

# **Association of American Feed Control Officials - AAFCO**

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# AAFCO – Who are we?

- Volunteer, non-profit organization
- Members, advisors and participants
- Not a regulatory body
- Purpose and goals
- Centennial celebration in 2009

# AAFCO – Strategy

- Infrastructure – members are the lifeblood of the association
  - Membership services
  - Membership participation
  - Sustainability
- Keys to integration and partnership
- Continued focus on feed safety program
- International influence

# AAFCO Strategy - Infrastructure

- Membership services
  - Training, education and outreach
  - Leadership development
- Membership participation
  - Committees
  - Board of Directors
- Financial sustainability
  - Grants
  - Plan to identify and market products

# AAFCO Strategy – Integration

- Equivalence and uniformity
  - Standards for State Feed Regulatory Programs
    - Identify processes and practices critical for protecting the human and animal health
    - 2007 FDA Manufactured Food Regulatory Program
    - Training and certification
    - FDA funding to fill gaps and to sustain programs
- RRT response to include feed contamination
- Improve cooperation between FDA district and state feed inspection agencies
- State agency priorities have to be in alignment with FDA regulatory priorities

# AAFCO Strategy – Feed Safety

- Food and Feed are different systems with different challenges
  - Rare occurrence that feed contamination is linked to human food-borne illness
  - Risk of salmonella or e coli contamination in Dairy feed where pathogens ubiquitous
  - Traceback Challenges: co-mingled storage of bulk products, short shelf life

# AAFCO Strategy – Feed Safety

- Prevention - Current Feed Safety Programs
  - AAFCO Voluntary Verification HACCP Program for manufacturing animal feed and feed ingredients and Prerequisite GMP for feed manufacturing
  - Draft FDA Animal Feed Safety System (AFSS) regulations

# AAFCO Strategy – Feed Safety

- Intervention
  - FDA priority is on threats to human illnesses and are less familiar with animal feed issues
  - State agencies have established feed regulatory programs
    - Adoption of model bill and regulations
    - Enforcement Matrix
    - AAFCO-coordinated enforcement actions



# AAFCO Strategy – Feed Safety

- Response
  - Early warning system
    - Lack of national system to collect animal illness data and conduct epidemiological investigation
    - Veterinarians and vet toxicological laboratories not reporting incidents (companion animals and food producing animals) – vet/patient relationship.
    - New FDA early warning tools for collecting information
      - Reportable Food Registry
      - PetNet

# AAFCO Strategy – Feed Safety

- Response
  - First Responders
    - Private Veterinarians
    - State Veterinarians
    - Animal Nutritionist
  - State Feed Control Officials
    - Authority: facility, records, quarantine
    - Traceback and Trace Forward of suspected products
    - Most familiar with local distribution patterns, facilities
    - Expert on gathering animal feed evidence

# AAFCO Strategy – Feed Safety

- Congressional bills exempts on-farm manufacturers, firms required to register under the Bioterrorism Act
- Imported feed ingredients and products
- Diversion of manufactured food wastes to animal feed

# AAFCO Challenges

- Shifting state inspectional priority from consumer protection to feed safety
- Enable state representatives to attend meetings and training - currently restricted because of the economic environment
- Loss of institutional knowledge and lack of experts to conduct the training
- Develop leadership
- Reliance on volunteers who are continually asked to do more with less

**Questions?**

**Thank You**