



INDUSTRY NEWS

By David Meeker, APPI President

November 8, 2006

CURRENT ASSOCIATION ISSUES

APPI Extends Rebates for Code of Practice; Publicity on Program Coming

We are coming along nicely, and recent decisions at the annual meeting should help us get going on this:

1. The \$500 rebate is continuing into 2007
2. Render magazine will do a major article in the April, 07 edition promoting the program and extolling the positive characteristics of participating plants.

Code of Practice Tally

So far, 22 plants have been certified. The list is maintained on the APPI website:

<http://www.animalprotein.org/>

Code of Practice Training Video Still Available!!!

We have a DVD offering the best parts of the 2005 seminars on the Rendering Code of Practice that can be used as a training tool for managers and employees. The price of the 2-disc DVD set is \$110, including shipping, plus a CD-ROM with the study manual. Order the DVD if you prefer to use a DVD player for a television or if you have a computer with a DVD player. The running time of the 2-disc set is 3.5 hours.

You also have the option of receiving the same video program on a 2-disc CD-ROM set, which can be played on a computer with a CD drive using Windows Media Player instead of a DVD player. For self study at a computer terminal, this option may be best.

We recommend training on the Code of Practice before a plant requests a third-party audit to certify compliance, something that customers will likely value in the future.

I call the 3.5 hour 2-disc set the “Code of Practice Training Video.” The title on the 2-disc set will be “Animal Protein Producers Industry Institute of Continuing Education Session 1” since it was recorded at last year’s seminar program. The title on the accompanying CD-ROM is the “APPI 2005 Study Guide,” which has all of the PowerPoint presentations from all the speakers, the Code of Practice, the audit forms, and a multitude of HACCP background papers and other useful documents.

APPI also established a Code of Practice in 2004—a program based on HACCP principles—which establishes recommended process controls and good manufacturing practices for rendering.

And, speaking of training, don't forget we also have available DVDs and CD-ROMs of the Salmonella reduction program and laminated salmonella prevention posters.

Contact Dara to order any or all of these educational tools:

Dara John
Animal Protein Producers Association
PO Box 132, 1143 County Road 1123
Huntsville, MO 65259
e-mail: appi@cvalley.net
phone: 660-277-3469

The New Rendering Book is Available

Essential Rendering - All About The Animal By-Products Industry.

Contact Barbara Alexander at 703-683-0155 or balexander@nationalrenderers.com

National Cattlemen's TSE Think Tank

I recently attended the National Cattlemen's Beef Association TSE Think Tank.

Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Disease

I was recently appointed to the USDA Secretary's Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Disease (SACFAPD). We met in September and have sent our formal recommendations to Secretary Johanns.

National Carcass Disposal Symposium, December 2006

The National Symposium on Carcass Disposal, cosponsored by USDA, the EPA, and several state universities will be held December 4-7 in Beltsville, Maryland. The symposium entitled "Connecting Research, Regulations, and Response" brings together agricultural officials, researchers, policy makers, and emergency first-responders to discuss emergency and large volume livestock carcass disposal.

Topics to be covered include current research on carcass disposal technology (including composting); environmental impacts of disposal options; public policy discussions on animal carcass disposal at the state and federal level; response plans to catastrophic animal mortalities and chain of command; and future research needs. The symposium will be preceded by a workshop on euthanasia and disinfection and followed by a tour of carcass treatment disposal options at the USDA-ARS Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. The symposium will be held at the Sheraton College Park Hotel in Beltsville, Maryland. The symposium is open to the public; however, there is a registration fee of \$275. To register, visit www.composting.org or contact Jeanne Pipicello at the Knox-Lincoln County Office, University of Maine, Cooperative Extension at (207) 832-0343. Additional symposium questions should be directed to Mark Hutchinson at markh@umext.maine.edu.

