

ASSOCIATION of AMERICAN PLANT FOOD CONTROL OFFICIALS, INC.

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Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO)

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On behalf of our current Board of Directors and members we wish to thank the Chairpersons, Chiefs, Commissioners, Directors and Secretaries of Agriculture for allowing your staff to attend and participate in meetings and training opportunities for the benefit of the AAPFCO and your staff members. AAPFCO recently completed a successful 2014 Summer Annual Meeting (July 27-29) in Sacramento, CA that was held in conjunction with the Association of American Feed Control Officials' (AAFCO) Annual Meeting.

Highlights from the work AAPFCO has discussed and accomplished this past year include:

- Publishing 14 manuscripts by the Laboratory Group in the Journal of AOAC International (JAOAC) in 2013 and 2014. The manuscripts are related to new or improved laboratory methods, fertilizer blending, quality control, and international method comparison. The journals are open access, available at: <http://aoac.publisher.ingentaconnect.com/content/aoac/jaoac>
- Providing guidance on Enhanced Efficiency Fertilizer (EEF) defined terms and products through development of a new Statement of Uniform Interpretation Policy (SUIP) # 30 which was moved to official status by the membership at the Annual Meeting. This is to assist USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) offices as outlined in Nutrient Management 590 standards which specify the state fertilizer control official as the expert on these materials.
- Cooperating with AAFCO and the Association of American Seed Control Officials (AASCO) to conduct a three day Basic Inspector Training Seminar in Baton Rouge, Louisiana during September 2013. AAPFCO gratefully thanks Commissioner Strain's staff: Mark LeBlanc, Meagan Davis, Lester Cannon and Jason Schmidt, for planning and hosting an excellent training for 40 inspectors from across the country.
- Providing guidance with a precautionary statement for fertilizers and soil amendments containing beneficial bacteria that are also known to be human pathogens through development of a new Statement of Uniform Interpretation Policy (SUIP) # 31 which was moved to official status by the membership at the Annual Meeting.

- Collaborating with industry stakeholders on the Paperless Fertilizer Tonnage Reporting Project. The project aims to provide cost and time savings to both the state and the industry by using an industry standardized format, streamlining the reporting process and utilizing electronic communication technologies. www.FertTon.org
- Submitting comments to FDA on the Proposed Rules on *Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption*. AAPFCO encouraged FDA to utilize definitions in the AAPFCO Official Publication to clarify an exclusion for synthetic fertilizers.
- Launching the use of electronic voting for committees. This will allow membership to vote at both the annual summer and winter meetings and expedite committee work, including the fertilizer terms and definition approval process.
- Providing forums for sharing information on important issues from other state and federal agencies, including Homeland Security, Department of Transportation, and Environmental Protection.
- Utilizing our Memorandum of Understanding with the Tri-Societies: American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) to work in cooperation with the review of new products by directing the manufacturers to their membership for the potential of peer reviewed research and articles concerning the efficacy of new products.
- Identified member states that have not been able to attend meetings and provided a monetary scholarship to assist in securing their participation at our Annual Meetings.

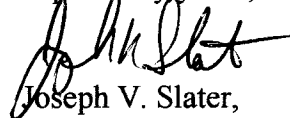
This concludes the AAPFCO 2014 report to NASDA and once again, we thank Alabama*, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida*, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi*, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey*, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota*, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania*, South Carolina, South Dakota*, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington* and West Virginia for allowing our members to attend and express your interests through their participation and votes. (* Denotes state sending a first time attendee to the meeting)

We cordially invite you to allow your staff to attend our future meetings and training opportunities:

- Administrator Seminar (October 21-23, 2014) in Annapolis, MD
- Winter Annual Meeting (February 15-17, 2015) in Jacksonville, FL

Additional information regarding these meetings and our association is posted on our website at <http://www.aapfco.org/>

Respectively yours,


Joseph V. Slater,
Secretary