

**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
APRIL 6, 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 9:08 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:

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

(2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Michael Gemperle asked SEAC to review the meeting minutes from February 16, 2022.

Motion #1: David Will made a motion to accept the minutes. Mike Sencer seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was issued to approve the minutes. All members agreed with no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

Michael Gemperle asked SEAC to review the meeting minutes from the March 18, 2022 County Contract Budget Subcommittee.

Motion #2: Glenn Hickman made a motion to accept the minutes. John Bedell seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was issued to approve the minutes. 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 are looking at all the egg loads coming into California and that they are checking the Bill of Ladings for compliance.

Casey Luna then gave the grand totals of imported loads coming into California by month: December 2021 had 2,249 loads, January 2022 had 2,160 loads, February 2022 had 1,768 loads and March 2022 had 2,134 loads.

The Board requested that CDFA provide the number of holds put onto egg loads imported into California. This information will be provided later.

Michael Abbott concluded that CDFA is working on tracking and catching trucks with illegal egg loads that avoid the Border Stations, when coming into California.

(4) **COMPLIANCE UPDATE**

Paul Roos showed a compliance document and briefed that not much has changed from the previous report, except for an increase in the number of violations caused by unregistered handlers.

Glenn Hickman inquired about the cumulative nature of violations on the penalty matrix. Michael Abbott explained that CDFA looks at the violations individually and takes all factors into consideration before deciding on a penalty.

It was expressed that the grading of cage-free eggs would be more difficult than caged eggs during the winter and that CDFA should take that into consideration when enforcing penalties for dirt.

The Board requested to review the entire penalty matrix at a future meeting and provide input on setting standards. In addition, there will be a subcommittee formed under this topic, after they discuss at the next meeting. In the meantime, the Board requested to review the current penalty matrix.

(5) **PROGRAM UPDATE**

Michael Abbott introduced this item by stating that SEAC will need to revert to in-person meetings because of the way Bagley-Keene is written. However, if SEAC prefers to continue meeting remotely, the Board Members would need to list the addresses of their meeting locations and have those locations be made available to the public.

Michael Abbott continued with the current vacancies within ESQM. Recently, ESQM was able to hire one Environmental Scientist (ES) and currently has a second vacant ES position listed for Southern California. He further explained that the Program will be conducting interviews for the vacant Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA) position, in one or two weeks.

(6) **BRANCH UPDATE**

Paula Batarseh introduced this item by stating that CDFA is keeping track of any bills or changes to Bagley-Keene, to ensure that everyone stays in compliance.

Ms. Batarseh continued by giving an update on the Emergency Compost Course in Tulare. She stated that the demonstration which included the construction of composting piles and a train the trainer component, went very well. It was a great opportunity for California to learn from national experts on composting, while building knowledge for future emergency and research projects. CDFA will continue to work with the University of Maine to monitor the constructed compost piles and will be collecting samples for future analysis.

Additionally, she gave an update regarding the Foster Farms Composting Project. She stated that they are finalizing some details on feed materials and processes with an expectation to start within one or two months.

The next SEAC Meeting will be presented in a hybrid format. Some members will attend virtually in a place accessible to the public and others will attend at CDFA Headquarters in Sacramento, California.

(7) **DIVISION UPDATE**

Dr. Annette Jones introduced this item by disclosing that High-Path Avian Influenza (HPAI) was found in twenty-four states, with 146 premises that have confirmed positive. She further explained that 104 of these premises are World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Commercial Poultry Producers. South Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota have the most cases of HPAI with Texas currently reporting an increase in cases. The largest confirmed facilities to have been infected are in Iowa: one had 5.3 million birds, the second had 5 million birds, and the third had 1.5 million birds. Delaware had one location with 1.1 million birds infected and Wisconsin had a facility with 2.8 million infected birds.

California currently is focusing on prevention, by working with the Border Stations to immediately put quarantines on risky products being imported into the state. The Border Stations have reported that they already have had a few shipments, including a load of fertilized eggs from Minnesota, put on hold. Other examples include, Nest Run eggs and Live Poultry Hack Chicks which they will also be tracking. In addition, they will verify the origins of loads to see if they are coming from controlled areas, before allowing entrance into California.

Concern was expressed about eggs being imported from Mexico, since the chickens have a vaccination that can extend the risk window of HPAI in those flocks. CDFA will communicate with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) since they are the entity that handles imports from other countries.

CDFA also has a drafted quarantine that can be put into effect in case HPAI is detected within California. If a truckload is moving through a controlled area, they would have increased requirements to move those eggs across the border.

She stated that through genome sequencing, USDA concluded that the virus is mutating and is becoming more transmissible among more species of wild birds. Currently, the virus is evolving to become less susceptible to chicken flocks and more susceptible to birds such as turkey, duck, and pheasants.

(8) PROPOSITION 12 DISCUSSION

Dr. Elizabeth Cox started this item by explaining that CDFA is still working on finalizing the documents required for the final rule-making package to submit to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). Additionally, the Attorney General's Office and the Governor's Office are working with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to make sure that they are okay with everything CDFA has put together regarding Proposition 12.

She stated that it is anticipated that CDFA will get signatures from those other agencies soon and then can submit everything to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). Once it goes to the OAL, they will have up to 120 days to review the finalized package.

A goal is to have everything finalized by the end of 2022

(9) BUDGET COUNTY CONTRACT SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Frank Hilliker reviewed the meeting minutes for the Budget County Contract Subcommittee and explained the budget distribution and forecast.

The program is currently drawing down the reserve funds and will continue to decrease every fiscal year, with a projected \$5,203,971 at the end of the FY 22/23 and a projected \$3,923,532 at the end of FY 23/24. The projected budget for FY 22/23 will be \$5,322,512. This will leave the Cash Reserve at an estimated \$5,203,971 as of June 30, 2023.

Motion #3: Glenn Hickman motioned to accept the budget as presented. David Will seconded the motion. There was a roll-call vote taken. There were no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

(10) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Debbie Murdock informed SEAC about the North Valley Task Force, and that they are holding a meeting in Modesto on April 28, 2022. She will send a notice to SEAC in case anyone would like to attend.

(11) UPCOMING SEAC MEETING DATES

The next Shell Egg Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 9AM via Zoom and at 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

(12) ADJOURN

Motion #4: Mike Sencer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Lupe Gutierrez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Logan Bartley