

**INSPECTION SERVICES
FEED, FERTILIZER, AND LIVESTOCK DRUG REGULATORY SERVICES
COMMERCIAL FEED INSPECTION PROGRAM**

**THE LABELING AND SAFETY OF FEED COMMODITIES
IN CALIFORNIA**

The Feed, Fertilizer and Livestock Drug Regulatory Services Branch (FFLDRS) of the California Department of Food and Agriculture is responsible for regulating the manufacture and distribution of commercial feed pursuant to the California Commercial Feed Law.

The intent of the California Commercial Feed Law is to enable the feed and feeding industry, with the aid of the state, to ensure in every way possible a clean and wholesome supply of meat, milk, and eggs. In addition, the Law is to provide to the consumer-buyer of commercial feed assurance that the product he or she purchases is properly identified with a label. The label shall represent the quality and quantity of the commercial feed.

All commodities except whole grain (i.e. whole corn that has not been rolled or processed) and whole hays (i.e. baled hay) are required to be labeled and have a guaranteed analysis. The guaranteed analyses that accompany bulk loads for example, are the specifications that the Feed Law would require the manufacturer to meet. These specifications may include minimum percentage of Crude Protein, minimum percentage of Crude Fat, and maximum percentage of Crude Fiber.

Feed commodities that are purchased through a contract should include a guaranteed analysis written in the contract with the same specifications as the labeling that accompanies or is attached to the feed when it is delivered. The manufacturers and/or distributors are required under the California Commercial Feed Law to meet the guarantees that are on the label. Therefore, it is very important that you require and obtain a label with each delivery, review the label guarantees, and compare them with the guarantees that are stated in your contract.

The FFLDRS Branch takes random samples of all types of commercial feed. These samples are analyzed in the State of California Laboratory. This is a continuous activity to check the quality of commercial feed. Feed safety is also a very important activity of the FFLDRS Branch. Commercial Feed samples are tested for contaminants that could be harmful to livestock or result in contamination of food products from livestock. Remember that it is the responsibility of the livestock producer and feed manufacturer/distributor, along with the assistance of the FFLDRS Branch, to assure the food you produce is wholesome and safe.

If you have any feed safety and/or feed quality issues that you need assistance with, please contact the FFLDRS Branch at (916) 900-5022.