS**

Motion #3: Mike Sencer motioned to appoint Michael Gemperle as Chair of the Shell Egg Advisory Committee for 2022, and to appoint David Will as Vice Chair. Frank Hilliker seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

(13) **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No Public Comments were made.

(14) **UPCOMING SEAC MEETING DATES**

The date of the SEAC Budget Subcommittee Meeting will be scheduled in March 2022; however, a finalized date has not been set.

The next Shell Egg Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 9AM via Zoom and at 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 for CDFA Employees only.

(15) **ADJOURN**

Motion #4: John Bedell motioned to adjourn the meeting. David Will seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.
Respectfully submitted:

Logan Bartley