



INDUSTRY NEWS

By David Meeker, APPI President
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CURRENT ASSOCIATION ISSUES

FDA Releases New Transportation Video on Complying with BSE Feed Regulations

This approximately 11-minute video CD is designed to be shown to truckers on a computer or CD player, such as while loading or unloading product at a commercial feed mill or feed manufacturing plant. The video CD explains the requirement that truckers clean their conveyances to avoid cross-contamination if they haul mammalian material that is prohibited from being fed to cattle or other ruminants. Among the precautions cited in the video CD are for truckers to check the product bill of lading or other labeling to determine if it contains the statement “Do Not Feed to Cattle or Other Ruminants” that FDA requires for shipments with restricted-use mammalian material. It also cites procedures recognized by FDA for cleaning out trucks and other conveyances, such as physical sweeping, vacuuming or washing.

Code of Practice Tally

So far, 32 plants have been certified. The list is maintained on the APPI website:
<http://www.animalprotein.org/>

National Carcass Disposal Symposium

This National Symposium on Carcass Disposal, cosponsored by USDA, the EPA, and several state universities was in Beltsville, Maryland. The symposium entitled “Connecting Research, Regulations, and Response” brought together agricultural officials, researchers, policy makers, and emergency first-responders to discuss emergency and large volume livestock carcass disposal.

REGULATION

EPA Administrator Signs Final Rule to Amend the SPCC Rule

EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson recently signed a final rule to amend the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule at 40 CFR part 112. EPA amended the SPCC rule to address a number of issues raised by its 2002 final rule, including those pertaining to facilities with smaller oil storage capacities, qualified oil-filled operational equipment, motive power containers, and mobile refuelers. EPA also removed sections of the rule that are not appropriate for facilities with animal fats and vegetable oils, and extended the compliance dates for farms. EPA has prepared references to help the regulated community understand and comply with the rule. The amended rule and associated guidance can be found here:
http://www.epa.gov/oilspill/spcc_dec06.htm#qualified EPA is also proposing to extend the

compliance dates for owners and operators of facilities to prepare or amend and implement SPCC Plans. This proposed rule would extend the dates by which a facility must prepare or amend and implement its SPCC Plan, until July 1, 2009. EPA expects to propose further revisions to the SPCC rule in 2007, and the extension would allow EPA the time to promulgate further regulatory revisions before the compliance dates.

CVM Expresses Safety Concerns on Glycerin from Biodiesel

FDA/CVM's Director of Animal Feeds Dr. Sharon Benz recently sent a letter to AFIA concerning the use of glycerin in animal feed. The agency believes that data can and should be submitted to demonstrate that glycerin from biodiesel is safe but it does not have such data in hand now. The agency issued this letter in response to many requests about use in feed of glycerin from biodiesel. Glycerin is generally recognized as safe for use in animal feed. There is a regulation so stating (21 C.F.R. § 582.1320), but as with any ingredient, contaminant levels in the ingredient may render the ingredient unsafe. So, safe levels of any contaminants must be determined before use. On January 9th, representatives from the feed, rendering, oilseed processing and biodiesel industries are meeting with FDA to present information on the biodiesel producing industry, including methanol control and safe use levels. Also, AAFCO is holding a seminar on energy feed co-products on Tuesday, January 16th in Savannah, GA, during its Midyear Meeting.

Required Reporting of Number of Animals Processed

The USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is seeking public comments on the "Electronic Animal Disease Reporting System" Establishments that slaughter meat, poultry, exotic animals, and rabbits are required to maintain certain records regarding their business operations and to report this information to the Agency as required. For the Agency's electronic Animal Disease Reporting System (eADRS), establishments report (by shift) slaughter totals in number of heads and weight by animal category. EADRS is an information system that tracks and reports data on the number of animals slaughtered, animal diseases, and animal welfare information in the U.S. For eADRS, establishments report orally to FSIS inspection personnel in the plant slaughter totals (by shift) in number of heads and weight by animal category. FSIS uses this information to plan inspection activities, to develop sampling plans for testing, to target establishments for testing, and in its reports to Congress. The *Federal Register* notice can be found here: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/E6-20968.htm>

