

**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)**
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
January 17, 2018

California Department of Food and Agriculture
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 267
Sacramento, CA 95833

Item

No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

Mr. David Will, Chair, called the SEAC meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and a quorum was established.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Tony Herrera, Egg Quality Manager, Egg Safety and Quality Management (ESQM).

Committee Members Present:

David Will, Chair
Michael Gemperle, Vice Chair
Andrew Demler, Delmer Bros.
Kaliko Orian, Kaliko Farms
Wayne Winslow, NuCal Foods
Steve Mahrt, Putaluma Farms
Dr. Richard Breitmeyer, Public Member
Richard Jenkins, Alternate

Committee Members Absent:

Glenn Hickman, HFF
Michael Sencer, Hidden Villa Ranch

Interested Parties:

Mark Campbell

CDFA:

Dr. Annette Jones
Paula Batarseh
Tony Herrera
Paul Roos
William Rohner
Kathrine Azarvand
Rosie Chadaris
Michelle Pham

Adrian Gilis

(3) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

Chair Will had the committee review the minutes from the September 5, 2017 meeting. The following changes were made:

- A correction was made to the room number, reflecting room 267.
- The committee requested to capture more attendee information at Small Producer Workshops.

Motion #1: A motion was made by Vice Chair Gemperle to accept the minutes with the two corrections. Dr. Breitmeyer seconded. Mr. Demler, Mr. Winslow, Mr. Mahrt, Mr. Jenkins and Ms. Orian agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

(4) **SMALL PRODUCER WORKSHOP (S.P.W.) UPDATE**

Ms. Azarvand began by giving an overview of the seven workshops held in 2017. There are 12 planned for 2018. Ms. Azarvand gave a breakdown of cost, and local workshops are \$675.00, while overnight classes average \$1,923.00. This includes work time, travel time, materials, airfare, hotel, and per diem when applicable. The initial cost of purchasing materials was \$1,200.00. The continuous cost is estimated to be \$15.00 per class.

The committee suggested listing the dates of the upcoming workshops on the CDFA website to increase attendance. They also suggested providing the questionnaires at the beginning of the workshop to receive more feedback. The SEAC may provide additional questions to be added.

(5) **STATE WORKLOAD ANALYSIS***

Mr. Herrera began by referencing the workload justification analysis handout provided in the meeting packet (agenda item 5). He stated he had met with Mr. Bill Rohner, Ms. Jenna Celigija, Mr. Casey Luna, and Mr. Matt Stevens back in December to review the functions of the program and the staff hours to complete them. The analysis revealed the total employees needed to complete all the functions within the program is 19 field staff. Currently there are eight. The increase in workload is partially because seven counties are no longer contracted to do egg inspections. The program is saving over \$300,000 by not contracting with those counties.

Mr. Herrera continued by stating the analysis clearly showed additional staff is needed to complete daily functions of the inspection portion within program. He stated he would like to add at least two Agricultural Technicians to the Southern district to assist in retail inspections, as well as Fruit and Vegetable Quality Control Inspectors, and lastly an Environmental Scientist positions. He feels that would provide adequate staffing.

A budget sub-committee was formed that includes: Mr. Hickman as Chair, Mr. Gemperle, and Mr. Will. The will discuss the budget before the next meeting and give an update.

Motion #2: A motion was made by Mr. Jenkins to add two Agricultural Technician positions to the Southern district immediately. Vice Chair Gemperle seconded. Chair Will, Mr. Mahrt, Mr. Winslow, Mr. Breitmeyer, and Ms. Orian agreed. The motion passes unanimously.

(6) BORDER STATION UPDATE

Michelle Pham presented a power point which covered the following topics:

- The new Mountain Pass facility opening in Fall 2018
- Number of vehicles passing through the border stations annually
- Digital images of types of pests

Along with the power point presentation, Ms. Pham informed the committee the border station program holds monthly meetings and continuous training to meet the demands of the border stations. A copy of the power point containing the 2017 figures will be provided to the committee.

