

**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  
August 27, 2019**

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 10:01 a.m. and a quorum was established.

**(2) ROLL CALL**

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

**Committee Members Present:**

David Will, Chair  
Mike Gemperle, Vice Chair  
Michael Sencer, Hidden Villa Ranch  
Steve Mahrt, Petaluma Farms  
Kaliko Orian, Kaliko Farms  
Lupe Gutierrez, NuCal Foods  
Andrew Demler, Demler Brothers  
Glenn Hickman, Hickman Family Farms  
Dr. Richard Breitmeyer, Public Member  
Frank Hilliker, Alternate  
John Bedell, Alternate  
Ruben Arroyo, CACASA Representative, Non-Voting Member

**Interested Parties:**

Debbie Murdock	Tim Cohen
Stan Foster	Richard Jenkins
Mark Campbell	

**CDFA:**

Dr. Annette Jones	Laura Barlow	Kathryn Tockey
Dr. Stephen Beam	Holly Chang	Paul Roos
Tony Herrera	William Rohner	Jenna Celigija
Paula Batarseh	Michael Abbott	

(3) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Will asked SEAC to review the meeting minutes from June 5, 2019.

**Motion #1:** Mr. Demler made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Hickman seconded the motion. All members agreed with no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

(4) **PROPOSITION (PROP) 12 DISCUSSION**

Dr. Stephen Beam provided a brief update on the draft text for Prop 12 after receiving input from numerous stakeholders and groups that would be directly impacted by the new regulation. The draft text is currently under review with the CDFA's Legal Department.

There was a discussion on the timeline for implementing the regulation. Dr. Jones stated that they are in the stage of the rulemaking process which involves providing supporting documents and analyzing the economic impact of the regulation. The law will become effective on January 1, 2020.

Committee members asked to define the differences of each egg product that are being affected by the new regulation. Dr. Beam provided different examples of egg products and which would be covered under the new regulation. There was more discussion on certificate of movement and labeling.

There was further discussion on amending 3CCR 1350 regulations to be consistent with Prop 12. Dr. Jones explained the differences of animal welfare with Prop 12 and egg safety with CCR 1350.

Ms. Batarseh provided updates on the rulemaking process of Prop 12. There is a collaboration with UC Davis to draft an economic impact assessment that will address the cage size of the new regulation.

Chair Will inquired about the timeline to amending CCR 1350 as the industry only has a couple months to prepare for any necessary changes. Ms. Batarseh explained the different milestones in the rulemaking process and stated that she will keep industry members updated on any changes.

Any legal questions or suggestions regarding the new regulation can be directed to Dr. Jones and Dr. Beam.

(5) **ESQM STAFFING**

Mr. Herrera inquired for approval to hire a new personnel to replace the previous Office Technician, Tuan Nguyen, who was recently promoted to a Research Data Analyst. Mr. Nguyen's duties will now primarily focus on IT-related projects within the Program.

In addition, Mr. Herrera would like to hire an additional Agriculture Technician III to oversee retail reports and enforcement action at the Border Stations. Mr. Herrera explained that the estimated cost to the Program is around \$98,000 to hire the two new staff; the cost will cover salary and benefits.

There was a discussion to justify the current necessities of hiring a full-time Office Technician. Mr. Herrera explained that ESQM has hired seasonal staff in the past to assist with the duties and projects associated with the Office Technician position. Once the seasonal staff departs from their position due to their limited term, it creates a backlog.

**Motion #2:** Mr. Gemperle made a motion to approve the hiring of two new staff. Mr. Sencer seconded the motion. All members agreed with no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

**(6) BORDER STATION UPDATE**

Mr. Rohner provided a presentation on the enhanced Border Station enforcement program which included data regarding violations, hold orders, station activity, and training. The data collected was through July 2019.

Mr. Rohner reviewed Border Station trainings conducted in June 2019. Overall, training went well in both Northern and Southern Districts.

Chair Will inquired about the holding times and when eggs were released for shipment after a correction. Mr. Rohner advised that almost all shipments are released within 24-48 hours. The goal for the Border Station enforcement is to ensure that shipments comply with California standards.

Ms. Gutierrez asked Mr. Rohner about their process on verifying export locations. Mr. Rohner stated that they would personally email the company to verify the shipment's final destination. Mr. Herrera added that ESQM has a Financial Auditor that conducts audits to ensure that the information matches with the shipping documents.

**(7) ESQM COMPLIANCE UPDATE**

Ms. Batarseh presented the changes of the compliance tracking sheet. The penalty matrix is used to identify a violation and the corresponding penalty. Ms. Batarseh expressed her gratitude to Michael Abbott, Paul Roos, Andrew Halbert, and Kim Ellis for working on and updating enforcement procedures for Notice of Violations (NOV) and Notice of Proposed Action (NOPA).

Mr. Abbott provided an overview and asked committee members for future feedback on the revised compliance tracking sheet. There was a question and answer session on the different elements of the tracking sheet. Mr. Herrera suggested to add a section for hearings on the tracking sheet.

The intent of the enforcement within the Program has not changed; it is to ensure compliance with the regulations.