OTHER ISSUES

Campylobacteriosis Overtakes Salmonellosis in the EU

The European Food Safety Authority published its annual Community report on infectious diseases transmissible from animals to humans (zoonotic diseases). In 2005, campylobacteriosis overtook salmonellosis as the most reported zoonotic disease in humans in the EU. Reported Campylobacter infections in humans increased by 7.8% compared to the previous year rising to an incidence rate of 51.6 cases per 100,000 people and to a total of 197,363 recorded cases. As in 2004, the primary source of most human Campylobacter infections is related to fresh poultry meat with up to 66% of some samples being positive. On the other hand, Salmonella infections, while also still remaining a serious public health challenge, fell by 9.5% in 2005 to an incidence rate of 38.2 cases per 100,000 (176,395 reported cases). The report said salmonellosis in humans is most likely linked to the presence of Salmonella in eggs and poultry and pig meat. A news release is posted here:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press_room/press_release/pr_zoonoses_report2005.html - The EFSA report is posted here:

HHS Bioterror Research Agency

Lawmakers approved legislation last week creating a Health and Human Services agency aimed at the prevention of bioterrorism, in a move that continues to delegate to HHS more responsibility in preparing for and responding to a potential biological attack. The Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (S. 3678) would authorize more than \$5 billion for biomedical research projects and funds for vaccine research and development. The measure would clarify that the HHS secretary would assume the lead role in the event of a bioterrorist attack or disease outbreak, and essentially would relegate the Homeland Security Department to a supporting role. The new agency within HHS would be called the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority. The bill authorizes \$1 billion for the agency. News story: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1206/121306j1.htm>

Australian Drought Causes Soaring Feed Prices

The worsening El Nino-driven drought has cut pasture supply, forcing ranchers to flood sale yards with livestock they can't feed. Animal feed prices have risen in line with the 74% rise in the price of corn and wheat's 51% advance. The latest report from the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics paints a dire picture for the country's agricultural sector. More than half of Australia's farmland is now officially classified as drought-stricken. Full story: http://www.allaboutfeed.net/tsal/allaboutfeed.portal/enc/nfpb/true/ts_portlet_news_1_actionOverride/_2Fportlet_s_2Fts_2Fcore_2Fnews_2Fcontent_2FshowDetailsList/windowLabel/ts_portlet_news_1/ts_portlet_news_1channel/102/ts_portlet_news_1id/6178/desktopLabel/allaboutfeed/pageLabel/ts_page_news/index.html

Prion Hypothesis Challenged

Findings of a European study suggest that although deformed prions are a characteristic of TSE diseases, it is possible that they are not the initial infectious agent. Key Points of the "Purdey Hypothesis" on TSEs:

- MBM fed to experimental animals does not produce TSE
- Thousands of tons of MBM exported abroad, when the mutant prion content was at its highest, did not produce any BSE
- Scrapie material has been added to MBM and fed to cattle since the mid nineteenth century without causing BSE
- Changes in the processing of MBM (lowering temperature and the cessation of chemical extraction) blamed for triggering BSE occurred in several other countries without causing BSE
- The temperature was always very low, and mutant prions can withstand much higher temperatures
- Experiments showed that the original solvent extraction process with acetone could not breakdown mutant prions
- Many cattle have subsequently developed BSE in the UK and elsewhere without exposure to mutant prion either via feed or vertical exposure (via their parents)
- Scrapie strains inoculated into cattle brains do not produce BSE
- CJD plaques are now being found in lifelong vegetarians
- vCJD has not been transmitted experimentally by food products to which humans were exposed

The story can be found in the Feed Technology Update found here: http://www.aquafeed.com/newsletter_pdfs/nl_000237.pdf

Biotech Could Double U.S. Corn Yields by 2030

According to researchers, advances in seed breeding could allow U.S. farmers to double corn yields by 2030, reaching a national average yield of 300 bushels per acre. Average yields in prime Corn Belt states could jump to 350 bushels per acre from 163 in 2006. A news story: http://www.checkbiotech.org/root/index.cfm?fuseaction=newsletter&topic_id=2&subtopic_id=9&doc_id=14059

Pick your Poison. In North America More People Have Died from Tamiflu than from AI.

