



June 25, 2009

Dear AAFCO Members and Industry Affiliates:

The Association of American Feed Control Official's 100th annual meeting in Washington, DC is fast approaching. It begins on July 31, 2009 and this year serves as the centennial celebration of AAFCO's existence and leadership in the protection of consumers in regard to feed products. In addition to our normal committee work and general association business, this year's meeting will include keynote speakers to discuss the emerging issues and the challenges of the feed industry in the 21st century.

A few highlights and a quick preview of topics for the upcoming meeting are outlined below.

FDA's endeavor to develop a Food Protection Plan continues and several AAFCO members are playing an essential role in those meetings to assure that the feed industry is well represented. Board Director Bob Waltz (IN) represents AAFCO on the Coordinating Committee and the Response Workgroup, John Breitsman (PA) serves on the expert panel and on the Risk-Based Inspections Workgroup, Dan Danielson (TN) serves on the Risk- Based Inspections Workgroup, Teresa Crenshaw (DE) and Rick Killebrew (ID) serves on the IT Workgroup, Brett Groves (IN) serves on the Training Workgroup, and Liz Higgins (NM) serves on the PetNet group.

The Board is preparing and hopes to soon offer a Request for Proposal for a temporary position that can perform specific tasks for the association. The plan is to gain an additional resource that will enable us to initiate projects that have, in the past, been difficult to get off the ground, such as exploring grant proposals. And to gain assistance on projects that will improve the association's function and lessen the demand on our invaluable volunteer resources. The future of AAFCO and our goal of safe feed continue to require more time and resources than our so-called volunteer members can spare.

Gloria Dunnavan, under contract with AAFCO, continues to develop training modules to be used by state inspectors as a part of the Inspector Certification program. The three on-line modules will include labeling, sampling and GMPs. Completion of this proposal will bring the association one step closer to providing continuing education to new and advancing inspectors and the overall goal of having a system for certifying inspectors.

The Board continues to look at ways to improve the association's website as a tool for control officials and welcomes comments and ideas to do so.

If you have new inspectors or staff who require training on the basic inspector duties, AAFCO and the Colorado Department of Agriculture are co-hosting a Basic Inspectors Training Seminar (BITS) in Denver, CO on September 15 - 17, 2009. For more information, contact Scott Zeihr.

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Other items of interest to be discussed at the annual meeting include:

2010 Strategic Plan
AAFCO's Voluntary HACCP Plan and its corresponding checklist
AAFCO's GMPs
AFSS
By-law amendments to allow officer terms to coincide with the publication of the OP
Bio-Fuels Co-Products Task Force brochure
Electronic voting
Enforcement Issues
Feed labeling
Inspector's Certification Program
International Training Center
Mid-year voting needs/requirements
Non-Commercial Bill
OP revision
Title X and its effect on AAFCO and the pet food regulations

Of course, many other important topics, too many to list, will be discussed. I want to thank each person and each organization that participates in AAFCO. I truly appreciate the dedication of you and your organization. It is only through the work of many, as a team, that we prevail in the accomplishments that we share. This centennial meeting promises to be a memorable event and I look forward to seeing you in DC for a productive meeting.

Sincerely,



Andy Gray, President
AAFCO