REGULATION

FSIS Moving to Require Renderers to Register

Registration Requirements applicable to entities involved in commerce as a meat or poultry products broker, renderer, animal food manufacturer, wholesaler, or public warehouseman, or that buy, sell, or transport, or import any dead, dying, or disabled or diseased livestock or poultry or parts of the carcasses of livestock or poultry that died otherwise than by slaughter - The USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service is seeking public comments by January 2, 2007 on the paperwork and regulatory burdens associated with the extension of an existing Information Collection Request, titled "Registration Requirements," OMB Number:

0583-0128 - In seeking public comments on the ICR, FSIS notes that " ... Provisions of the FMIA ... and the PPIA ... prohibit any person, firm, or corporation from engaging in commerce as a meat or poultry products broker, renderer, animal food manufacturer, wholesaler, or public warehouseman, or from buying, selling, or transporting, or importing any dead, dying, or disabled or diseased livestock or poultry or parts of the carcasses of livestock or poultry that died otherwise than by slaughter, unless it has registered its business as required by the regulations. According to the regulations (9 CFR 320.5 and 381.179), parties required to register with FSIS must do so by submitting a form (FSIS Form 5020-1, Registration of Meat and Poultry Handlers) and must provide current and correct information to FSIS, including their name, the address of all locations at which they conduct the business that requires them to register, and all trade or business names under which they conduct these businesses. In addition, parties required to register with FSIS must do so within 90 days after they begin to engage in any of the businesses that require registration. They must also inform FSIS when information on the form needs to be updated ..." - A paper copy of the ICR is available from John O'Connell, the FSIS Paperwork Reduction Act Coordinator at 202 720 0345 - USDA FSIS November 3 Federal Register: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/E6-18580.htm>

USDA Approves use of Foam to Euthanize Poultry

The USDA has approved the use of firefighting foam to depopulate flocks of chickens and turkeys if there is an outbreak of deadly bird flu in commercial poultry. The USDA says water-based foam can be an alternative to carbon dioxide.

OTHER ISSUES

Feed Industry Profitability Workshop

Dr. Tim Herrman, from Texas A&M University and the office of the State Chemist in Texas has partnered with APPI the last two years in educational programs (brochure attached). He asked that I distribute the attached brochure on another Profitability Workshop this Dec 12-14. You or someone in your company may be interested in attending

Rise of New Variant H5N1 in China Seen as No Cause for Alarm

A scientific paper documenting the appearance of a new variant of the H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus in southern China is no cause for alarm and has no impact on the risk to humans from avian influenza, according to veterinary and human health experts. "The finding is not alarming because viruses are constantly changing," said Dr. Sherrill Davison, director of the poultry laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania and a consultant to National Chicken Council. "The more important lesson is that China and other Asian countries need to put control measures in place to eradicate highly pathogenic avian influenza as well as employing vaccination."

China Deny Existence of New Variant H5N1

China's leading bird flu experts have refuted scientists' claims of a new strain of bird flu. Media reports said a new 'Fujian-like' bird flu strain had become prevalent in Hong Kong, Laos, Malaysia, and Thailand. Chen Hualan, director of the National Bird Flu Reference Laboratory at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, rebuked the report, published in the U.S.-based Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences saying its claims "lack scientific proof," in a report in the China Daily. Chen said that the reports circulating about the strain are "subjective

and arbitrary.” She said gene sequence analysis of the virus shows that it shares high conformity with the H5N1 virus that was isolated in Hunan when bird flu broke out in early 2004.

EPA--Food Processing Sector Resource Locator

The U.S. food processing sector, as with other industrial and commercial sectors, faces increasingly stringent environmental rules, many of which have their roots in federal statutes and are implemented through state laws and regulations by various agencies. Most of these rules relate to the treatment and disposal of food processing wastes. Often, permitting, monitoring, reporting and other regulatory requirements are implemented by multiple agencies.

EPA is working on compliance assistance programs including an on-line tool is to provide quick access to:

- applicable regulations
- state agencies that provide assistance and enforce environmental rules
- resources that can help achieve environmental compliance.

