

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (Department)  
FEED INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD (FIAB) WEB CONFERENCE MEETING**

**August 6, 2020  
9:00 – 12:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS**

Dan Rice  
David Meeker  
Jed Asmus  
Jeremy Banducci  
Kate Horstmann  
Marit Arana, Chair  
Paul Parreira, Vice Chair  
Shay Rambur

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Michael Koewler

**CDFA STAFF**

Adriana Avalos  
Amadou Ba  
Angelia Johnson  
Ashley James  
Brittnie Sabalbro  
Carla Sanchez  
Casey Dykier  
Erika Lewis-Ortega  
Jenna Leal  
Maryam Khosravifard  
Mike Davidson  
Natalie Krout-Greenberg  
Rachelle Kennedy  
Samantha Moran-Defty  
Valerie Brott

**INTERESTED PARTIES**

Chris Zanobini  
Ed Depeters  
Kate Swanson  
Linda Aston  
Tad Bell

**INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Marit Arana, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was established. Michael Koewler was absent.

Jenna Leal introduced new board member Kate Horstmann, Foster Farms, appointed by the secretary to fill the remaining term of former board member, Jon Handly.

**APPROVE MAY 21, 2020 MEETING MINUTES**

Leal requested the board review the minutes of the May 21, 2020 FIAB meeting.

**MOTION:** Shay Rambur moved to approve the meeting minutes; Paul Parreira seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a vote by all board members present of 8 to 0.

**DEPARTMENT / DIVISION / BRANCH UPDATE**

Natalie Krout-Greenberg reported the Governor's Office (GO) revealed Housing for the Harvest, a program that offers temporary hotel housing to farm and food processing workers who need to isolate due to COVID-19. Other employer resources are continuously updated and available on the Department's webpage, including additional

outreach and education materials regarding public service announcements and the recognition of agricultural workers as third tier priority for testing, behind healthcare workers and emergency service responders. The Department has participated in providing contact tracers, identifying six staff within the Division to work in that capacity. Leal added that the Feed program identified Kelsey Stevens, Agricultural Technician I, as a contact tracer. Stevens has completed the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) required training prior to starting the assignment.

Krout-Greenberg announced, as part of the GO's budget, the Division's Office of Farm to Fork (F2F) received \$8.5 million allocated to farm to school grant funding opportunities; the grant will be rolled out this fall. The Division is working with the F2F to hire staff and ensure the request for proposal fits the needs of schools and the environment of children in remote learning setting.

The Division continues to be heavily involved with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and CDPH regarding food safety issues. FDA released its 2020 Leafy Greens Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) Action Plan, which includes a series of steps that are critical to addressing leafy green outbreaks such as those that have occurred within the past two years. The Division, in partnership with California's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) and the Fertilizer program, is leading a sampling program. Alongside this study, the Department has a team in the Central Valley working in response to the Salmonella Newport outbreak linked to onions.

Dr. Amadou Ba reported that the Branch is also participating in the contact tracing. The Fertilizer program identified one staff person who also completed the required training prior to starting the assignment. The Feed program identified Kelsey Stevens, Seasonal Southern CA inspector for a six-nine-month contact tracing assignment. Dr. Ba announced that after 35 years of state service, Dr. Dale Woods, Environmental Program Manager I of the Fertilizer program, retired on August 4, 2020.

Dr. Ba reported about the effects of COVID-19 outbreak on the GO's budget. In response to the economic crisis caused by the pandemic, CalHR implemented the Personal Leave Program 2020 (PLP 2020), effective July 1, 2020. All staff will receive two days of leave, up to 16 hours, each month for the next two fiscal years in compensation for a reduction in pay of 16 hours monthly.

Dr. Ba announced programs have adapted to hosting meetings through the Zoom platform. Several meetings have now occurred using Zoom. The annual Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP) conference, in partnership with the Western Plant Health Association will be held on October 28-29, 2020. The FREP Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC) met on July 16, 2020 to review FREP Grant Program project proposals; 16 proposals moved forward to the full proposal phase; and FREP TASC recommended 11 proposals to be funded. One proposal of Feed program interest

regards hemp, a new crop commodity in the state, looking at nitrogen impacts on tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol (CBD).

