



# OTSC Quarterly Newsletter

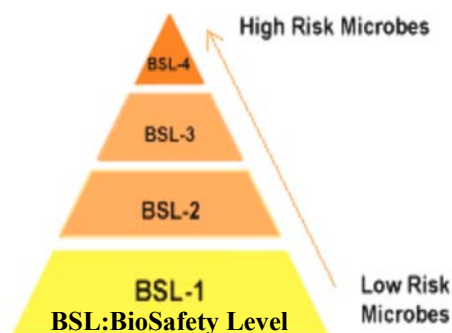


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## OTSC Emergency Response Initiatives: An Update

Through its participation in the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) and with the Texas Rapid Response Team (TRRT), the Office of the Texas State Chemist (OTSC) has enhanced its capability to provide surge capacity in detecting biological and chemical hazards following natural disasters. During the Hurricane Harvey recovery effort, OTSC played a lead role in assessing the impact of the flooding on cereal grains and oilseeds. As a result, OTSC provided market confidence for these agricultural goods by ensuring they were free of contamination and in conformance with Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidance. The Texas A&M System also provided response leadership during Hurricane Harvey. In December 2018, Governor Greg Abbott moved the operations of the Texas Division of Emergency Management to the Texas A&M University System “to provide a more focused and consistent approach to emergency management.”

Currently, OTSC is in the process of expanding its laboratory capacity and capability to detect bio-



logical hazards. OTSC collaborates with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the FDA via the TRRT and is engaged with other agencies participating in the Laboratory Response Network (LRN) supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The establishment of additional detection capability of biological hazards will improve

OTSC’s capacity to respond to food systems outbreaks and contamination incidents involving potential bio-threat agents in food and feed. OTSC’s future plans include collaborating with the LRN network and utilizing its expanded laboratory capability for screening and confirmatory purposes of severe threat agents, as well as those that cause zoonotic (animal to human) infections.

According to the World Health Organization, 61% of all human pathogens are zoonotic and have represented 75% of all emerging pathogens during the past decade. The LRN is managed by the CDC and is a multi-level network of local, state, federal, and military laboratories whose mission is to provide a rapid response to public health emergencies. One of the LRN’s goals is to broaden the scope of biological agent detection by forming partnerships with laboratories of various capabilities. In addition, the LRN’s standardized methods are a crucial component of the FERN TRIAGE procedure, which is a multi-pathogen method geared for rapid surveillance.



By collaborating with the LRN, OTSC will have access to a wealth of resources in techniques, expertise and training geared towards improving the public health infrastructure. As a result of this collaboration, OTSC will possess additional testing capability involving zoonotic agents. Through cooperative agreement funding by FDA and USDA as a participant in TRRT and FERN, the Office of the Texas State Chemist has been able to build additional capabilities to protect animal, human, and market health. This will help OTSC better serve the Texas feed and fertilizer industry.

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

## Glucosamine Hydrochloride and Chondroitin Sulfate in Pet Foods

The Office of the Texas State Chemist implemented a policy in May 1999 regarding dog foods containing added glucosamine hydrochloride and chondroitin sulfate. Surveillance of feed products in the Texas marketplace finds a resurgence of products that do not conform to this policy.



The Texas Feed and Fertilizer Control Service has determined that 15 mg/kg/day glucosamine hydrochloride and 12 mg/kg/day chondroitin sulfate to be safe in rations or supplements for adult dogs only. Products labeled as puppy foods or as all life stages food may not contain glucosamine hydrochloride or chondroitin sulfate.

Products which guarantee glucosamine and/or chondroitin, whether from naturally occurring ingredient sources or from the addition of glucosamine hydrochloride or chondroitin sulfate, may not make drug claims (e.g. improves joint mobility or for healthy tendons and joints) on the label. The label must also have the following disclaimers, “This compound is not recognized as an essential nutrient by the AAFCO dog food nutrient profile” and “This product is not intended to diagnose, cure or prevent any disease.”

Enforcement actions may be considered against products which do not conform to this policy. If there are any questions, please contact the office. The policy is available on the website at (<http://otscweb.tamu.edu/Laws/PDF/Feed/FdInd-3-17.pdf>)

## Hemp Status in Texas

The 2018 Farm Bill signed into law by President Trump on December 20th, 2018, removed hemp from the controlled substances list and allows tribes, states, and territories to establish regulatory structures within their boundaries. The states and the federal government will share regulatory power over hemp cultivation and production. States are to present a hemp plan to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for approval, and those who do not develop one will fall under USDA regulation. In Texas, legislation that would legalize the use of HEMP (NOT marijuana) has already been introduced in the 86<sup>th</sup> Session of the Texas Legislature. Texas SB 116 and HB 989, which are identical in language, define “industrial hemp” as a plant or any part of a plant, whether growing or not, of the species *Cannabis sativa* L. with a delta-9 tetrahy-

drocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis. If passed, the bill would make it legal to use hemp-derived products including extract, oil, grain, cake, meal, flower, resin, fiber, or hurd for any purpose, including food for human consumption, human application, feed for animal consumption, animal application, fiber production, or product manufacturing. As of right now, nothing has changed for Texas - hemp is still illegal in Texas. If the bill is passed by legislature, a state agency will have to be authorized to create rules regarding licensing, production, testing, seed certification and other oversight as necessary.

