

**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  
DECEMBER 7, 2021**

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 10:05 a.m.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

David Will, Chair  
Michael Gemperle, Vice Chair  
Mike Sencer, Hidden Villa Ranch  
Steve Mahrt, Petaluma Farms  
Andrew Demler, Demler Brothers  
Kaliko Orian, Kaliko Farms  
Lupe Gutierrez, NuCal Foods  
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	Ross Dean
Diana Sparks	Bill Starterman

**CDFA:**

Penny Arana	Michael Abbott
Dr. Annette Jones	Logan Bartley
Paul Roos	William Rohner
Paula Batarseh	
Tuan Nguyen	

**(2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

David Will asked SEAC to review the meeting minutes from October 12, 2021.

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

(3) **BORDER STATION UPDATE**

Keith Morris introduced this update by presenting the history of the Border Station program and explained the role border stations have in the Industry and Program.

Mr. Morris stated that for 2021, the total shipments into California amounted to 24,758. Further, he explained that the Border Station program is continually hiring and that they have multiple vacancies for permanent positions. Because of the implementation of Proposition 12 beginning in 2022 and the addition to liquid and egg products being regulated through Border Stations, it is expected to increase workload for the stations around California.

David Will inquired if there was any way for the Board and Industry to assist the Border Station program in preparing for the implementation of Proposition 12. Mr. Morris replied that the Border Station program would determine areas that they could use assistance and follow up with the ESQM program on that topic.

(4) **PROGRAM UPDATE**

Michael Abbott introduced this item by explaining that the ESQM program has been working on meeting Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards in front of the 2022 implementation. ESQM has also been working on the transition to cage-free by reaching out to those in the industry who have enclosures to see if they will be transitioning to cage-free. He stated that ESQM is focusing their efforts to be prepared for the gap at the beginning of the year when Proposition 12 regulations are in place and when the regulations will be finalized.

ESQM has also been improving Shell Egg Food Safety (SEFS) Inspections and increasing the amount of outreach and opportunities to educate farms in egg safety.

Further, he continued that the documents for the County Contracts Subcommittee are still being prepared. In addition, the documents for the FY 2022-2023 Budget Subcommittee Meeting are still being prepared.

(5) **BRANCH UPDATE**

Paula Batarseh gave an update about the Research Project for Composting Poultry Mortalities with Foster Farms. She explained that Foster Farms has acquired all the permit approvals from the different regulatory agencies to begin the project. However, Foster Farms decided to hold off on starting until May 2022 at which time, they will be receiving carcasses for the study.

She stated that the Meat, Poultry, and Egg Safety Branch (MPES) is working on an Emergency Composting Training, on February 15, 2022, that includes an observation module. This module will be constructing composting piles and accepting livestock and poultry materials. Then, on March 22-24 there will be a training session on composting. She extended the invitation to the Shell Egg Advisory Committee (SEAC).

**(6-7) DIVISION UPDATE/PROPOSITION 12 DISCUSSION**

Dr. Annette Jones introduced this item by stating that the Animal Health and Food Safety Services Branch (AHFSS) published their revised regulations for a 15-day comment period, ending on December 17, 2021. After the public comment period, AHFSS will review any comments made and possibly make further changes to the regulation. If they make changes that are substantive, there will be another 15-day comment period. Otherwise, if there are not any changes made, they will finalize the regulations and publish and submit it to the Office of Administrative Law for their review. The Office of Administrative Law has up to 30 days to review.

For any questions regarding Proposition 12 implementation, contact the Animal Care Program or Dr. Elizabeth Cox.

**(8) COUNTY CONTRACT AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

David Will stated that the County Contract Subcommittee was not able to meet due to conflicting schedules. However, it was reassured that the subcommittee would meet before the next SEAC Meeting.

**(9) STAFFING LEVEL/POSITIONS AND VACANCIES**

Michael Abbott stated that ESQM currently has a vacant Agricultural Program Supervisor I (APS I) position in the Northern Area and are currently waiting on a suitable applicant. Further, the Agricultural Program Supervisor II (APS II) from the Northern Area is going to be transitioned to a Senior environmental Scientist (SES). After the transition, the vacant APS II position will be listed. Additionally, the vacant Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA) position has already been listed and interviews will be conducted. Lastly, interviews for the vacant Agricultural Technician II (Ag Tech II) have been conducted.

**(10) MONTHLY IN-STATE EGG TOTALS REPORT DISCUSSION**

Michael Abbott introduced the November 2021 Out-of-State Egg Shipments Report to SEAC. This report shows how many egg shipments were imported into California during the month of November 2021.

Further, he presented a report that would total the number of Eggs and Egg Cases that were either imported and/or sold into the State of California.

Both reports will be submitted monthly to SEAC.

**(11) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

**(12) UPCOMING SEAC MEETING DATES**

The next SEAC meeting will be held on February 16, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom and at 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 for California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) employees.

(13) **ADJOURN**

**Motion #2:** Glenn Hickman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Steve Mahrt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Logan Bartley