### **ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SERVICES DIVISION UPDATE**

Dr. Mandy Murray, Supervising Veterinarian for the Animal Health and Food Safety Services Division (AHFSS), provided an overview of the California's Secure Food Supply (SFS) program. SFS' response goals are to prevent disease, slow and stop disease spread, eliminate disease, and maintain business continuity for various commodities including egg, broiler, turkey, beef, milk, and pork supplies.

Dr. Murray stated that in developing the SFS program, AHFSS looked at national programs and commonalities to include general personal protective equipment (PPE) and commodity specific requirements, incorporating the food supply chain with a focus on farm premises. Farm guidance key areas are 1) national premise identification number for tracking and sample collection, 2) establishing a perimeter, and 3) biosecurity practices.

Dr. Murray reported that the 2018 virulent Newcastle Disease (vND) outbreak resulted in an operationalized SFS program to specify biosecurity measures. Dr. Murray presented the components of a feed mill enhanced biosecurity at the mill, for employees, and truck/deliveries. The SFS biosecurity process during vND included plan activation and verification, sampling twice a week, virtual audits every two weeks, electronic submission of movement of logs and health records, and permitting. SFS is currently working on a new plan template, map tool and tutorial, standard operating procedures (SOPs) and logs, example plans, audit checklist, video library of biosecurity practices. In response to vND actions, industry has come forward requesting a one-farm premises plan template – a comprehensive plan that has daily and enhanced biosecurity, fillable document, and more guiding questions. Another resource developed is a map tool and tutorials which is key to plan development including google tutorial and moveable icons to make it easier and user friendly. SFS is also collaborating with the dairy industry to create a dairy template who is taking lead and modifying the poultry template to be dairy specific, and which will meet the SFS standards and requirements. SFS is working to enhance biosecurity plans for haulers and feed mills. SFS is willing to collaborate with programs and various stakeholders.

Tad Bell advised the Feed program and the California Grain and Feed Association (CGFA) to start preparing feed templates for biosecurity plans. Dr. Murray stated SFS would be happy to work with those involved to create a plan moving forward. Leal stated it would be a great idea to work in collaboration with Safe Animal Feed Education program (SAFE) to provide outreach and education materials to the feed industry on how to better prepare feed mills to meet biosecurity plan requirements.

### **FUND CONDITION / TONNAGE REPORTING**

Leal reported that as of April 30, 2020, the beginning balance combined total for Feed and SAFE was about \$4.3 million; total revenue was about \$3.3 million; expenditures were about \$3.4 million; encumbrances were \$172,872; and the adjusted total balance for Feed and SAFE was about \$4.0 million. Leal reported a lag in recoveries for the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy/Feed contract due to the stop work order in March through July; the billing for FDA has not come through on this report. Leal reported tonnage increased slightly with 23½ tons reported to the Feed program.

### **PROGRAM UPDATE**

Leal provided a field activity update stating that the Feed program has revamped the routine inspection checklist to be more thorough and enhanced for COVID-19 issues. The Feed program has conducted eight routine inspections using the new checklist and COVID-19 SOPs, which includes putting on PPE before entering inspection and conducting inspections that are preannounced and scheduled, which is likely to continue in the future. After leaving facilities, PPE is removed and placed in soil bins stored in vehicles prior going to the next facility. The program completed 30 violation follow-ups consisting of drug, label compliance, formulations, and license violations. Violation follow up forms have also been updated. The Feed program addressed four complaints using a decision tree to filter the complaint process; three complaints were almond hull related and the other complaint was urea toxicity on a calf ranch. The Feed program also focused on routine samples and started FDA contract inspections in July.