(7) INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

Mr. Roos stated currently there are 30 open investigations. They include violations for unregistered shippers and labeling issues. Of the 30 cases, 11 were added since October. The cases include Notice of Violations, but does not include retail inspections. Most of the cases are being developed by information provided by the border stations. Some information to be provided at the next meeting are:

- Criteria to become a “case”
- Tracking process of Notice of Violations issued
- Process flowchart

(8) PROGRAM UPDATES

Mr. Herrera provided the committee with the following updates:

- A public records request made by the Missouri Attorney General’s office concerning the previously filed lawsuit. They are requesting the Supreme Court to review the previous dismissal. The public records request is for every document pertaining to Shell Egg Food Safety (SEFS) inspections performed out of state. It is due to CDFA’s Legal Office at the end of January.
- A second public records request was made pertaining to a producer in Southern California who was taken to court last year for violating Proposition 2. A request for any violations with the ESQM program was made.
- Ms. Jenna Celigija from ESQM and Mr. Ron Nicholas from USDA are currently meeting with the Alameda District Attorney’s staff for guidance on labeling claims.
- Mr. Herrera will be in Atlanta at the end of the month attending the IPPE meeting as well as National Egg Quality School (NEQS). He will also be in Seattle February 24 through the 28, attending the National Egg Regulatory Officials meeting.
- NEQS will be held in Indianapolis this year, the week of May 21st.
- Mr. Herrera informed the committee he plans to retire July 20, 2020.

(9) SEAC ALTERNATE VACANCY

A vacancy on the SEAC has yet to be filled. Mr. Herrera asked the committee to contact industry individuals who may be interested in serving and have them provide a resume to the ESQM program via email.

(10) BRANCH UPDATES

Ms. Batarseh began by discussing a succession plan once Mr. Herrera nears retirement. She plans to reassess his position and possibly reclassification to ensure all program's needs are met. Additionally, Ms. Batarseh stated she is working with the branch to improve efficiency within the programs, including Lead training. She is working on strategic planning for the upcoming year, and implementing the training that was previously conducted. She also wants to improve technology, including querying reports.

(11) DIVISION UPDATES

Dr. Jones informed the committee they are restructuring the Department to include more Environmental Scientist classifications as program leads. Additionally, the division is working on the strategic planning for the upcoming year.

(12) PUBLIC COMMENTS

M.s Orain began by discussing issues found at the farmers markets in her area. Some of the issues are:

- Companies not providing proof of claims of value added eggs (higher omega, organic feed, etc.)
- Regulations are not followed at farmers markets
- Lack of registration of companies selling
- Average eggs sales at farmers markets collect \$680,000 annually in eggs sales
- Numerous labeling claims are being observed at farmers markets and no violations are being issued (no SEFS statement, no size and grade, no address)
- No refrigeration of eggs. Mr. Herrera stated the refrigeration issue is regulated by the Department of Public Health.
- Dirty eggs are found
- Possibly have the manager of the Certified Farmers Market program at CDFA to give a presentation at an upcoming meeting
- Provide the rules of selling at a farmer's market to provide to the SEAC before the next meeting for review

(13) FUTURE SEAC MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The following items will be added to the next SEAC agenda:

- Budget discussion
- Farmer's market presentation

(14) UPCOMING SEAC MEETING DATES

The upcoming meeting has yet to be scheduled, but will be held in Sacramento.

(15) ELECTION OF SEAC CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR*

After discussion of the committee it was decided David Will would continue acting as Chair, and Mike Gemperle will continue acting as Vice Chair.

Motion #3: A motion was made by Vice Gemperle to keep Chair Will in his current position. Dr. Breitmeyer seconded. Mr. Mahrt, Mr. Winslow, Mr. Jenkins, and Ms. Orian agreed. The motion passes unanimously.

Motion #4: A motion was made by Chair Will to keep Vice Chair Gemperle in his current position. Dr. Breitmeyer seconded. Mr. Mahrt, Mr. Winslow, Mr. Jenkins, and Ms. Orian agreed. The motion passes unanimously.

(16) ADJOURN*

Chair Will asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion #5: Mr. Mahrt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Gemperle seconded. Mr. Jenkins, Ms. Orian, Mr. Mahrt, Dr. Breitmeyer and Mr. Winslow agreed. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Rosemerry Chadaris