Summer 2019 Pet Food Alliance Meeting Summary

Over 120 attendees representing various sectors of the pet food and rendering industries joined for a successful meeting of the Pet Food Alliance on June 26th-28th! The Summer 2019 meeting took on a new format, highlight scientific presentations and discussion, but also maintained the foundation of the PFA by incorporating networking opportunities and working group discussions.

Following a Supplier’s Night reception on Wednesday, the PFA meeting kicked off on Thursday morning with a fantastic foreign-material roundtable moderated by Dr. Billie Johnson. Members of the panel included Jarrod Kersey (Simmons Pet Foods), Dr. Ansen Pond (Pilgrim’s Pride), Dave Edmiston (Nestle-Purina PetCare) and Tom Roling (Smithfield). Following the informative panel discussion, attendees received an update on the significant progress of the Oxidation and Product Quality Working Group from Dr. B.J. Bench (Tyson Foods), which included a presentation from Dr. Lili Towa (AlphaMos) regarding new methods for determining oxidative status. During the lunch break, attendees divided into their Working Groups to revisit 2019 priorities and develop action plans for the future (brief summaries below). Following the working lunch, Sarah Hubler (Collings Nutrition Solutions) provided the group with an update on MoKnows (infosheet attached) before a presentation on new pathogen detection strategies from Dr. Stan Bailey (bioMeireux).

The Friday meeting kicked off with an informative update on FSMA implementation and FDA priorities from Jenny Murphy (FDA). The morning program was wrapped up by a presentation highlighting opportunities for metagenomics in the pet food and rendering industries from Joe Heinzelmann (Neogen), followed by an update on the current state of global markets and foreign trade from Paul Clayton (U.S. Meat Export Federation). As the scientific portion of the meeting concluded, attendees reconvened with their working groups to finalize priorities and action items for the upcoming year. The networking portion of the meeting ended with a trip to Coors Field in Denver to watch the Colorado Rockies take on the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Consumer Perception and Sustainability
- Continued endorsement of MoKnows platform
- Student short course planned for Spring 2019. Program will target undergraduate students and include exposure to rendering and pet food facilities, as well as professional network building and career exploration
- Work with industry to create an informational video of rendering industry and pet food production
- Release literature database for rendering and pet food

Oxidation and Product Quality
- More than 50 responses to the Oxidation Sampling Method Survey---redistributed immediately following meeting.
- Develop cloud-based database for sharing of oxidation study results
- Redesign and re-release sampling methods survey for dry products
- Working group (and other PFA members) are needed to sign-up for specific priority areas. Please sign-up for priority group areas at this link: Oxidation & Product Quality Priority Area Groups

Salmonella and Product Safety
- Distribute conclusions from the transportation survey and redistribute as necessary.
- Formulate Best Practice development for washing/cleaning
- Develop videos for training on food safety testing/foreign material mitigation
- Create RFP for rapid methods to detect pentobarbital testing process
Other Pet Food Alliance Updates

- The PFA has grown by more than 450% since our first meeting!
- Over $30,000 was raised from the Summer 2019 Meeting! These funds will be utilized to fund research.
- A special thanks to the Steering Committee for their work in planning the 2019 Summer Meeting! The steering committee consists of: Dr. Jennifer Martin (CSU/PFA), Dr. David Meeker (FPRF/NRA), Dr. Billie Johnson (Consultant), Dr. Michele Sayles (Diamond Pet Foods), Dr. Sydney Knobel-Graves (Nestle-Purina), Pat Tovey (PFI), Dr. Ansen Pond (Pilgrim’s Pride), and Alyssa DeLong (JM Smuckers).
- Presentations and working group summaries will soon be available on the PFA website (http://fprfalliance.agsci.colostate.edu).
- Please help us plan our next meeting by completing this survey.