The increased focus on the science behind the regulation of food and feed products, the globalization of the economy and advances in analytical technology contribute to a growing need for research and education in the emerging field of regulatory science. Recognizing this as an opportunity to serve the Texas food and feed industry, the Office is collaborating with Texas A&M University faculty and representatives from the food and feed industries to deliver Web-based graduate courses in regulatory science offered through the Departments of Soil & Crop Sciences, Agricultural Economics, and Veterinary Pathobiology that individuals can take at a distance.

The program is designed to provide feed and food regulators and industry personnel in Texas, the U.S. and abroad, access to distance learning courses that equip individuals with the tools to improve the protection, efficacy, and quality of regulated products in the feed and food industry. Students who complete the regulatory science courses will have the knowledge and skills to:

- Interpret and implement the U.S. and international laws, regulations, and standards that govern the development, manufacturing, and distribution of food and feed products.
- Assess the significance and impact of existing and emerging regulations and standards on business operations;
- Apply a science-based approach to risk management, and be part of a risk management team;
- Establish practical strategies for compliance and reporting;
- Develop and implement laboratory quality systems;
- Lead complex regulatory reviews;
- Communicate the benefits of regulatory decision-making and compliance to management and consumers; and
- Apply essential knowledge and skills to help companies navigate an increasingly complex regulatory environment.

Registration begins November 17th for courses starting in January 2012. Please visit the Regulatory Science website or contact Mary Sasser for enrollment information.
OTSC Web-site Updated to Help Firms Identify Active Registrants

The Office revised their website to assist individuals identify the status of feed and fertilizer firms. To utilize the new function, click on reports and a drop down box will provide seven (7) drop down bars. The last four boxes are broken down into Active Feed Licensee (Guarantor and Guarantor with Facility), Active Feed Facility (Facility Only), Active Fertilizer Registrant (Guarantor), and Active Ammonium Registrant. This revised breakdown will allow fertilizer firms to identify whether a firm is a guarantor or an ammonium nitrate registrant and provide feed firms with the ability to distinguish between guarantors and facility only firms. Questions about licensing or registration should be directed to Ricky Schroeder rrs@otsc.tamu.edu or Julie Mitchell jial@otsc.tamu.edu at 979-845-1121. Questions about inspection fee payments should contact Tommie Shrode tws@otsc.tamu.edu, John See jws@otsc.tamu.edu or Paula Alvarado poa@otsc.tamu.edu at 979-845-1121.
Checklist & Report Form for Suspicious Ammonium Nitrate Activity Reporting

Recognizing Suspicious Behavior:

- New customers unfamiliar to staff acting nervous, impatient and avoiding eye contact.
- Refusing to provide address where fertilizer is to be used and/or stored; requesting bags or product loaded in personal vehicle.
- Possessing little knowledge of fertilizer combinations, crops, applications and soil composition.
- Attempting to purchase out-of-season or unusual quantities.
- Requesting Ammonium Nitrate only; not interested in alternative fertilizers.
- Using rental vehicle or vehicle with out-of-state or temporary license plates to transport ammonium nitrate.
- Purchasing large transactions with cash or credit card issued in someone else’s name.

Information Needed When Reporting Suspicious Activity:

- Valid government issued picture ID
- Keep all records required for purchase of ammonium nitrate.
- Communicate with customers, ask questions, listen and observe their responses.
- Observe people and their actions who seem out of place.
- Make note of suspicious statements, people, and/or vehicles.

Who to Contact: (Always call 911 in the case of an emergency.)

Once it is safe, use the information form below to report any suspicious activity to:

Office of the Texas State Chemist

1) During normal business hours - 979-845-1121
2) After hours - 979-218-9780

Information Form When Reporting Ammonium Nitrate Suspicious Activity:

Date: ___________ Time: ___________ City/County: __________________________ Location: __________________________

Suspect Name: (LAST) ___________________ (FIRST) ___________________ (MI) ___________________

Date of Birth (or est. of age): ___________ Sex: ________ Race: __________________________

Driver License Number: __________________________ State: ________ Social Security Number: __________________________

Other Identifiers: __________________________ Phone Number: __________________________

Residential Address: __________________________

City: __________________________ State: __________________________ Zip: __________________________

Vehicle License Plate or VIN: __________________________

Year/Model: __________________________ Make: __________________________ Type: __________________________

Additional Comments: __________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

Submitter: __________________________ Contact Information: __________________________
Ammonium Nitrate

Since September of 2007 additional requirements must be met in order to produce, store, transfer, offer for sale, or sell ammonium nitrate in Texas. Firms must register and conspicuously display their registration documents, provide additional specialty training to their employees, keep accurate records of ALL sales, maintain a current detailed inventory of ammonium nitrate and ammonium nitrate material, be able to prove the accuracy of that inventory and other required records, ensure facility security to prevent theft and tampering, and demonstrate all of these requirements during an annual audit in order to qualify for the registration to handle ammonium nitrate and ammonium nitrate materials. For further information, or any questions regarding these requirements, refer to our web site at http://otscweb.tamu.edu/brochure/Sale of Ammonium NitrateTX.pdf

OTSC Fall Advisory Committee

The OTSC Advisory Committee meeting was conducted September 23, 2011. The Advisory Committee supported the introduction of a regulatory science curriculum, passed a motion to approve the OTSC budget, passed a motion to approve the use of L-glutamic acid as a feed ingredient for weanling pigs in Texas, passed a motion delineating a mechanism for validating rapid test kits for aflatoxin measurement, and formed a subcommittee to comment on the proposed Ammonium Nitrate regulations published in the federal register by the Department of Homeland Security. The Advisory Committee also provided direction involving risk assessment of aflatoxin action levels by the Office in collaboration with FDA and Texas A&M University faculty. The Advisory Committee motioned and approved Jim Roppolo from Farmers Coop in El Campo as chair (succeeding Brent Clark) and Brad Johnson from North East Texas Farmers Coop as vice-chair. New committee members include Mark Hebert from SGS in Hempstead, A.J. Kresta representing the Texas Sorghum Producers, A.J. Rath from Maxim Production Co. in Boling, and Darren Turley representing the Texas Association of Dairymen. More information about the Advisory Committee is available on the OTSC website.