

MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(ALL MEETINGS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC)

Location: CA Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 'N' Street – Main Auditorium
Sacramento, CA 95814

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MEETING MINUTES JULY 27, 2011

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

- (a) The meeting was called to order Wednesday, July 27, 2011 at approximately 10:10 a.m. Craig McNamara, President of the State Board of Food and Agriculture presiding.
- (b) Welcoming remarks provided by President McNamara.
- (c) Pledge of Allegiance.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Craig McNamara
Kerry Tucker
Daniel Dooley

Ben Drake
David Wehner
Adan Ortega, Jr.

Luawanna Hallstrom
Sean McNally

Absent:

Kiran Black
Marvin Meyers

Ashley Boren
Arlan Van Leeuwen

Donald Bransford

(3) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Secretary Ross provided a departmental update to the Board. The updated included an overview of additional budgetary cuts taken by the department and the impact to specific programs including the Pierce's Disease Control Program, Red Imported Fire Ant Program, and the Mediterranean Fruit Fly Exclusion Program. Additional updates included an overview of the department's farm bill process and a report on the Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture (WASDA) meeting held in Colorado Springs, CO.

(4) BOARD UPDATE

Board member Kerry Tucker and Sue Sigler, Executive Director of the California Association of Food Banks, provided an update on the Board's initiative and partnership with the association to double food bank donations within five years.

Sue Sigler reported that the target donation level was 125 million pounds for 2011 and at current donation levels the goal will be met this year.

(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Overview of California Animal Agriculture

The Board heard from two representatives that provided an overview of animal agriculture in California with a focus on animal welfare and care.

Speakers included:

- Dr. Annette Whiteford, State Veterinarian
- Dr. Dave Daley, California State University, Chico

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) PANEL DISCUSSION – Animal Welfare (Panel 1)

The Board heard from two national representatives concerning animal welfare in the context of consumer trust.

Speakers included:

- Margaret Wittenberg, Whole Foods Markets
- Charlie Arnot, the Center for Food Integrity

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD– A National Perspective on Animal Welfare

The Board heard from one speaker, representing a national beef company, on animal welfare standards and practices used by the organization.

Speaker:

- Mel Coleman, Jr., Niman Ranch/Coleman Natural Foods

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD– Animal Welfare

The Board heard from one speaker, representing an animal protection organization, concerning farm animal welfare and public perceptions.

Speaker:

- Jennifer Fearing, the Humane Society of the United States

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(9) PANEL DISCUSSION – Animal Welfare (Panel 2)

The Board heard from five representatives of various agricultural stakeholder groups concerning farm animal welfare and programs implemented by the agricultural sector.

Speakers included:

- Robert Shipley, California Poultry Federation
- Michael Payne, California Dairy Quality Assurance Program
- Debbie Murdock, Association of California Egg Farmers
- Dr. Dave Daley, California Cattlemen’s Association
- Noelle Cremers, California Farm Bureau Federation

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(10) OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business before the Board.

(11) PUBLIC COMMENT

Four individuals provided public comment.

Rosemary Mucklow, National Meat Association, provided comments condemning the animal practices of Westland/Hallmark Meat Company in 2008. Ms. Mucklow further commented that the video taken at the company in 2008 was not immediately made public, which is also an unacceptable practice.

Kim Sturla, farm shelter owner, commented on the need for increased outreach and dialogue on farm animal welfare issues. Ms. Sturla encouraged the Board to continue these open discussions.

Moira Burke, a Solano County farmer, spoke about the challenges of small scale beef production and in selling directly to the consumer. The biggest challenge has been the scarcity of small scale slaughter facilities at the local level.

Virginia Handley, PawPAC, provided comments on a variety of animal welfare topics including: conditions at livestock auction facilities, branding, castration/dehorning provisions, disease outbreaks (END), and other farm animal welfare issues.

(12) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:40 p.m.