



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
CERTIFIED FARMERS' MARKET ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CFMAC)**

**April 30, 2014 Meeting Minutes
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive
Sacramento, CA 95833**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ben Feldman
Charles Barth
Clyde Steese
Dale Whitney
Diana Rodgers
Fred Ellrott
Jeffrey Pylman
Karen Wetzel Schott
Kurt Floren
Mark Anderson
Ronald Phillips
Jacquelyne Byers

MEMBERS ABSENT

Carol Arnold
Deborah Yashar
Guido Frosini
Leah Smith
Silvia Prevedelli

INTERESTED PARTIES

Richard Price, CACASA
Joseph Deviney, CACASA

CDFA

Rick Jensen
Steve Patton
John Pedigo
Sarah Cardoni

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Ms. Karen Wetzel Schott, Chairperson. Roll was called, introductions were made, and a quorum was established.

ITEM 2: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Committee discussed legislative activity concerning the Certified Farmers' Market (CFM) Industry.

Assembly Bill (AB) 2539 Certified farmers' markets introduced by Ting (2013-2014) is a California Department of Public Health (CDPH) bill that is applicable to the CFM Program. Changes include: non-prepackaged foods having to be displayed in covered containers; trimming produce will not be considered food preparation; and food samples will have to be distributed directly to the consumer. Moreover, the word "approved" was removed in the language that states samples shall be kept in approved clean and covered containers. The bill also defines a CFM and states no person shall bring a live animal into the CFM. This bill is currently in Appropriations.

AB-2488 Alcoholic beverages: certified farmers' market sales permit introduced by Levine (2013-2014). This bill is about wine tasting in CFMs and is currently in Appropriations.

AB-2385 School nutrition: cafeterias. Market Match Nutrition Incentive Program introduced by Ting (2013-2014). This bill would create a state fund for the Food and Security Incentive Program, which is one of the programs added to the Farm Bill. This is a new program for incentive funds for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and other benefits for recipients to use at CFMs. The user swipes their card at a CFM and they have their CalFresh money matched through these incentive programs. This bill will go before the Agriculture Committee next.

AB-1990 Food production introduced by Gordon (2013-2014). This bill would allow community gardens and Senior Gleaners to sell to the public. The CDPH would monitor these activities if the bill passes.

The Committee discussed in detail AB-1871 Agricultural products: direct marketing: certified farmers' markets introduced by Dickinson (2013-2014). This bill would enhance the CFM Program by increasing its budget authority and creating mechanisms to both increase revenue for state oversight and to contract with counties for enforcement outside the verification process. This bill also creates new statutory authority in the food and agricultural code regarding representation at CFMs. AB-1871 is currently Appropriations. If the bill passes it will go into effect January 1, 2015.

The Chairperson will draft a letter to the CDFA Secretary outlining the Committee's positions on the proposed legislation discussed.

ITEM 3: CROSS COUNTY ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION PILOT PROJECT

Mr. John Pedigo provided an update on the Cross County Enforcement Coordination Pilot Project. The project will begin this week. There are nine counties involved with Los Angeles County being the selling county and the only county taking actions. There will be target enforcement for certified producers at the CFMs based on the CFMAC established criteria, which include high value products, growing acreage, and selling activity. Eight counties are involved from the producer aspect and will conduct the onsite visit within 48 hours helping to create efficiencies between when the market inspection is done and when the onsite visit is able to be done. The goal is to create a better process for finding certified producers who are cheating that includes full documentation, onsite inspection, and communication between the two counties. A report will be provided to the Committee at the end of the project.

ITEM 4: DEMONSTRATION OF ONLINE NON-COMPLIANCE LIST

Mr. Pedigo provided the Committee with a demonstration of the online non-compliance list. The non-compliance list is for 2013 violations and is now in a searchable format on the Department's website. The end user can sort through the information as needed and is a great tool for counties and market managers to utilize.

ITEM 5: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 6: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held September 17, 2014. Agenda items to be discussed are the Cross County Enforcement Coordination Pilot Project and a legislative update.

ITEM 7: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m. by Ms. Wetzel Schott, Chairperson.

Respectfully submitted by:



Steve Patton, Branch Chief
Inspection and Compliance Branch
Inspection Services