

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
FEED INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (FIAB)
Modesto, California
October 14, 2009
MINUTES**

MEMBERS

Michael Koewler
Richard Hoch
John Walth
Frederick Frost
Thomas Prokop
Thomas Daly
Rob Gilbert
Thomas Geary

CDFA

Asif Maan
Dale Rice
Nirmal Saini
Mike Davidson
Elaine Wong
Natalie Krout-Greenberg
Melissa Eidson
Cyril Huisman
Brian Greathouse
Jenna Areias
Avnee Jivabhai
Killeen Sanders

INTERESTED PARTIES

Tad Bell – CGFA
Maria Anoni

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Richard Hoch called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. a quorum was established. Mr. John Tollenaar was unable to attend this meeting.

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 June 17, 2009 meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Robert Gilbert to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Frederick Frost seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT / DIVISION / BRANCH UPDATE

Dr. Asif Maan noted that Mr. Nate Dechoretz is currently splitting his time working between the executive office and his current position. He also noted that furlough days are still in effect and are impacting the workload and staff.

PROGRAM FUND CONDITION

Ms. Natalie Krout-Greenberg noted a beginning balance of \$2,812,062 as of July 1, 2009 and an ending balance of \$3,218,397 as of August 31, 2009. It was noted that the amount does not include outstanding encumbrances.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. Krout-Greenberg informed the Board that an all staff annual meeting was held in September, during which last year's accomplishments were reviewed and program goals for 2010 were set.

Ms. Krout-Greenberg noted that goals for 2010 include, organizing historical data and reference material, and enhancing field investigations. Highlights of 2009 include development of the database, finalization of the aflatoxin regulations, filled program vacancies, the creation of a branch outreach folder, fulfillment of the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and Tissue Residue (TR) contracts with FDA, updating inspection and sampling equipment, increased efficiency at the lab desk, increased medicated feed inspection audits, Safe Animal Feed Education (SAFE) audits and on farm mixing studies, compiling violation summary reports, and various trainings. Year end goals for 2009 include finalizing the 2009 sampling summary, completing the database, FDA BSE and TR training, and continuing to be engaged with the industry.

Ms. Krout-Greenberg informed the group that violation summary reports were sent to 19 licensed feed mills. These reports included a comprehensive inspection and violation history of the firm. The reports were used by the SAFE program to work with firms in the development of a corrective action plan to reduce the number of violations. She then elaborated on the method for investigating a cottonseed certificate of movement. She also noted that almond hullers with high violation rates are being closely monitored.

The program has revised the quarantine action plan for firms with high violation rates in order to reduce the overall number of violations and to increase the quality. Firms in violation for three consecutive samples are subject to quarantine. Quarantines are released based upon three consecutive clean samples.

Ms. Krout-Greenberg noted that the program's goal was to have 75% of samples turned around in 30 days or less. However, the impact of the furloughs has effected this goal. Currently, the program has a 74% turnaround of samples in 47 days or less.

Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drugs Inspector Killeen Sanders has been appointed to the Stockton region, Agricultural Technician Vanessa Jivan has been hired to assist with the lab desk, and Research Analyst Brian Greathouse will now be handling livestock drug registration and licensing.

Ms. Krout-Greenberg thanked the California Grain and Feed Association (CGFA) for sponsoring AB 547. This bill provides continuous funding to the SAFE program through 2015.

LABORATORY UPDATE

Ms. Elaine Wong informed the Board that a total of 1,279 samples were received in the lab, with a total assay count of 8,563. She noted that furloughs have caused a delay in progress but staff is working hard to get a good turn around, especially on rush samples. Because of the increased number of vitamins and drug analysis requests, the lab has procured another piece of equipment to help process samples more efficiently. Issues are arising with testing for Vitamin A and D because they have to be isolated and analyzed singularly to avoid inaccurate results. Ms. Krout informed the group that the increased number of rushed fiber samples is due to quarantined almond hulls. Mr. Davidson noted that the new equipment is similar to a machine used by UC Davis on samples a few years ago and will be beneficial to have in house. He noted that it is critical to know these results so the equipment is a great addition.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Tad Bell informed the Board that the governor threatened to not sign any bills but fortunately AB 547 was signed, which changed the sunset for SAFE from 2010 to 2015. He informed the group that CGFA is trying to get the feed staff working full time and exempt from the furloughs. CGFA feels that 3 days a month for the staff of an industry funded program is not in their best interests. Mr. Hoch noted that he does appreciate the amount of work the staff does with the furloughs.


Mr. Hoch reminded the board that discussions at a prior meeting suggested two FIAB meetings a year rather than three. Mr. Geary suggested meeting via conference call or through the web. Dr. Maan noted as per the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, the place where any Board member accesses the conference call must be accessible to the public; therefore this is not a practical possibility. Mr. Walth asked that budget information be presented weeks in advance so that further review can be conducted prior to the meetings. Dr. Maan noted that CDFA has been striving to get the packets to the board a week in advance but will increase that to a minimum of two weeks prior to a meeting.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS / NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16th, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Stanislaus Agricultural Center in Modesto.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Frederick Frost to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Thomas Prokop seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



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

Date 1/21/10