Leal stated that Shelly King, Special Investigator, continues to enforce online hemp and CBD product restrictions. King has contacted 455 firms and identified 1,102 products, resulting in an 88.6 percent compliance rate on removal of products from sale; the majority are marketed as feed products. The Feed program has shared data with FDA to act on these products as well.

Leal stated that the Feed program has been working closely with AHFSS's Rendering program and the Legislative Office in monitoring Assembly Bill (AB) 2959 concerning outcomes for the availability of feed byproducts to ruminant industry feeders. AB 228, now Senate Bill 627, is still active and the Feed program is working with the Legislative Office to ensure the Feed program's definition of "livestock" is used as identified in the Livestock Drugs law.

Chris Zanobini, CGFA, commented stating the concern with AB 2959 is the availability of byproducts to the feed industry. This bill has not been placed on the schedule for committee hearing which is anticipated to be August 11 or 14.

Leal recapped the importance of discussion regarding tonnage tax for high moisture products as mentioned in previous board and strategic plan meetings. Leal highlighted the importance of incentivizing the reporting of byproducts to the Feed program for utilization of data to be the conduit between industry, the California Environmental

Protection Agency, CalRecycle, and GO. Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) Section 15601 authorizes the secretary to set tonnage tax rates based on board recommendation. Leal stated that clarification was received of whether regulations needed to be in place to assess products at a lower tonnage rate if 'high moisture products' or 'byproducts' were carved out of FAC Section 15601. Leal stated that the board can set this at secretary level and regulations were not necessary to carve out byproducts or high moisture products in order to incentivize reporting of these products.

Leal recommended that a subcommittee be formed to look at regulatory structure for data collection and tonnage fees. Chair Arana stated a regulatory subcommittee had been formed in the past and could be revisited to determine the restructure of regulations and make recommendations to the board. Jeremy Banducci and David Meeker asked to participate on the regulatory subcommittee.

Bell suggested the Feed program not charge tonnage tax on high moisture products stating that the focus should be on the reporting. Leal stated that the Feed program will work with Banducci, Meeker, Zanolini, and Bell through the fall and winter.

Leal suggested definition and compliance issues with dried poultry litter (DPL) pertaining to moisture be a topic of discussion for the regulatory subcommittee or TASC. The current Feed laws and regulations state that DPL cannot exceed 12 percent moisture content whereas the Association of American Food Control Officials (AFCO) definition states DPL cannot exceed 15 percent.

Banducci stated that Imperial Western Products, the largest DPL producer, has experience in this area and facilities are simply not created to dry those products to reduce moisture. Banducci recommended adjusting the moisture content to be a realistic and enforceable moisture level.

Dan Rice commented that he can share data collected over the years and Kate Horstmann requested to be a part of the conversation. Leal reiterated that a regulatory foundation for byproduct reporting and DPL definition will be topics of discussion for the regulatory subcommittee. Rambur asked to participate in the high moisture by product discussion.

Samantha Moran-Defty presented a project overview of the hemp research with Dr. Ed DePeters, Hanna Bell, and Katherine Swanson of the University of California, Davis (UCD). Moran-Defty reported that the project objective is to determine chemical composition of hemp residue and measure animal performance. UCD received 100 pounds of lipid extracted hemp residue to be used for the animal study in developing two different diets; each diet will have four goats. Feeding trials will be approximately 28 days or more to get goats acclimated. A veterinarian will be available to perform adipose tissue biopsies during feeding trials.

Moran-Defty announced the next TASC meeting will be to review applicants, update bylaws and discuss DPLs. The Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards (AFRPS) final audit was rescheduled to April 2021. SAFE has submitted the application for the AFRPS Maintenance Grant; it is not yet known whether it has been approved. The SAFE quarterly newsletter was released which included COVID-19 outreach and updated procedures.

Moran-Defty reported that SAFE is working on a medicated feed label training/guidance document and is looking into a blended course for preventive controls qualified individual training which has an online portion and virtual portion.

Leal announced that the press release was published advertising four TASC vacancies with a September application deadline.

