

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
FEED INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (FIAB)
Modesto, California
September 14, 2010
MINUTES**

MEMBERS

Richard Hoch
Fred Frost
Thomas Prokop
John Walth
Jon Tollenaar

CDFA

Asif Maan
Avnee Jivabhai
Dale Rice
Killeen Sanders
Chris Hansen
Elaine Wong
Frank Delgado
Michael Davidson
Nirmal Saini
Kent Kitade

INTERESTED PARTIES

Gene Beach
Kelly Covello
Nick Matais

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Richard Hoch called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. a quorum was established. Mr. Thomas Daly, Mr. Robert Gilbert, Mr. Michael Koewler and Mr. Thomas Geary were unable to attend.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Hoch welcomed the group and self introductions were made.

MINUTES OF THE LAST BOARD MEETING

Mr. Hoch asked the Feed Inspection Advisory Board members to review the minutes of the February 16, 2010 meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Thomas Prokop to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. John Walth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT / DIVISION / BRANCH UPDATE

Dr. Asif Maan informed the group that there is no state budget in place yet. Furloughs are back with the second, third and fourth Friday of every month off. The furloughs will continue until further notice. There is a hiring freeze meaning the program cannot hire new staff without an exemption request approval. This impacts the Feed Program Branch Chief vacancy. Ms. Jenna Areias had been serving as Acting Branch Chief; however, she is now on maternity leave. An exemption request has been submitted to the Executive Office to fill the branch chief vacancy.

Dr. Maan noted that AB 856 was passed in the last legislative session that authorizes the CDFA Fertilizer Inspection Program to regulate Organic Input Materials in California. This law requires that any fertilizing material used for organic crop and food production must be registered with CDFA before it can be sold on the market. In order to accomplish this, the Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board has established a subcommittee. Dr. Maan informed the group that he is now the Acting Director for the Division through December.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Mike Davidson informed the group that the Safe Animal Feed Education (SAFE) program has not been able to complete many SAFE audits because Ms. Areias has been serving as Acting Branch Chief. He noted that canola meal is still an issue. The program has received a \$35,000 grant for updating the Feed and Fertilizer Inspector's manual. Firms have been requesting Good Manufacturer Process inspections (for non-medicated feed) so the program has developed a modified inspection checklist that SAFE will be able to offer. All staff have completed Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point training. Mr. Davidson noted that Ms. Gail Jones is now the Research Analyst for Livestock Drugs, Ms. Debbie Scott who is a Retired Annuitant will now be working on the Inspector's Manual, and Mr. Timothy Valles, Student Assistant is working on a rough draft of the manual. He noted the database initial development has been completed, and the program is currently waiting for further development on the inspection and sampling screens. Mr. Davidson noted that SAFE had a booth at the Tulare Farm Show; five firms have had SAFE Audits; provided classroom outreach with the Animal Health Branch at Chico State University and Cal Poly State University San Luis Obispo, and organized HACCP training.

Mr. Davidson noted that firms with 30% or higher violation rate have had binders delivered to them reflecting the firm's information and copies of the lab reports supporting the violations. Vitamin and mineral premixes have had complaints involving ingredient substitutions and high violation rates. Samples of almond hulls were taken when a truck was being loaded in California and high levels of Aflatoxins were found. The hulls were already shipped to Nevada and when California staff took samples of the product in Nevada, the original load could not be found. Discussion ensued about Aflatoxin testing and almond hulls. Mr. Davidson noted a milk supplement product recall, due to the product containing Hexamethylene Tetramine.

The program continues to maintain contact with the California Grain and Feed Association (CGFA) and the feed industry and made a presentation on the program to the CGFA Board of Directors. Also, a contract is in place to run E.coli & Salmonella testing with the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety lab. A limited number of Salmonella samples have been taken with no positive Salmonella Enteriditis results. SAFE is offering sampling to firms that volunteer to hold feed until Salmonella testing can be completed. It is a facility validation process that helps prevent salmonella in feed products.

Mr. Davidson provided an update of the subcommittee licensing study group. The program is awaiting a letter between CDFA and FDA detailing out-of-country inspections with FDA import operations. A letter will be sent out to the industry based upon licensing subcommittee approvals.

Three locations in Canada have been given approval by FDA to ship Canola without import alert. The formaldehyde process for oil mills has been identified for canola meal processing.

This years' Tissue Residue (TR) contract with FDA has been completed with seventy-five inspections. Approximately 100 of 125 BSE have been completed. Staff is working with FDA, USDA and interagencies within CDFA to lower TR repeat violators in California by issuing citations for repeat violators. Discussion ensued about TR within California.

FUND CONDITION

Dr. Maan noted a beginning balance of \$2,812,062 as of July 1, 2009 and an ending balance of \$2,320,722 as of June 30, 2010 for the Feed and SAFE programs combined. He noted the change in revenue as a result of lowering tonnage tax rates through the years. He noted a significant drop in tonnage reported. Part of this could be attributed to the shift from paper to electronic reporting.

PROPOSED 2011/12 BUDGET

Dr. Maan proposed a combined Feed and SAFE budget of \$2,949,984 for Fiscal Year 2011/12. Discussion ensued about the past approved budget amounts and the proposed budget.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. John Walth to approve the proposed Feed and SAFE combined FY 2011/12 of \$2,949,984 as proposed. Mr. Jon Tollenaar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

LABORATORY UPDATE

Ms. Elaine Wong informed the group that the lab is on schedule for the total number of samples received for the year. They are trying to maintain a 90% turn around time within 30 days despite the furloughs. As of August 26, 2010, 738 samples have been completed and 5 are in progress.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Nick Matais informed the group that this is the end of a two-year legislative period with eight special sessions, which is a record in California. He noted that California has a running deficit of over \$20 billion. There have been about 4,000 bills introduced in the

last few years, 771 are awaiting signature, approximately 800 have been signed and the rest have been denied. He then highlighted some of the bills currently being reviewed.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS / NEXT MEETING

Mr. Dale Rice noted an upcoming Board vacancy in February 2011 and two vacancies in April 2011. He will be posting the vacancies for advertising and voting will be conducted at the next meeting to make recommendations to the Secretary for appointment.

Mr. Davidson noted that Mr. Kent Kitade is currently the AAFCO president. Mr. Kitade informed the group that the program has been working with FDA to achieve feed safety. They are attempting to develop a risk based work plan that would involve identifying food and feed safety risks using the current FDA model, then determine at a district level, which firms are going to be inspected.

The next board meeting will be held on February 23, 2011 at 9:00 a.m., in Modesto, California.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Thomas Prokop to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Jon Tollenaar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Asif A Maan, Ph.D., Branch Chief
Feed, Fertilizer, Livestock Drugs and Egg Regulatory Services
Inspection Services

Date