

August 2009

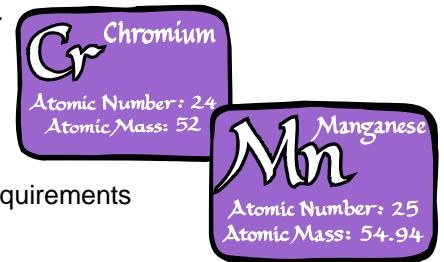
EPA Proposes Rule for Facilities Adding Chromium and Manganese

The Environmental Protection Agency on July 27 published in the *Federal Register* a notice that proposes management practices and standards to minimize emissions of chromium and manganese compounds from feed-manufacturing facilities. The proposed rule would affect all facilities that manufacture feed for animals, with the exception of dog and cat food, and that add chromium or manganese compounds to their products.

The EPA notice stated the agency is issuing the proposed rule to comply with the Clean Air Act, which requires it to identify and issue standards for at least 30 hazardous air pollutants that pose the greatest threats to public health in the largest number of urban areas. EPA also states it is proposing the rule at this time in response to a court-ordered deadline that requires it to issue standards for animal-feed manufacturers by August 17, 2009.

AFIA and the NGFA are closely tracking this important issue to evaluate the merits of requesting a public hearing and submitting comments. The Alliance will coordinate its response with these two organizations.

The proposed rule has specific areas of concern that facilities will be required to comply with, specifically: Management Practices and Standards, Monitoring Requirements and Notification and Record-keeping Requirements.



The management practices focus on dust minimization, and for pelleting operations at facilities with a daily mixing production rate exceeding 50 tons, emissions must be captured and routed to a cyclone designed for a 95 percent emissions reduction of particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter.

The facility must establish a monthly check list to include the monitoring and inspection of the drop socks and pelleting cyclones to ensure they are in working condition and have not developed holes, either by corrosion or damage from equipment or operators.

Reporting requirements include providing the EPA details of the facility; notifying the EPA of compliance within two years and 120 days of publication in the *Federal Register*; and preparing an annual report by March 15 of each year stating the facility remains in compliance or noting any deviation from compliance. The facility also must maintain records for five years.

Hexavalent chromium is among the most toxic of air pollutants listed under the Clean Air Act but other forms of the element are useful for their ability to increase energy efficiency in livestock.

Chromium Propionate Approved

Chromium Propionate has recently received FDA approval as a feed additive for cattle, allowing them to utilize energy more efficiently. The primary role of chromium is to potentiate the action of insulin. Increased insulin activity promotes intracellular glucose uptake. As a result, more energy is available to the animal and the animal is better able to utilize its energy efficiently. Previously Chromium Propionate has been available for use in all classes of swine in the United States, as well as for growing and finishing swine in Canada. In addition, it is available for both swine and dairy cattle in Mexico.

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- From AIFA and Kem Trace

Limin Kung, Ph.D. Presented With Dairy Nutrition Research Award



Limin Kung, Ph.D., a rumen and silage fermentation expert in the dairy industry, was recognized for his professional achievements by the American Dairy Science Association earlier this month. Kung is a professor at the University of Delaware, where he has a research, teaching and Extension appointment.

Kung was a featured presenter at the Alliance's Dairy Health and Nutrition Conferences held this past April. Kung has conducted timely and applicable research to improve the efficiency of production and increase net-farm income on dairy farms throughout his career. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Hawaii, and he earned his doctorate from Michigan State University.

The Dairy Nutrition Research Award was presented to Kung during the ADSA annual meeting in Montreal, Quebec, on July 14. The award is sponsored by the American Feed Industry Association, as part of its continuing awards program that dates to 1948. Clay Zimmerman of Blue Seal Feeds Inc. of Londonderry, N.H., presented the award to Kung on behalf of AFIA; Zimmerman is a member of the AFIA Nutrition Committee.

KSU Short Course Establishes HACCP Program for the Feed Industry

Kansas State University, in cooperation with the American Feed Industry Association and the National Grain and Feed Association, will present a feed-manufacturing short course, Oct. 5-8, 2009, on the K-State campus in Manhattan, Kan. The short course will focus on establishing a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points system for the feed industry.

