Ed Thomas, TFI Director of Regulatory Affairs, provided an overview of the current initiatives being pursued by TFI this year. He began the discussion indicating that TFI had not received any requests for Bulk Blend Workshops. However, it was indicated that TFI would be willing to provide the support for workshops upon request. He also noted that TFI had begun the process of revising the bulk blend guidance manual and would welcome any revisions or input on the document from Control Officials. The document should be revised and ready for distribution by the end of the year.

Thomas also provided an update on ResponsibleAg. He reported that the number of retail facilities applying for and also receiving certification continues to grow. Thomas indicated that education and outreach material could be provided to any Control Official at their request. Thomas next moved to a general discussion regarding TFI priorities in the coming year. The interactive discussion highlighted TFI's pursuit of regulatory reform, the recent MOU between AOAC and ISO TC-134 to collaboratively approve fertilizer methods, the OSHA alliance to promote ResponsibleAg, and the TFI strategy for a biostimulant regulatory framework.

Discussion pursued regarding the TFI perspective for approving biostimulants and getting innovative fertilizer products to the market place safely and efficiently. Thomas noted that TFI is advocating for a uniform National plat biostimulant regulatory framework. As well as a 3rd party certification process that can be voluntarily adopted by members as deemed necessary for individual plant biostimulant products. The voluntary program would be based on the regulatory framework but be an independent validation of products for marketing and serve as an intermediate step before the adoption of a national regulation. He also explained that TFI is advocating for a robust scientific framework to ensure only those biostimulant products that have demonstrated plant response claims may gain market approval, as well as, ensuring a process that approves only those products that have sufficient scientific data supporting safety and acceptable environmental risk. Lastly, he encouraged the Control Officials to actively engage in a process to identify the "common elements" all states are using to review, approve, and label biostimulants. Thomas indicated that the USDA working group could rely on the "common elements" as building blocks to form a national regulatory framework and a uniform national label that the State Control Official programs could adopt and implemen. He noted that individual states would have the ability to modify the national program to fit each states individual needs.