

## Baby Food Standard Technical Committee

### Meeting agenda & minutes

when: March 10, 2021 11am-12pm Eastern Standard Time

where: Microsoft Teams

Members present: Greg Bird, Boma Brown-West, Christopher Bonafide, Conrad Choiniere, Todd DeKryger (Chair), Monica Foote, Jillian Glew, David Gould (FoodChain ID, minutes), Emily Griep, Robert Harvey, Lori Hoagland, Jane Houlihan, Jason Jacobs, Rui Hai Liu, Micheal Mazourek, Tom Neltner (Oversight Committee), Alejandro Rodriguez Sanchez, Jason Rosecast, Arthur Villordon

Absent: Cheryl Callen

#### 1. Technical Committee - general:

- a. new members Jillian Glew and Monica Foote introduced themselves
- b. reminder to Committee members to submit bios to David Gould for inclusion on the website if they have not yet done so. Headshots are encouraged.
- c. Recruiting more members

**Discussion:** Referring to the Terms of Reference, the Committee considers that engaging additional farmer perspective would be beneficial. What is important is that the Standard is created in a way that is meaningful and practical for farmer participation.

**Action:** Monica, Emily, and Greg suggest reaching out to the Farm Bureau for potential persons to participate, and will try to make some contacts. All members are encouraged to think of additional people to enrich the Committee's work.

#### 2. Lab approval process

**Discussion:** Three more labs have recently been added to the approved list, but we still have few US-based labs. Additional requests for approval are coming in; they should be referred to Mark Sykes at Fera, who can arrange the necessary steps for proficiency testing. Next round (according to Tom) will begin in June.

#### 3. Working Group assignments and timeline expectations

**Discussion:** Members all looked together at the roster on the google drive. All members have now signed up for at least one of the WGs. Work will happen through virtual meetings and email/googledocs, with each WG reporting back to the full TC at the regularly-scheduled monthly meetings.

**Action:** David will coordinate/schedule meetings with each of the WGs, to happen as soon as feasible.

#### 4. Standard scope outline (googledoc)

**Discussion:** Todd asks members to suggest additional points to include. The outline as it appears is intended for the time being as a place to put all of the pieces to include; the final arrangement/order of topics is still to be determined. Salient points in today's discussion:

- The recent letter from FDA can inform the layout/structure of the Standard, using a preventative controls / risk management / quality system approach.
- Focus is needed on the main source of heavy metal contamination, namely in the raw food ingredients. Therefore ways to consider farming conditions and farmer engagement is critical.
- Continuous improvement needs to be embedded as an approach and practice in the Standard, both as a collective effort of participating companies as well as an individual company's program. Awareness of an engagement in ongoing research should be considered as important.
- How compliance by different supply chain links will be assured can be flexible. Individual entities (or organizations of similar entities, for example a producer group) could seek to be certified in their own right and sell to successive links in the chain, or assurance could be achieved by downstream links doing diligence to and qualifying preceding links in their supply chain.
- Drafting of the Standard needs to follow an iterative process, since it is expected that each WG's considerations and outputs may affect the work of the other WG's. Staying informed of each other is important to allow evolution of the TC's drafting of the Standard.

#### 5. State of research and ongoing research agenda

**Discussion:** Agreed all around that the more that those engaged in research are aware of and oriented to developments related to or pertinent to their own respective work and can align in practical ways, the better. At the next full TC meeting we set aside time on the agenda for further discussion and updates; Lori, Alejandro, Michael, and others may contribute, and should contact Todd in advance of the meeting to help arrange the time.

#### 6. Next meetings

**Discussion:** Per Doodle poll results, the TC will meet the second Tuesday of each month at 11am-12pm eastern time.

**Action:**

David will send an invite to all Committee members for a recurring meeting time.

**End of minutes.**