AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL OF INDIANA NEWSLETTER

Promoting Agribusiness Policy in Indiana

August 11, 2017

ACI Signs Letter of Support for the Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017 to Senator Donnelly

US Chamber of Commerce and Indiana Chamber are working on a draft coalition letter to send Senator Donnelly regarding the Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017. The Senator has supported RAA in previous sessions, and we are working on ensuring his support again this year. Click here to read the letter to Senator Donnelly.

ACI Government Affairs Survey

The ACI Government Affairs Committee is seeking input from members about their policy engagement and more. Please click HERE to take a short survey which will help the committee develop communications, programming and more.

FDA announces delay in FSMA animal food facility inspections
Source: NGFA

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced Aug. 10 that it will delay until the fall of 2018 inspections of the hazard analysis and risk-based preventive controls requirements implemented under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The announcement of the one-year delay from the upcoming Sept. 18, 2017 compliance date in place for large animal food facilities (facilities that are part of a company with 500 or more employees) was made by FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine Director Dr. Steve Solomon during the opening day of the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) annual meeting in Bellevue, Wash.

During his AAFCO remarks, Solomon also provided an update on the agency's work to publish guidance on the FSMA animal food rule, stating the agency hopes to issue final current good manufacturing practice (CGMP) guidance by the end of this year and the first portion of draft preventive controls guidance by "early" next year. FDA's guidance for the preventive controls will consist of several separate documents, with the first document addressing food safety plans,

hazard analysis, animal food hazards, preventive controls and preventive control management components.

In addition, consistent with the delay of inspections for the preventive controls requirements, Solomon said FDA will not start inspections at animal food entities covered by the FSMA-related foreign supplier verification program (FSVP) rule until the fall of 2018. Solomon stressed that importers of foreign animal food products should be working now to obtain their Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number as part of complying with the new requirements.

In a related development, FDA recently provided more information about upcoming FSMA compliance dates. In a question-and-answer article posted on the agency's website, Jenny Murphy, consumer safety officer at FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine, explains what animal food facilities can anticipate in the next phase of implementation. Murphy noted there will be an increased level of FDA oversight of CGMPs with more routine inspections occurring after the September compliance date. The Sept. 18, 2017 date is when small animal food facilities (facilities that are part of a company with less than 500 employees) are to be in compliance with the CGMPs. FDA expects to conduct at least 500 animal food CGMP inspections during fiscal year 2018, which runs from Oct 1, 2017 through Sept. 30, 2018. While large companies also will be required to meet the preventive controls requirements on Sept. 18, she said FDA will not be conducting routine regulatory inspections for those requirements until the fall of 2018.

"This is new territory for all of us and we have heard from animal food producers that they need more time and technical assistance to fully understand the requirements," Murphy said. "We want to give the larger facilities some flexibility to further develop their plans and ensure that their system is operating correctly as guidance from FDA and other resources are put in place." Although FDA will delay inspections of the preventive controls requirements, compliance dates for the rule have not changed. In that regard, Murphy noted that "If we find a problem for a facility that has reached its preventive controls compliance date, we will be looking at their food safety plan to see what controls they have outlined."

Read the full interview here.

Updated Listing of Approved Medicated Feed Mill Licenses and Veterinary Feed Directive Distributor Notifications
Source: American Feed Industry Association

FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) has released the updated lists of licensed medicated feed mills and VFD distributor notifications. You can follow the links below to access these lists:

Updated Listing of Approved Medicated Feed Mill Licenses

An approved medicated feed mill license is required for facilities that manufacture feed using Category II, Type a medicated articles or manufacture certain liquid and free-choice feed, using Category I, Type A medicated articles that must follow proprietary formulas or specifications.

Updated Veterinary Feed Directive Distributor Notifications

A VFD drug is intended for use in animal feeds, and such use of the VFD drug is permitted only under the professional supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

Indiana Department of Labor Agriculture Worker Safety & Health Webinar
The Indiana Department of Labor works to collaborate with industry stakeholders on educating employees about work-related safety and health. Please click here to review the webinar and presentation and use it as a resource in your workplace.