



INDUSTRY NEWS

By David Meeker, APPI President

March 9, 2007

CURRENT ASSOCIATION ISSUES

COMMENTS DUE: Minimal Risk Rule for Canadian Cattle Over 30 Months

This proposed rule to allow imports from Canada under certain conditions was published on January 9 and USDA is requesting comments until March 12 (though they would accept comment March 12, they are not required to respond to late ones). NRA has learned that the requirements for collecting blood for blood meal feed are unnecessarily restrictive and would damage trade in this much needed and valuable feed ingredient. We will be submitting comments asking USDA to be less restrictive on requirements for collecting blood for feed. The Federal Register announcement of the proposed rule is here:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/07-17.pdf>

Assessing Animal ID Systems

Renderers will be well represented at the initial Seminar for “Assessing the Impact of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) With Regard To Beef, Pork and Lamb Harvesting And Rendering Facilities In The United States.” NRA officers Dave Kaluzny and Mike Reiser will be there March 13-15 along with Ross Hamilton and David Meeker. This meeting is part of a USDA funded research project conducted by Colorado State University. The focus will be collection, archiving and transfer (to State and/or Federal Animal Health officials) of “animal termination records”—the opposite “bookend” of animal identification systems. The audience will consist of 20 participants nominated by American Association of Meat Processors, National Renderers Association, National Meat Association, American Meat Institute and Southwest Meat Association.

Spring Meetings

The NRA will be conducting its annual spring meetings at the Drake Hotel in Chicago, Illinois April 24 – 27. Reservation information attached. FPRF will be meeting April 24 – 26, 2007. The APPI committee membership meeting will be Thursday, April 26 from 1:30 – 3:30 pm.

Code of Practice Tally

So far, 35 plants have been certified. The list is maintained on the APPI website:
<http://www.animalprotein.org/>

REGULATION

EPA TSCA Report Due March 23

A fact sheet on the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) which applies to biodiesel producers is attached.

OIE Panel Recommends “Controlled” Rating for U.S. and Canada

A panel of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) is recommending the U.S. and Canada receive “controlled” designations on their respective BSE safety programs, a move seen necessary to spur beef demand. Of the three designations a country can receive “negligible” is the best and is reserved for countries with the lowest risk of BSE. The second best rating is “controlled.” The 167 member countries of OIE have until May to review the recommended ratings.

OTHER ISSUES

DOT, Mexican Government Announce Pilot Project on Cross-border Trucking

The Department of Transportation announced a one-year pilot program under which 100 Mexican trucking companies will be able to haul non-hazardous material freight beyond the current 20-mile international zones along the border as long as drivers and equipment meet all U.S. safety and operating requirements, including Mexican drivers carrying insurance through U.S. insurance companies. Mexican trucks have been limited to the 20-mile zones while U.S. trucking companies have not had any access to Mexico. Mexican truckers would not be allowed to haul freight between U.S. cities, and the 100 Mexican companies chosen for the pilot program will undergo safety audits by U.S. authorities. The DOT announcement can be found here: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/cbtsip/dot2107.htm>