



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN FEED CONTROL OFFICIALS, INC.

September 15, 2007

Tess Butler
GIPSA, USDA
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 1647-S
Washington, DC 20250-3604

Ms. Butler,

On Friday, July 20, 2007, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to invite comments concerning "The Role of USDA in Differentiating Grain Inputs for Ethanol Production and Standardizing Testing of the Co-Products of Ethanol Production."

The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) is an international association with membership consisting largely of state feed control officials responsible for administration of state laws and rules, as well as portions of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, which pertain to the distribution of commercial feed and feed ingredients for livestock, poultry and other animals, including pets. AAFCO members include all fifty states, Canada, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, the United States Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

AAFCO acknowledges the historical role of GIPSA in defining standards for grains such as corn, soybeans and wheat. AAFCO does believe that GIPSA has a role in the standardization of test methods of input grains utilized during ethanol production.

However AAFCO does not feel that GIPSA has a role in defining the standards for co-products produced as a result of ethanol production. These co-products are processed feed ingredients. AAFCO has an internationally recognized feed ingredient definition process. This process includes an FDA review to determine if the ingredients are safe for their intended use for the targeted species. For example, AAFCO has definitions for Distillers Dried Grains with Solubles, Distillers Dried Grains, Distillers Dried Solubles, Molasses Distillers Dried Solubles, Molasses Distillers Condensed Solubles, Potato Distillers Dried Residue, Condensed Distillers Solubles and Distillers Wet Grains in Section 27 of the 2007 AAFCO Official Publication.

AAFCO does not feel that GIPSA needs to standardize the test methods for the distiller's co-products. The standardization of test methods for feed ingredients including these co-products is currently being done by the AOAC International Agricultural Community, the AAFCO Lab Methods Committee and by the Center for Veterinary Medicine.

The distribution of feed products (including the defined ingredients listed above) is regulated by state feed control agencies and FDA. The state agencies enforce the labeling requirements including the required guarantees on feed labels. State feed control agencies and FDA monitor feed ingredients for adulterants.

In summary, AAFCO does not believe that GIPSA needs to facilitate the marketing of co-products produced as a result of ethanol production. AAFCO has an ingredient definition process for these co-products. There is currently a process for the standardization of test methods. The products are currently regulated by state and federal agencies.

On behalf of the Association of American Feed Control Officials we would like to thank the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration for the opportunity to provide these comments for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ricky Schroeder".

Ricky Schroeder
AAFCO President