The course will cover a range of topics on HACCP principles and regulations, including hazard analysis, identifying critical-control points, establishing critical limits, monitoring procedures, correcting actions, verifying procedures and record-keeping.

A description of the course curriculum may be found [here](#).

The registration fee is \$475. To register click [here](#).

For more information, contact Anita McDiffett at K-State at (785) 532-4080 or almgret@ksu.edu.

New York State Announces Construction of New \$40 Million Food and Feed Lab

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker and New York State Office of General Services Commissioner John C. Egan recently announced that a new \$40 million laboratory facility will be constructed at the Harriman Research and Technology Campus in Albany. The new state-of-the-art laboratory is the first new structure to be built on the 3330-acre campus in decades and will replace an outdated facility. It will house the New York State Food Laboratory, as well as the State Metrology Laboratory, both divisions of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

"The 70,000 square foot, three-story laboratory, which will be designed and constructed by the State Office of General Services, will utilize state-of-the-art testing instrumentation and biological and chemical containment systems to enhance current food safety and agricultural product testing programs.

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker said, "Food safety is front and center on everyone's mind these days, and this new laboratory will enable the State to better respond to food related emergencies, whether accidental or intentional through enhanced testing capabilities. Dan Rice, Director of the New York State Food Laboratory, said, "This new laboratory facility will greatly improve our already excellent food safety programs, as well as several other laboratory programs that support the State's food and agriculture industries."

The New York State Food Laboratory provides expert analytical testing for all food safety and security programs in New York State with expertise in food chemistry, food microbiology, and pesticide and chemical residue testing. The new laboratory will provide the added capability of testing food, beverages, and animal feed for select agents through Biosafety Level (BSL) 3 and chemical terrorism laboratory programs, which are lacking in the current facility.

During 2008, approximately 140,000 analyses on over 19,000 samples of food, beverage, animal feed, fertilizer and lime samples were performed at the New York State Food Lab as part of regulatory surveillance programs, food borne illness outbreak investigations, consumer complaints, and investigations of suspected food adulteration. The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets' food safety programs played an integral role in several investigations of food borne illnesses outbreaks and food laboratory test results that led to 317 food recalls in 2008 for undeclared allergens, undeclared ingredients, chemical contamination, heavy metals and bacterial contamination.

Model Feed and Ingredients Regs Approved by State Regulatory Officials

A new set of model current good manufacturing practice (CGMP) regulations that would address – for the first time – non-medicated feed and feed ingredients was approved by the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) on July 31 during its centennial meeting in Washington. The model regulations, which have been under development for more than five years, for the first time would create a basic set of CGMP-based regulations that would apply to all commercial sectors of the feed and feed ingredient industry. The model CGMP regulations now will be published in the 2010 edition of AAFCO's **Official Publication**, and will be available for states to consider adopting as part of their commercial feed laws. AAFCO is the professional organization of state and federal feed regulatory officials, to which many trade organizations provide input through appointed industry advisers to AAFCO committees.

In another significant action, AAFCO's membership also approved a Non-Commercial Feed Model Bill that could be adopted by states to apply to the safety of feed manufactured on-farm. As such, it will be a stand-alone model law – completely separate and distinct from the AAFCO Model Bill for Commercial Feed intended for distribution in commerce. The AAFCO Non-Commercial Feed Model Bill includes provisions that would govern when such feed is considered to be adulterated. It also contains provisions that would authorize states that adopt it to: 1) promulgate regulations applying to non-commercial feed; 2) conduct inspection, sampling and analysis of non-commercial feed; 3) detain non-commercial feed found to be unsafe or otherwise in violation of the statute; and 4) impose penalties on establishments found to violate the model law or regulations applicable to non-commercial feed.

- From NGFA

Veterinary and Animal Sciences program at UMASS

This month we are continuing our updates of animal science programs at land grant universities throughout the northeast with a review of UMASS.



The Veterinary and Animal Sciences program at UMASS, Amherst has developed a curriculum based on small ruminants, beef, and equine studies that serves as a draw for pre-veterinary students. Dr. Mark Huyler leads a program of Livestock Nutrition & Management, and Dairy Management, teaching both undergraduate and graduate students. While there is no longer a dairy farm associated with the University, there is a dairy management course offered as well as a focus on dairy in the series of nutrition

courses. Before classes resume in January the school organizes a winter dairy study tour that is open to students from other New England land grants. In the spring a dairy artificial insemination course is offered.