The site can be found here: <http://www.envcap.org/statetools/fpst/fpst.html> There is a map or a pull down menu to find links to food processing sector environmental compliance assistance resources on state websites. You will find general information, regulations and links to relevant state agencies.

Salmonella Reduced on Pig Farms

In 1998, only 65 per cent of pork sampled in processing plants met the USDA’s minimum standards for Salmonella contamination. Since then the pass rate has risen to above 90 per cent in 2005. Various USDA agencies including the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), joined forces to create the Collaboration in Animal Health and Food Safety Epidemiology (CAHFSE) program in 2003. CAHFSE routinely tracks critical diseases in animal food production and chose pork as its first food animal to research. During the initial two-year period, samples were taken from 48 farms across five states. FSIS also funded a pilot study to collect samples from pork-processing plants to be sent for analysis. Comparing microbial data from both farms and processing plants allows researchers to determine the impact each has on movement of pathogens. Researchers are also doing detailed sampling, testing, and analytical work to determine the on-farm and in-plant prevalence of Salmonella, Campylobacter, Escherichia coli, and Enterococcus bacteria. Information on the swine program can be found here: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/cahfse/swine/CAHFSE_Swine.htm

ERS Report: "Brazil's Booming Agriculture Faces Obstacles"

“Rising global income and Brazil’s ready availability of land, water, and labor has allowed Brazil to increase crop and meat production and expand exports. However, the long-term growth of Brazilian agriculture could slow due to supply side factors. Furthermore, continued growth in domestic food demand and the changing composition of food demand could dampen growth in processed and high-value agro-food exports” - The report is posted at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/November06/Features/Brazil.htm>

U.S. Consumer Attitudes about Agricultural Biotechnology

The International Food Information Council (IFIC) released a new report, *Food Biotechnology: A Study of U.S. Consumer Attitudinal Trends*. The report states that a majority of consumers are confident in the safety of the U.S. food supply and express little to no concern about food and agricultural biotechnology. A significant majority also have no outstanding concern about labeling foods produced using biotechnology as such. While there is no overwhelming consumer demand for more information about food biotechnology, it will be

important to continue to make science-based information available to the public. The IFIC announcement about the report is here: <http://ific.org/research/biotechres.cfm> The report is here: <http://ific.org/research/upload/2006%20Biotech%20Consumer%20Research%20Report.pdf> Information about IFIC is posted here: <http://IFIC.org>

In another report, the USDA Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture describes a hopeful future – transgenic plants with better nutrition, environmental benefits of better feed crops, drought-tolerant crops, among others – but sees shortcomings in the federal regulatory apparatus. It also describes obstacles in the path to achieving its full potential. Its report *Opportunities and Challenges in Agricultural Biotechnology: The Decade Ahead* reflects divisions among the committee's members. It can be found here: http://www.usda.gov/documents/final_main_report-v6.pdf.

Another Monthly Ethanol Production Record

The Renewable Fuels Association said that U.S. ethanol production and demand continued its strong growth in August. According to data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), U.S. ethanol producers were averaging 329,000 barrels per day (b/d) of ethanol production in August. That is a record for daily production average and an increase of 69,000 b/d from August 2005. For the first eight months of 2006, ethanol production is averaging 305,000 b/d, which translates into nearly 4.7 billion gallons of ethanol a year. The report can be found here: http://www.eia.doe.gov/pub/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/monthly_oxygenate_report/current/pdf/819mhilt.pdf

Biodiesel Production

According to the National Biodiesel Board the U.S. biodiesel industry is comprised of 65 manufacturing plants with annual capacity of 395 million gallons per year. Eight of these plants are in the process of expanding capacity and an additional 50 plants are currently under construction. A June, 2006 report, *Contribution of the Biodiesel Industry to the Economy of the United States* is available here: http://www.biodiesel.org/resources/reportsdatabase/reports/gen/20060720_gen-371.pdf