Feed Industry HACCP Auditor Training

The formation of a Feed Industry HACCP Taskforce in 2007 comprised of representatives from academia, industry, and the regulatory community developed a draft model standard for the voluntary adoption of HACCP by feed manufacturers. Currently, an estimated 50% of the US feed tonnage is manufactured by firms that have either begun or fully adopted HACCP as a means to assure food safety.

The draft model standard is part of a larger document titled Verification Program for a Voluntary HACCP Plan that provides clarification on how to apply HACCP principles when manufacturing feed. This represents the first such document in the global feed industry and can be applied to the multitude of HACCP schemes and certification systems developed by feed trade associations in the US, Canada, and Europe. The program also provides the basis upon which competent authorities can provide third party audits “upon request” by firms that do not subscribe to commercial auditing services.

Rapid Response Team Grant

The Texas Department of State Health Services and the Office of the Texas State Chemist received a joint grant from the Food and Drug Administration to implement a food safety rapid response team. The thrust of this activity involves assisting each other’s agency in the event surge capacity is required, either in the field or laboratory.

As a part of the grant, OTSC field investigators will receive advanced training in microbiological sampling, epidemiology, emerging pathogens, tracebacks, HACCP, water systems, sanitizers and disinfectants, modified air packaging, and interviewing techniques. Additionally, OTSC will begin to monitor imported feed products into Texas and evaluate data trends to detect emerging problems within the US food and feed market that may impact feed manufacturers and animal health in Texas.
AAPFCO Administrators Seminar

The Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) Administrators Seminar was held October 27-29, 2009 in Denver, Colorado. Ricky Schroeder attended the meeting and Ben Jones gave a presentation via a web cast on the Texas Best Management Practices Audits and Security Checklist. Additional topics discussed at the meeting included Calculation and Use of Size Guide Numbers, Investigational Allowances, Statements for Uniform Interpretation Exercise, Beneficial Microor-
New Method Developed for Fumonisin Testing

At OTSC, a simple, fast and robust method has been developed for quantitative detection of fumonisin B₁ (FB₁), fumonisin B₂ (FB₂) and fumonisin B₃ (FB₃) in corn-based human food and animal feed (cornmeal). The method involves a single step of extraction followed with filtration and dilution prior to analysis with an ultra-performance liquid chromatography/electrospray ionization-tandem mass spectrometry (UPLC/ESI/MS/MS). By the application of an isotope labeled internal standard in our LC/MS/MS method, the matrix effect was effectively eliminated and the performance of our quantification method meets the requirement of FDA and EU regulation criteria. Taking advantage of the exclusion of conventional immunoaffinity cleanup procedure from the sample preparation, the time spent on a set of 24 regulatory samples is only 4.5 hours compared to the previous methodology that required 16 hours. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for fumonisin analysis by LC/MS/MS has been established and applied for regulatory samples at OTSC. The developed method could be satisfactorily applied as a routine procedure to identify and quantify fumonisins in laboratories of food/feed quality and safety control when a large sample load is required.

OTSC Field Update

The weather has had a significant role in the field activities this fall and winter. Early rains in the fall sparked good fertilizer movement in North and Central Texas for small grain crops. The cold, wet weather has also demanded supplemental feeding for livestock. As a result, the sampling efforts in the fall and early winter were good for feeds and fertilizer. 48% of the sample collection within the annual work plan has been accomplished. 58% of the feed samples and 30% of the fertilizer samples have been collected. The rains in late winter have brought the fertilizer movement to a stand still and delayed planting from the Panhandle and South Plains all the way to the Lower Valley. When the weather pattern changes and fields get a little drier, the expectations are for a fast and furious movement of fertilizer. OTSC investigators are geared up and prepared. In the meantime, investigators are busy sampling feed for conformance to labeled guarantees, for animal proteins prohibited under the BSE regulations 589.2000 and 589.2001, and vegetable refuse from packing sheds and processors destined for use as feed for the presence of microbiological contaminants Salmonella and E. Coli. They are also performing BSE inspections at commercial mills and on-farm premises.

On December 17, 2009 the Assistant Director and members of the Field Staff participated in the Texas Dept. of Agriculture’s final stages of its investigation of Dorchester Grain Co. held in Sherman, TX. Staff were there to provide answers to any questions producers may have had regarding marketing aflatoxin containing grain into commercial distribution.

Several Field Staff attended the HACCP Auditor training held in Austin, TX on November 9-13, 2009. This training equipped the participants to perform voluntary HACCP audits of firms seeking 3rd party verification by a competent authority.
Protects consumers & enhances Agri Business through its Feed & Fertilizer Regulatory Compliance Program, surveillance & monitoring of Animal-Human health & environmental hazards, & preparedness planning.

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Congratulations to Inez Johnson for winning the OTSC Employee of the Year award for 2009. Inez has been with the Office for 30 years and has shown that she is a valuable asset to OTSC. Her performance over the past year has been above average and has made identifiable contributions to the Office through her consistent work ethic and her willingness to learn as much as possible in order to help out anywhere she can which makes her an elite team player. Inez has been cross trained in the majority of the FFCS Support Staff duties and continues to learn more daily. Inez comes to work each day with a smile and a willingness to complete her duties with no complaining or dispute and a “how can I help” attitude which makes working with her a joy. I would like to commend Inez for all of her hard work and dedication to being an OTSC team player this past year.

Ricky Schroeder Speaking to School District

Ricky Schroeder was selected as an outstanding alumni of Anderson-Shiro Consolidated Independent School District and was asked to participate in a teacher training conference on January 4, 2010. Ricky spoke on the importance of a strong educational background in developing tomorrow’s leaders.

Other awards and accomplishments include 2008 AAFCO President, member of FDA’s Revitalization of the Office of Regulatory Affairs, 2009 FFA Production Service Award, Grimes County 4-H Father of the Year Award to name a few. Ricky also serves as a member of various volunteer organizations which raised over $70,000 last year in scholarship funds for Grimes county students.

OTSC Employee of the Year-2009

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