**(8) SUCCESSION PLANNING**

Chair Will and Mr. Gemperle previously discussed with Ms. Batarseh and Dr. Jones the committee's concerns regarding the changes that will come from Prop 12. There was a discussion regarding the desired qualifications and job duties for a future ESQM management position with a focus on Prop 12 integration functions. There was more discussion on potentially differentiating titles within the Program.

**Motion #3:** Mr. Mahrt made a motion to approve the direction in the succession planning in hopes that there is a set budget. Mr. Demler seconded the motion. All members agreed with no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

**(9) SMALL PRODUCER WORKSHOP (SPW) UPDATE**

Ms. Tockey provided a presentation on updates for Small Producer Workshop (SPW) which included a brief overview of the workshop's objectives and statistics. One of the main challenges SPW has run into is low attendance which has led to a couple of SPWs being cancelled in the past. Ms. Tockey implored the SEAC members to suggest ideas on increasing attendance rates.

Ms. Orian suggested to hold SPW during the weekends instead of weekdays. To further increase outreach to the public, SEAC members also recommended holding webinar sessions for individuals who cannot physically attend workshops. Ms. Murdock proposed that SPW coordinators collaborate with different organizations to increase outreach depending on the target audience.

There was a discussion about potentially offering continued education or certification through SPW. Mr. Herrera would like to have one of ESQM's Environmental Scientists, Melissa Vasquez, to present about sanitation at the next SEAC meeting in hopes to incorporate this educational piece into future SPWs.

Chair Will advised to collect data from the upcoming workshops and ask if attendees would prefer having future workshops during the evening, weekend, or through webinar training.

**(10) CERTIFIED FARMERS MARKET (CFM) UPDATE**

Ms. Celigija provided an update on the Certified Farmers Market (CFM) Project. The goal of the project is to increase regulation compliance at the Farmers Market. If there was a violation found at the farmers market, a Notice of Noncompliance (NNC) would be issued to the producer.

Ms. Orian suggested to further look into the amount of chickens a producer has to ensure that it aligns with the requested feed receipt. Ms. Celigija will contact Ms. Orian for more information on this suggested procedure. There was a discussion about on-site ranch inspections conducted by market managers.

Ms. Celigija gave an overview of the number of violations found at the farmers market. The market managers would be notified of the total violations found. Ms. Celigija shared with SEAC images of violation examples at the farmers market.

Once the MOU period is completed in June 2020, Ms. Celigija will analyze the possibilities of expanding the project to county contracts.

**(11) CERTIFICATE OF MOVEMENT**

Mr. Herrera stated that certificate of movement strives to track all eggs coming into California to ensure they are SEFS compliant.

There was a discussion on potentially moving the paper trail to an online database system where producers can personally upload their information. The goal for this online database is to trace the origin of eggs. Mr. Hilliker expressed his concerns on implementing this tracking procedure as it could be costly for smaller producers. There was further discussion on concerns for mislabeling eggs.

There will be more discussion on the certificate of movement in the next SEAC meeting.

**(12) PROGRAM UPDATE**

Mr. Herrera shared that the ESQM staff are currently compiling an annual activity report for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. One of the main focus of this project is to include more graphics and charts to reduce long narratives.

The ESQM had an all-staff meeting the week prior to discuss project statuses and updates. Mr. Herrera expressed his gratitude to Frank Hilliker and Josh McDonald for their presentations at the meeting.

Mr. Herrera will be interviewed by LiveWire TV on September 11, 2019. The interview will be geared towards understanding the ESQM program and its functions. Mr. Herrera would like to share information about the SPW during the interview to increase outreach.

**(13) BRANCH UPDATE**

As the federal fiscal year approaches, the Meat and Poultry Branch has been conducting custom exempt reviews for USDA under the contract of September 30, 2019.

There has been training with industry inspectors on sanitation, humane treatment of animals at livestock and poultry slaughterhouses. Ms. Batarseh added that the Branch wants to ensure that industry inspectors are ready for the new licensing year.

Ms. Batarseh shared that there was a Rendering Industry Advisory Committee meeting on August 7, 2019 that focused on carcass management.

**(14) DIVISION UPDATE AND VIRULENT NEWCASTLE DISEASE (vND) UPDATE**

Dr. Jones shared that the Division has been doing well. There was a new positive vND found recently in a pet store. Dr. Jones shared that there were then multiple positives found in the pet store. The pet store was quickly cleaned and disinfected afterwards.

Dr. Jones hopes to test all the highly infected areas by October and then begin freedom from disease testing needed to lift quarantine. It is advised to not move birds at this crucial time.

There will be a community outreach beginning January 2020 by utilizing social media and partnerships with other organizations to provide education on biosecurity.

**(15) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Will opened discussion for public comments. No public comments were made.

**(16) FUTURE SEAC AGENDA ITEMS**

- Discussion on Prop 12 budget
- Prop 12 Questionnaire update
- Prop 12 and 1350 update

**(17) UPCOMING SEAC MEETING DATES**

The next SEAC meeting will be on November 12, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. It will be held in Sacramento, at the Gateway Oaks room 267 location.

**(18) ADJOURN**

Chair Will asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion #4:** Mr. Sencer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Breitmeyer seconded the motion. All members agreed with no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Holly Chang