

Minutes

- Meeting: Thursday, 19th February 2009, 9.00am
At the Kingsgate Hotel, Fitzherbert Ave, Palmerston North
- Present: Scott Baragwanath (Chairman, PFMA), Richard Brake (Secretary, PFMA), Dave Allan (PFMA), Andrew Cook (NZPFMA), Aleksandra Granjas (PFMA), Judy Barker (NZFSA), Lennox Vellekoop (NZFSA), Nasser Ahmed (NZFSA), Whitu Roiri (NZFSA VA).
- Apologies: Glenys Henry (NZPFMA), Carol Barnao (NZFSA), Trish Whitaker (NZFSA), Chris Mawson (NZFSA VA), Peter Brown (NZFSA VA), Marek Wojcikowski (NZFSA VA), David Burt (Federated Farmers), Kevin Cresswell (MIA).

Apologies

Apologies were accepted (moved WR, seconded DA, carried unanimously).

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held 18th November 2008 were approved as being a true record (moved LV, seconded DA, carried unanimously).

Matters Arising

There were no other matters arising other than those recorded on the agenda.

Amendment to the Animal Consumption Specifications

There are no substantive issues to be resolved. Some legal issues remain to be resolved. The Association expressed concern at the delay in the publication of the Specification.

NZFSA undertook to supply a firm date for publication.

Implementation of the Outcome of the Animal Feeds Review

Once the AC Specs are signed they will be gazetted, then the new requirements, with the exception of listing, come into force 28 days later. All affected petfood businesses are required to be listed by 1st October 2009.

The listing fee for affected petfood businesses is to be included into the new Fees Regs, which come into force in July. Therefore listing prior to then will not incur any listing fee, while afterwards, listing will attract the standard listing charge, which will be approximately \$210.00. Re-listing will be required in cases of significant changes to the process or change of operator.

The first verification audit will be done shortly after listing in accordance with NZFSA VA procedures. Thereafter:

- “dice-and-slice” retail operators will be on step 8 (5-yearly, or 20% of the businesses every year)
 - other operators (thermal processors, driers, bakers, wholesalers, etc) will be on step 7 (annual audit)
- The change in the Verification Statement of Policy will be published soon after the publication of the AC Specs.

Procurement only will be audited. If VA identifies ACVM issues during the audit, those issues may be raised with the ACVM Group for follow up.

Guidance documents for operators and templates for the VA audit are yet to be developed but this work will be underway shortly. The guidance document for operators will look somewhat like Inwards Goods and Traceability Support Programmes of an RMP.

As soon as the AC Specs are issued a “Listing Letter” will be sent to all affected parties. The “Guidance Letter” will follow soon after.

VA has confirmed that they don't expect any implementation issues.

Extension of Eligibility of On-farm Killing to Include Healthy Animals

The extension of eligibility trial is underway at AC Petfoods Ltd and Medallion Petfoods Ltd, both have had on-farm audits with no issues reported.

It has been agreed to extend the trial to all other interested operators. The Secretary undertook to convey this to the primary processors meeting in the afternoon. Interested operators will contact the Secretary to register their interest.

The extension will be issued for individual operator approval. “Slaughter” Support Programmes of the operators RMP will be forwarded to Lennox Vellekoop for approval (it is expected that some operators may need some changes made). NZFSA will then issue an approval letter to the individual operator outlining terms and conditions, similar to that issued to AC Petfoods Ltd and Medallion Petfoods Ltd. Such operators will have on-farm audits conducted in the same manner as current audits.

The trial with the two existing operators will be reviewed after the initial trial concludes in May. The review will include a review of VA on-farm slaughter audit practices.

Petfood Code of Practice

No progress.

It is one of the Association's 2009 objectives that the Petfood COP be completed in 2009.

Approvals and ACVM Group Issues

Regulatory Control of Agricultural Compound Manufacturing via ACVM Regs

Work continues. A public discussion document will be published in April. No active verification of these Regulations is proposed.

Glucosamine

ACVM has accepted Nestle proposal of increasing the allowable glucosamine content to 1300mg/kg from natural sources. ACVM will re-issue the “Standard for Oral Nutritional Compounds Containing Nutrients with Known Therapeutic Uses”

Labelling Compliance

Labelling issues will be discussed briefly at the AGM following. Most members of the Association have an issue with the very hands-off nature of ACVM and labelling. Therefore, the Association is taking a more active role in labelling compliance both of members and non-members.

NZFSA Update

Dairy and Non-dairy harmonisation is underway. RMP harmonisation is complete and the next step is the harmonisation of Agency and Approved Persons provisions.

The cost recovery (annual charge) process is underway for the change in costs in July.

A discussion document relating to animal material and product transport is due in April. This is intended to address an issue between dairy and non-dairy transport

The Food Bill is on hold awaiting discussions with the minister regarding priority. The voluntary implementation programme for food control plans is underway in conjunction with local authorities.

The Salmonella Strategy is being prepared and will be published in due course. The NZFSA Statement of Intent includes a goal of reducing the incidence of food-borne Salmonellosis by 30% over 5 years. The focus will be on poultry, eggs, pork and animal feeds. Currently the focus is on food but if evidence comes to light that petfood is a significant pathway in New Zealand then it will be included in the strategy. In the interim, the information gathering associated with the strategy may provide useful background information to petfood operators as to the Salmonella status of various raw material inputs

NZFSA VA Issues

Current practice is that every third audit includes a review of on-farm slaughter. However, due to logistics difficulties, this audit is not always physically on-farm. (Note, every audit requires an ASD review). It is proposed that VA requirements will be amended so that on-farm verification is compulsory.

The structure of the sector specialists has been changed. For the petfood area, Marek Mojcikowski has been appointed the petfood specialist/coordinator. He will act as the first point of contact for TTS inquiries or requests for clarification. Whitu retains his national coordinator role. Marek has been included on the Association's mailing lists (newsletters, minutes, etc)

Recent analysis of petfood audits has revealed 100 acceptable and 23 unacceptable, which is a poor ratio. After the meeting these results were clarified, there were in fact 15 unacceptable audits and 23 corrective action requests issued. Whitu undertook to send results of the review, with key recurring issues to the Secretary.

Budget & Funding

No issues were reported.

General Business

Petfood ASDs

The Association has ceased printing ASDs. There is some uncertainty if the current requirements. There will be an article clarifies ASD requirements published in the next newsletter.

National Animal Identification and Tracing Project

The NAIT project is progressing to plan. Whitu is the VA representative on the Technical Advisory Group, while Chris Mawson is the NZFSA representative on the Governance group. The project will be subject of presentation to the primary processors in the meeting following

There was no other general business.

Issues Register

The updated issues register will be circulated with the minutes of the meeting.

Next Meeting

11.00am, Tuesday 19th May 2009 in Auckland

Meeting closed at 10.30am.

Richard Brake
Secretary