The cumulative number of confirmed human cases of Avian Influenza A/(H5N1) reported to WHO across the globe is 154. This data is found here:

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/cases_table_2006_11_29/en/index.html

Canada, like the U.S. has had no human cases of “pandemic” AI, yet ten Canadians have died and at least 74 had adverse reactions after taking Tamiflu. Also, there have been 25 reported deaths around the world from Tamiflu in the most recent one-year period. News story :

http://www.worldpoultry.net/ts_wo/worldpoultry.portal/enc/ nfpb/true/tsw_o_portlet_news_singleeditorschoice1_3/actionOverride/_2Fportlets_2Fts_2Fge_2Fnews_singleeditorschoice1_2Fcontent_2FshowDetailsList/_windowLabel/tsw_o_portlet_news_singleed%20torschoice1_3/tsw_o_portlet_news_singleeditorschoice1_3/id/10774/_desktopLabel/worldpoultry/_pageLabel/tsw_o_page_news_content/ The title incorrectly identifies Tamiflu as a bird flu vaccine; it is a flu treatment. There is a large collection of bird flu information here: <http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2004/bird.flu/index.ht>

Forecast for 2007 Broiler Production Trimmed By USDA

Broiler production in 2007 is expected to be 35.827 billion pounds, 109 million pounds less than USDA expected last month, according to the “World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates” report issued this week by the World Agricultural Outlook Board. This would be an increase of 1.0 percent over 2006. Broiler exports are now expected to be 5.405 billion pounds in 2007. Broiler exports are now expected to be 5.225 billion pounds in 2006, only marginally ahead of the 5.203 billion pounds exported last year. The report can be found here:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1194>

Recovery of Canadian Cattle Industry from BSE Continues

Huge strides have been made in terms of price recovery for Canadian cattle producers, but there is room for more, according to industry sources. A story is posted here:

http://www.mycattle.com/news/dsp_international_article.cfm?storyid=19390

Consumer Activists Take Aim at Produce

According to a recent study, Americans are now more likely to get sick from eating contaminated produce than from any other food item. Consumer advocates support increased standards and enforcement; produce distributors and restaurants argue for self-regulation. A story is posted here: <http://www.raidersnewsnetwork.com/full.php?news=1225>

Fast Bacteria Detection Claimed

Inventors claim that a handheld sensor under development uses nanoparticles to detect foodborne bacteria in 15 minutes. They claim the technology has passed reliability testing, and is also far more sensitive than other strip tests in the market. As of now, the company has completed work to detect food pathogens such as e-coli, salmonella, and listeria. For details, see <http://www.foodqualitynews.com/news/ng.asp?n=72578-nano-pathogens-sensor>

FAO Report: Livestock's Long Shadow-Environmental Issues and Options

This 407 page report (November 2006) that looks at environmental issues with regard to livestock and poultry production on a global basis. The report claims the livestock sector generates more greenhouse gas emissions as measured in CO₂ equivalent – 18 percent – than

transport and the sector is a major source of land and water degradation. They also claim substantial public health risks related to the rapid livestock sector growth as animal diseases increasingly affect humans. The report can be found here:

<http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2006/1000448/index.html>

Feed Industry HACCP Offered Online by Texas A&M University

Dr. Tim Herrman and colleagues have developed this online HACCP course. The Feed Industry HACCP course taught by Texas A&M University faculty will be offered via distance education in 2007. The first offering will begin January 16, 2007. The class includes lectures comprised of narrated PowerPoint presentations. These presentations may be viewed online or using CDs that are sent to the student with the text. The course text is "HACCP, A Systematic Approach to Food Safety" by Stevenson and Bernard. Additional reading assignments, quizzes, discussion board, and development of a HACCP plan will augment the lectures and text. More information about the course contents, schedule, and registration can be viewed here:

<http://agonline.tamu.edu/haccp>.

Meat Eater Lives to 112 Years of Age

AARP's *Bulletin* for December reports that George Johnson of Richmond CA recently died at the age of 112. He reportedly lived on a diet of mostly sausage and waffles. His autopsy showed he had the organs of a healthy 50 or 60 year old.

Safety of Cloned Animals

In a recent news briefing, the Biotechnology Industry Organization summarized research results demonstrating the safety of cloning in food-animal production. The FDA currently is reviewing this information and is due to release a draft risk assessment on cloning by the end of this year. More information is available on the BIO website: <http://www.bio.org/foodag/animals/>

Peanut Gene Breakthrough May Lead to Allergen Free Nuts

Scientists at the University of Florida have identified a new gene in peanuts that codes for a protein with no apparent allergic effects, research that opens up the possibility of allergen-free genetically modified nuts. An estimated 2.5 million people in Europe and the U.S. are now vulnerable to the food allergy. The full article can be found here:

<http://www.foodnavigator.com/news/ng.asp?n=72406&m=2FSND07&idP=1&c=naetztutwzxeodw>