Leal introduced Linda Aston from UCD's California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System (CAHFS) and provided a recap from the last FIAB meeting regarding the lab transition from the Department's Center for Analytical Chemistry (CAC) to CAHFS. The Feed program identified and prioritized the transition of all feed/food safety assays and methodologies. Almond hulls will remain at CAC for up to 12 months and 16 samples to be transferred to CAHFS for analysis focused on priority areas. Leal presented feed analyses that CAC will continue to do and those that will be discontinued, as well as some method development projects that will be done during the lab transition. The Feed program continues to work with CAC on employee redirects and retirements to other programs and branches. The Feed/CAC budget will be presented at the next FIAB meeting which will reflect the work completed, including employee retirements.

Bell advised the board to consider transferring methionine method development to UCD. Aston responded that UCD has not done methionine analysis; however, there are specific amino acid labs on campus that might be an alternative, depending on the volume of testing.

Leal expressed appreciation to CAC and CAHFS for their willingness to collaborate during the lab transition. The Feed program is currently working on sample submission to UCD. UCD labs have been reviewing the program's sample data sheet and modifying their processes such as split sample requests; all samples will go to UCD labs on a rush status with a two-week turnaround time. Feed will continue to issue violations associated with lab reports while working towards integrating into STARLIMS.

Chair Arana suggested the board discuss obtaining the Near-infrared spectroscopy for UCD labs to begin method development. Paul Parreira agreed stating the board would be making an investment in change.

Leal stated it would be beneficial for the program to do split samples between CAC and UCD Analytical lab. Parreira agreed stating there be a certain number of samples for every split suggesting the program conduct comparative sample analysis.

### **CENTER FOR ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY (CAC) LAB UPDATE**

Maryam Khosravifard reported that as of June 30, 2020, CAC received a total of 426 samples; 96 percent were completed. CAC completed a total of 1,464 assays with a 4.2 average number of assays per sample. Khosravifard provided a breakdown of assays completed from January 1 through June 30, 2020, highlighting an average 13-day turnaround time which reflects the COVID-19 impact.

### **CALIFORNIA GRAIN AND FEED ASSOCIATION (CGFA) / ALMOND ALLIANCE UPDATE**

Bell stated that Almond Alliance is close to making a decision on the almond hull standards issues. Almond Hullers completed a regression analysis indicating a relationship between crude fiber and neutral detergent fiber (NDF); however, there was a need for further analysis at two standard deviations of a 15 percent crude fiber and NDF. Bell stated Almond Alliance will look at investigational allowances in hopes to identify an NDF number that would possibly be agreeable to marketing merchandisers. Bell suggested a quality assurance program be in place between CGFA, Almond Alliance, and dairy groups using Almond Alliance sampling methods in developing SOPs for split sampling. Bell further suggested that if the groups cannot come to an agreement that the Almond Alliance can lean on the Department for the regulatory part.

Parreira asked the Feed program to look at crude fiber and NDF reporting results for almond hulls and identify how many would be out of specifications. Moran-Defty stated the Feed program can review the program's internal data spreadsheets to determine a correlation and present the data in a graph. Parreira advised that the modernized standard of data on what the industry produces day-to-day would be beneficial to share with the merchandiser.

Discussion ensued regarding standard deviation for crude fiber and NDF of almond hull and shell.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were made.

### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Chair Arana asked the board for agenda items for the next meeting. Rambur suggested the near-infrared (NIR) spectroscopy be a part of the budget discussion.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Leal proposed that the next FIAB meeting be held in early November, to ensure budget numbers are in with the Fi\$cal system lag. Members will be polled to select a date for

the first two weeks in November. Leal added that the regulatory subcommittee will also be polled to select a meeting date in September and a TASC meeting will be held in October.

**MOTION:** Shay Rambur moved to adjourn the meeting; Dan Rice seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a vote by all board members present of 8 - 0.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. by Chair Arana.

Respectfully Submitted By

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY JENNA LEAL**

8/06/2020

Date

Jenna Leal, Feed Program Manager  
Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services