The FDA Amendments Act of 2007 (H.R.3580) section 1002 mandates the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish 1. ingredient standards and definitions 2. processing standards for pet foods; and 3. update standards for labeling of pet food that include nutritional and ingredient information. This effort is to be performed in consultation with the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) and other relevant stakeholder groups. The Office of the Texas State Chemist has been requested to participate in this process.

AAFCO has published ingredient definitions and standards for labeling of pet food in their Official Publication (OP). The FDA is working closely with AAFCO on ingredient definitions through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that went into effect August 30, 2007, signed by AAFCO president Ricky Schroeder of OTSC. A copy of the press release is available on the AAFCO website at: [http://www.aafco.org/](http://www.aafco.org/).

Still awaiting clarification is the intent of Congress pertaining to development of standards. The International Organization for Standards defines a Type A management system requirement standard as one intended to provide the market place with relevant specifications for the management system of an organization to demonstrate its capability to meet internal and external requirements. FDA has been working on developing an Animal Feed Safety System to provide generic oversight for feed processed commercially and on-farm since 2003.

Ensuring Pet Food Safety

The Office of the Texas State Chemist (OTSC) received notice that the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) project funded by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will be renewed for two additional years. The OTSC manager of field operations, Ben Jones, reported progress on the project in Rockville, Maryland at a meeting hosted by FDA January 16, 2008. Highlights of the three year project, to date include conducting 1180 BSE inspections, collecting and evaluating 1332 surveillance samples for prohibited proteins, developing a “living” transportation database with over 400 trucking firms, and working closely with agriculture entities to ensure compliance with the BSE feed ban (21 CFR 589.2000).

Texas continues to display a high level of compliance, with a minimum number of violations primarily related to record keeping. OTSC developed PCR laboratory capability to identify bovine DNA as an outcome of the project. All confirmed incidents of bovine DNA in cattle feed were investigated to identify whether the material originated from exempt material. A significant outcome from the meeting included a plan to share standard operating procedures for laboratory methods involving microscopy and PCR among states to ensure more uniform laboratory results and a collaborative check sample program among state and federal laboratories involving identification of prohibited mammalian protein.
The article titled "Application of multivariate statistics in a risk-based approach to regulatory compliance" has been accepted for publication in Food Control. The article was prepared and reviewed internally by Kyung-Min Lee, Tim Herrman and Ben Jones. The article was submitted in October, 2007, revised in December, 2007 and finally accepted in January, 2008. In this article, multivariate statistical analysis was applied to characterize Texas feed and fertilizer firms’ ability to manufacture nutritionally uniform products using three years of data. The statistical results were used to develop the 2007 and 2008 sampling plan for the OTSC. The poor performing feed and fertilizer manufacturers were sampled at the highest sampling percentage of the facilities. The article examined a risk-based approach to regulatory oversight of feed and fertilizer firms’ performance via the application of multivariate statistics.

Food Protection Plan

November 2007 was the release date for the nation’s first “Food Protection Plan.” At the introduction of the plan Michael Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services states that “Americans enjoy unprecedented choice and convenience in filling the cupboard today, but we also face new challenges to ensuring that our food is safe. This Food Protection Plan will implement a strategy of prevention, intervention and response to build safety into every step of the food supply chain.” The integrated strategies include:

- Focus of risks over the product’s life cycle from production to consumption
- Target resources to achieve maximum risk reduction
- Address both unintentional and deliberate contamination
- Use science and modern technology systems.

The scope of the Food Protection Plan includes food for people and animals, addresses domestic and imported products and encompasses food safety and food defense. FDA regulates $417 billion worth of domestic food and $49 billion of imported food annually. The Office of the Texas State Chemist provides regulatory oversight of feed and fertilizer distributed in TX worth $6 billion. The Food Protection Plan documents the incidence of food borne illness in the US, the rise in food imports and new threats to food safety.

The Food Protection Plan aligns with a companion report on “Import Safety” highlighted in the last newsletter. The plan is available on the FDA website at: http://www.fda.gov/oc/initiatives/advance/food/plan.html
OTSC Website Part II

With the launch of new OTSC website last November, one of the many exciting features is described below to facilitate our users for smoother navigation.

**Download Forms**

To accommodate most frequently downloaded files related to registration and licensing forms, we have included them in a separate Download Forms section for both feed and fertilizer industries. We will add any new registration or permit applications to this section.
OTSC Says Farewell to Doris Pineda

Protects consumers & enhances Agri Business through its Feed & Fertilizer Regulatory Compliance Program, surveillance & monitoring of Animal-Human health & environmental hazards, & preparedness planning.

OTSC Says Farewell to Doris Pineda

After 29 years of service to the Agricultural Community, Ms. Doris Pineda retired on January 31, 2008. Doris started her career serving as Secretary of the 4-H District Office for 13 years. She worked for the 4-H State Office for 2 years, and finished her career with the Office of the Texas State Chemist after 14 years. After her retirement, Doris looks forward to expanding on her many hobbies from quilting to crafts like crocheting, needlepoint and sewing. She plans to eventually open a craft shop. We wish Doris all the best in her retirement and will miss her at OTSC.

Texas Farm Bureau Visits OTSC

The Texas Farm Bureau Leadership Conference was held in College Station, TX and ran from January 27-30. The TFB members toured various facilities on the Texas A&M campus, including OTSC. Forty-three attendees of the conference visited OTSC. Dr. Jim Balthrop, Manager of Quality Control gave the visitors an overview of the OTSC mission. Following a brief question and answer session, the visitors were given a tour of the laboratory by Ms. Argentina Vindiola and Ms. Linda Menefee.

OTSC Mycotoxin Laboratory Analysis Workshop

The Office of the Texas State Chemist (OTSC) will be hosting a Mycotoxin Laboratory Analysis Workshop in cooperation with the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) from June 3-5, 2008. The Workshop will address the toxicology and pathology of mycotoxins, analytical methods available for aflatoxin, fumonisin, and deoxynivalenol, and QA/QC procedures. OTSC will offer hands-on training in HPLC analysis of aflatoxin and fumonisin and ELISA analysis of aflatoxin. For more information, please visit our website at http://otsc.tamu.edu/ and click on the link under “What’s New”, or contact Cindy McCormick at ckm@otsc.tamu.edu or 979-845-1121.

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