UMASS has realized the benefit of partnering with other schools by arranging research internships with the Miner Institute in Chazy, NY. Students from UMASS have also enrolled in the Miner Institute portion of the FARMS 2+2 program offered in conjunction with Vermont Tech, and UVM. Efforts to streamline credit transfer and tuition payments between the various institutions would increase student participation in "cross school" opportunities.

Of the 70-80 students graduating yearly from UMASS about 15 go on to vet school. While there is a strong beef and small ruminant interest in undergraduates, the school does not track students going on to study food animal medicine.

CFTC to Regulate Commodity Position Limits

Federal regulators announced the closure of a loophole that permitted certain types of highly speculative trades in agricultural commodities. The loophole was a significant factor leading to dramatic price increases in commodities such as corn, soybeans and wheat in early 2008,

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission on Aug. 19 announced it would close the loophole—which came about when it provided exemptions to its own rules several years ago—by withdrawing two "no-action" letters that had resulted in Deutsche Bank and another investment firm exceeding speculative position limits on corn, soybeans and wheat. "The CFTC's action is a good first step toward ensuring dramatic price increases will be less likely to occur in the future as a result of this particular type of trading", according to Joel G. Newman, AFIA president and CEO.

"I believe that position limits should be consistently applied and vigorously enforced," CFTC Chairman Gary Gensler said in an agency news release. "Position limits promote market integrity by guarding against concentrated positions."

While additional legislation and rule-making efforts may be needed to completely implement the necessary corrections, Congress also has taken some positive steps in the right direction. An example is passage last year of CFTC reauthorization legislation, which returned to the agency some authority over exempt commercial markets that it had lost under the so-called "Enron loophole" in 2000. Congressional appropriators also have steadily increased CFTC funding levels in recent years to allow for much-needed investments in staff, resources and technology.

- From AFIA

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Spiriorski to Address Vermont Feed Dealers on September 24th *"How the Economic Title Wave Reached Agriculture"*

Gary Sipiorski, a frequent contributor to Hoard's Dairyman will be a featured speaker at the Vermont Feed Dealers Conference on Thursday, September 24th in Burlington, Vermont. In Gary's view, the kettle was boiling before September 2008 when the financial market teakettle started whistling. The feed industry is now trying to evaluate, make some sense of the situation, and adjust to doing business in this strange economy.

It was not U.S. agriculture that created the financial crisis. However due to the results of what happened to the world and domestic economies agricultural feels like its legs have been cut out from under it. As a result, the important infrastructure supply industry such as the feed dealers are feeling the pinch along with their customers.

It helps to piece all of the news reports together and evaluate what is happening in the real world for intelligent business people to make good decisions in times like these. Come listen to what Gary Sipiorski has to say about how the financial build up occurred, how it is affecting agriculture and what has to be done to get back to what feels like normal again. Having the right information in times like these is important to help make the correct decisions.

Feed manufacturers, dealers and suppliers should attend the Vermont Feed Dealers Conference on September 24 to hear what Gary Sipiorski has to share with an important industry. Registration material is available through Louise Calderwood at rcalderwod@aol.com (note, only one "o"). Hotel Reservations are available at a special rate of \$135 until September 1, 2009. Call 1-802-658-0250 or visit:

<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/BTVDTDT-VTF-20090922/index.jhtml>.

The Northeast Ag and Feed Alliance Board of Directors will be meeting in Burlington on September 23rd, in conjunction to the Vermont Feed Dealers Conference.

NEAFA Calendar of Events

NEAFA Board Meeting

September 23, 2009
Burlington, Vermont

VT Feed Dealers Conference

September 24, 2009
Burlington, Vermont

KSU Feed Man. Short Course

October 5-8, 2009
Manhattan, Kansas

2010 NEAFA Annual Meeting

February 8-10, 2010
Albany, New York

Save the date!

**CELEBRATE OUR PAST,
DISCOVER OUR FUTURE**



2010 Annual Meeting

ALBANY

An Amazing Discovery

February 8 - 10, 2010