

337th MEETING INDIANA STATE EGG BOARD

140 West Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN

February 6, 2024
3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Bryan Johnson, Dr. Darrin Karcher, Tom Klump, Blair Kriner, Alex Seger, Margaret Titus, Skye Zakrzewski

Others Present: Angus Bartter, Australian student visitor, Dr. Mike Kopp, Director of Avian Health, IBOAH; Rebecca Eifert Joniskan, President of ISPA; Connor McCarthy, Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Joe Miller, Rose Acre Farms, Mark Straw, Executive Administrator, Indiana State Egg Board and Melissa Geiger, Administrative Assistant, Indiana State Egg Board.

President Seger called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

After introductions by attendees and with no announcements, meeting business began immediately.

The minutes of the November 1, 2023 meeting were presented. Motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Zakrzewski, and seconded by Klump. Motion passed unanimously.

Straw presented the 4th Quarter 2023 Financial Report. Sponsored Programs funds have begun moving to the Egg Board account, so some costs may not truly be reflected, particularly in salary and fringes. Those expense are being moved to the sponsored program accounts, but they occurred in previous fiscal year, thus leading to a lower current expense total in salary and fringe benefits. Transportation refunded more than was needed, so still not an accurate total on the automobile lease expense. We are still on track to finish the year in positive. Motion to accept the financial report as presented was made by Titus and seconded by Karcher. Motion passed unanimously.

Becky Joniskan of the Indiana State Poultry Association and Joe Miller of Rose Acres discussed The Food Date Labeling Act, and their concerns about it as it is currently written into the Federal Farm Bill. The goal of the Act is to reduce food waste, however, after several conversations and suggested edits between ISPA and Mr. Miller and the sponsor's office, none of the suggested language has made it into the bill.

Geiger presented the 4th Quarter 2023 Audit Report. One firm is three quarters delinquent. Two firms were two quarters delinquent and three firms were one quarter delinquent at the time of the meeting. Ninety Farm Market/Wholesale Combination and Less than 5 Cases per week wholesale registrants are one report delinquent (last report due 6/30/23).

There were 8 new Farm Market Retail/Wholesale Combination accounts in the 4th quarter.

Straw presented the 4th Quarter 2023 Field Staff Activity Report. Eggs are still being found with a high number of dirt. Our two newest inspectors completed USDA Grading Certification.

Information was presented to the board after a packer's request for a waiver to allow sale of mis-labeled AA eggs. After discussion, the board unanimously said no to allowing such a waiver.

Straw presented the 2nd Quarter 2023 Field Staff Violations Report. Dirty fecal material found on the eggs inspected continues to be a problem.

Dr. Kopp reported from the Board of Animal Health. High Path AI has been seen in mammals in the US. Infectious coryza has been reported in Ohio and northeastern Indiana counties. Coryza is not a reportable disease but the industry does contact BOAH to get vaccine approval. The exception to that approval is if the vaccine has already been approved by FDA.

Office Update:

ISEB conducted a joint audit of a wholesale facility with FDA after multiple issues were repeatedly identified during Shell Egg Surveillance visits.

Straw reported on an Illinois contact regarding an Indiana company providing unwashed eggs into Illinois, which requires eggs to be washed.

Straw presented information about working with the Indiana Department of Education on the Farm to School program. He sought input from the board about the goal of monitoring wholesalers of eggs through the program – should monitoring focus on food safety or egg quality.

Additionally, the Indiana Department of Health and small egg producers are seeking guidance for the sale of other eggs such as quail and duck. There is a federal guidance document addressing the temperature of other eggs, but it is not a federal law. After discussion the board wants to communicate refrigeration recommendations. With regards to regulating other eggs, a rule change would be required to regulate other eggs. It would strictly be on the loss category, as there is no uniform grade/size identified for other eggs.

The FDA contract has been sent to Purdue by FDA, and it is hoped to be in place by February 15, 2024 and runs through January 31, 2025. Since this will be in place, Straw requested the go-ahead to pursue adding an additional employee. The board agreed.

Purdue will be terminating its internal car rental/leasing program. We are going to have to either lease a car through Enterprise or purchase cars outright for our inspectors. The intent is to purchase vehicles in a staggered manner, beginning with the highest mileage car/most expensive charge for lease first. We may also investigate purchasing the one we just acquired for Andie Mears, as it is low mileage.

Upcoming Events:

- National Egg Quality School will be in Park City, UT May 20-23, 2024. One inspector will need to attend.
- FD107 training is scheduled for the third week of May in 2024. It will be in-person in Fort Wayne, IN. We will be attending this training if we have a contract with FDA.

The next meeting is May 1. Additional dates for 2024 are August 7 and November 6, all to be held at Creighton Hall.

Seeger called for a motion to adjourn at 5:02 pm. Johnson moved to adjourn, and seconded by Karcher. Unanimously approved.

Alex Seeger, President

Blair Kriner, Secretary