

Minutes

- Meeting: Thursday, 22 February 2007, 11.00am
At the offices of Nestle Purina, 99 Carbine Road, Mt Wellington, Auckland.
- Present: Bob Antram, (Chair, PFMA), Richard Brake (Secretary, PFMA), Aleksandra Granjas (PFMA), Jim Allan (PFMA), Mike Tasker (PFMA) Lennox Vellekoop (NZFSA), Keith Kelly (Federated Farmers).
- Apologies: Scott Baragwanath (PFMA), Judy Barker (NZFSA), Tim Knox (NZFSA), Christopher Boland (NZFSA), Debbie Morris (NZFSA), Lucy Johnston (NZFSA), Chris Mawson (NZFSA VA), Whitu Roiri (NZFSA VA).

Apologies

Apologies were accepted (moved JA, seconded RB, carried unanimously).

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held 23 November 2006 were approved as being a true record. (moved JA, seconded RB, carried unanimously)

Matters Arising

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

Animal Feeds Review Update

Submissions closed 20 October. The NZFSA has analysed the submissions and are in the process of formulating recommendations for the Minister and Cabinet consideration.

There are still issues with plant products but these are not expected to delay implementation of proposal 2 relating to petfood.

The NZFSA has taken the NZPFMA's views into account, including concerns around the risks associated with wholesale and certain preservation operations and the points they made regarding commencing operations without prior approval and minimum verification. The resulting amendments forming recommendations to the Minister and Cabinet are currently scheduled to take effect at the end of July 2007. There will be a transition period following this date to give affected operator time to transfer.

There was some discussion around the numbers of businesses involved. The consensus was that there is likely to be about 20 processors falling into the "wholesale and certain preservation operations" category.

Cost Recovery

Submissions have been received on the "Cost Recovery Proposals under the Animal Products Act 1999" from most industry organisations. A summary has been prepared and will be published shortly. The NZFSA is currently developing its preferred position and will consult industry on its cost recovery final proposals (for cost recovery mechanisms and fees and charges) in early March. The Association remains comfortable with the proposals.

Animal Consumption Specifications Update

1 Progress of amendment

Lennox Vellekoop advises that the first amendment to the AC Specs is at a working draft stage. Further work is awaiting the outputs from the recent EU audit. The amendment will be published for comment once the

information is received. The amendment contains nothing contentious, so the consultation period is likely to be brief.

2 Review of Supplier Forms

Second drafts are complete but further work is required on the “wild” ones, to include the provision for possums, wild wallabies, wild goats etc. This draft is expected to be circulated first week of March

Petfood Code of Practice

1 Slaughter & Killing

Eligibility of Animal for On-farm Slaughter

Representatives of the Association (Jim Allan and Richard Brake) met with NZFSA (Tim Knox, Tony Zohrab, Geoff Allen, Judy Barker and Lennox Vellekoop) in Wellington on the 14 February to progress this issue. A full and frank discussion ensued.

It is clear that further extension will not be granted until the difficulties of on-farm verification are solved, which maybe through the introduction of GPS units and/or a “trusted operator” list.

The most recent extension to unmanageable animals will be notified shortly and performance of this extension will be closely monitored

Some questions regard kill tallies could not be adequately answered due to lack of data. Therefore the Association will collect kill information to assist with standards development

Adjustment of the Code in Response to the Publication of the AC Specs

Richard Brake delivered proposed adjustments to the Code to Lennox Vellekoop at the meeting

2 Rabbits & Hares

Adjustment of the Code in Response to the Publication of the AC Specs

Not yet complete but is expected to be forwarded to Lennox Vellekoop in the first week of March

Approvals and ACVM Group Issues

No significant issues. It was noted that:

- The joint APVMA and ACVM trans-Tasman working group has begun work with petfood on the agenda but it seems to be well down the order of priority for the APVMA. The NZFSA hope to get a firm commitment from the APVMA on priorities in mid-March.
- The “slice-of-life” audit will be underway shortly and the audit will include petfood companies. Terms of Reference have been discussed. A report is expected around the end of June

NZFSA VA Issues

No significant issues. It was noted that:

- The VA Petfood Coordinator is planning another round of visits to regional petfood coordinators to ensure consistent application of standards and to fulfil calibration requirements, concentrating on on-farm slaughter and RMP requirements
- An issue regarding the adequacy of petfood bulk bin sealing was raised during company compliance work but has been resolved.

NZFSA Update

No significant issues. It was noted that:

- Andrew McKenzie is due to retire at the end of June

Asure NZ Petfood Ante- and Post-mortem Examiners Training Course

The next course is confirmed for the four days commencing Tuesday 27th February in Hamilton. Five attendees are confirmed.

The matter of splitting the AM and PM sections was discussed. It is hoped that the AM part could be done through in-house training with Asure doing the post-training assessment. However, there appears to be issues with NZQA required accreditation of the training delivery. Richard Brake to follow up with Asure NZ Ltd.

It was noted that the unit standards have expired (December 06). Lennox Vellekoop to follow up.

Budget & Funding

No issues.

Richard Brake is to write to Judy Barker to get the ball rolling for next year's funding.

General Business

Poultry Inspection

Due to a lack of response from the EU to both AQIS and NZFSA requests for clarification, Phil Ward has indicated he will alter to OMAR to allow NZ to operate the same system as Australia, provided that assurance can be given that NZ's system of ante- and post-mortem inspection is as good as the system in Australia. Richard Brake is following up.

Draft Welfare Code for Commercial Slaughter

A draft Welfare Code of Practice for Commercial Slaughter has been released for industry comment. The Association was not on the mailing list and Federated Farmers alerted the Secretary to its publication. The draft needs some serious work as it largely ignored on-farm slaughter (both petfood and homekill). Submissions were made in a rush mid-January, without circulating it widely.

Electronic Tags

It was noted that RFID animal tags are being developed. The investment in recording devices for petfood processors premises and vehicle might be an issue. The issue is to be monitored.

Truck Effluent

Stock truck effluent has become a problem again and there has been some discussion about legislative changes. This may become an issue for petfood operators. The issue is to be monitored.

Next Meetings

Scheduled for 11.00am 24th May in Auckland

Meeting closed at 12.30 pm

Richard Brake
Secretary