

# AFIA Staff Discuss Growth, Changes in SF/SF Certification Program



In 2004, the American Feed Industry Association formed the Safe Feed/Safe Food (SF/SF) certification program with the goal of establishing and promoting generally accepted animal food safety guidelines that would ensure the feed industry

could continuously improve the delivery of a safe and wholesome feed supply for the growth and care of animals. Today, the program has roughly 625 facilities that are certified in at least one of four certification programs.

The AFIA Journal recently sat down to talk with the program's technical advisor, Paul Davis, Ph.D., and the program administrator, Kori Chung, on the latest changes and future updates to the program.



Kori Chung



Paul Davis

## Q: How does the program ensure it is staying on top of the latest regulations?

**Davis:** Our programs are reviewed periodically. AFIA's Quality and Animal Food Safety Committee, which consists of 15 food safety experts from member companies, is charged with reviewing our SF/SF program and approving any changes.

## Q: Several auditors are involved in the program. Can you explain why and how facilities choose which auditor should audit their plants?

**Davis:** First off, we want our certified facilities to have options and some control of the certification process. Second, some certifying bodies tend to be more specialized in auditing a certain type of facility. We recommend those interested in pursuing certification to visit with more than one certification body as geographical coverage, expertise and travel costs may vary.

## Q: Describe the typical process from start to finish. How long does it take to apply to the program, what's the cost, and how much paperwork is involved?

**Chung:** The process starts with the facility contacting one of the certification bodies that performs audits for the intended FSC program. We suggest inquiring about audit pricing and schedule availability during this time. Next, you register your facility with SQFI using their database, ReposiTrak. The annual registration fee varies per program but must be paid upon initial registration and every year thereafter. After registration, the facility must contact the certification body to schedule an on-site audit. About 90 days after a successful on-site audit is completed, the certification body will issue the facility a certificate, record the status of the facility within the ReposiTrak database, and the facility will be added to the SF/SF website listing. The auditing body charges a separate fee and travel costs, which is different from the SQFI registration fee.

## Q: Once a facility is certified, how easy is it for them to apply for another certification in one of the other programs?

**Chung:** It's very easy to apply for additional certifications. We suggest scheduling one on-site audit for multiple FSC programs to cut down on the audit cost, but it's not necessary. If you hold a certification for one program and wish to become certified in another, the facility needs to contact the certification body about setting up an audit for the desired FSC and then register for that certification program in ReposiTrak. Once a successful audit is conducted, the certification body will issue a certificate to the company.

## Q: Are there any facilities that have been part of the program since its inception?

**Davis:** Yes! I am proud to say that there are several "charter" facilities that are still certified in our programs. Industry recognition, technical support, updated information on regulations and the value of feedback from a third-party audit are some of the benefits of continued certification.

## Q: Given there are many certification programs available to animal food manufacturers, what advice would you tell someone looking to participate in this program versus another?

**Davis:** With the Food Safety Modernization Act, it seems there came an increase in food safety products, programs and consultative services. My advice would be to do some research and choose the certification program that will be 1) most widely recognized and accepted by customers, 2) available in terms of technical support if needed, and 3) foreseeably in existence for the long haul.

## Q: How has this program been received internationally and domestically by government agencies or other regulatory bodies or organizations?

**Davis:** The SF/SF programs seem to be very well-received and highly regarded by regulatory agencies. Though third-party audits such as ours are not recognized by the Food and Drug Administration, we continue to work closely with them.

**Q: Do you think this program makes facilities more competitive in the marketplace? In other words, do their consumers understand the quality animal food they are receiving from facilities that participate in this program?**

**Davis:** In short, yes, holding SF/SF certification is a competitive advantage on numerous fronts. First, our certification can help firms with regulatory compliance, which is table stakes to be in the animal food business. Second, a safer product will result in fewer complaints, recalls and/or refunds. Consumer interest continues to grow in knowing where food comes from and how it was produced. Not only do we want to know what we are eating and where it was produced, now there is interest in what those animals were fed.

**Q: What do you see as some of the future priorities for the SF/SF program?**

**Davis:** Our programs will continue to evolve as influenced by regulations, consumer preferences and the needs of our industry. Also, we are in the beginning stages of developing a biennial meeting for participants and those interested in becoming certified. ■

**For more information on the SF/SF certification program and to apply, visit [safefeedsafefood.org](http://safefeedsafefood.org). For questions, contact Paul Davis, Ph.D., AFIA's director of quality, animal food safety and education, at (703) 650-0146 or [pdavis@afia.org](mailto:pdavis@afia.org), or Kori Chung, AFIA's legislative and regulatory assistant, at (703) 666-8862 or [kchung@afia.org](mailto:kchung@afia.org).**

## Recently Certified Facilities

**KEY: FSC32 - MANUFACTURE OF PET FOOD FSC34 - MANUFACTURE OF ANIMAL FEEDS FSC36 - SAFE FEED/SAFE FOOD**

FACILITY	CITY	STATE / PROVINCE	CERTIFICATION DATE	TYPE
Alabama Farmers Coop	Decatur	AL	Dec-17	FSC36
Alliance Liquid Feeds (QLF)	Billings	MT	Mar-18	FSC36
Ameri-Pac, Inc.	Saint Joseph	MO	Jul-17	FSC34
APC / LGI Corporation	Selma	NC	Dec-17	FSC36
Bentonite Performance Minerals, LLC	Lovell	WY	May-18	FSC36
Birmingham Hide and Tallow	Birmingham	AL	Dec-17	FSC36
Cargill	Friona	TX	Jan-18	FSC32
Cargill	Ft. Morgan	TX	Jan-18	FSC32
Cargill	Dodge City	KS	Jan-18	FSC32
Cargill	Wyalusing	PA	Feb-18	FSC32
Cargill	Schulyer	NE	Feb-18	FSC32
Cenzone Tech	San Marcos	CA	Apr-18	FSC36
COLO Blending	Umatilla	OR	Jul-17	FSC36
Compass Minerals	Franklin	LA	Nov-18	FSC36
Compass Minerals	Ogden	UT	Nov-18	FSC36
CPC Carolina	Cowpens	SC	Oct-17	FSC36
Dakota City Tyson Fresh Meats	Dakota City	NE	Jul-18	FSC36
Darling Ingredients Inc DBA Bakery Feeds LLC	Albertville	AL	Aug-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients Inc DBA Bakery Feeds LLC	Bryan	TX	Aug-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients Inc DBA Bakery Feeds LLC	Henderson	KY	Nov-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients Inc DBA Bakery Feeds LLC	Marshville	NC	Sep-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients Inc DBA DAR PRO Ingredients LLC	Bastrop	TX	Nov-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients Inc DBA DAR PRO Ingredients LLC (Hampton)	Starke	FL	Nov-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients Inc DBA DAR PRO Solutions Incorporated (Rendering Plant)	Butler	KY	Sep-17	FSC36

FACILITY	CITY	STATE / PROVINCE	CERTIFICATION DATE	TYPE
Darling Ingredients Inc DBA DAR PRO Solutions Incorporated	Dublin	GA	Nov-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients Inc DBA DAR PRO Solutions Incorporated	Union City	TN	Dec-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients Inc DBA DARPRO Solutions Incorporated	Ellenwood	GA	Oct-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Blue Earth	MN	Nov-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Coldwater	MI	Sep-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Collinsville	OK	Sep-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Dallas	TX	Sep-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Los Angeles	CA	Dec-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Las Vegas	NV	Sep-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Sioux City	IA	Sep-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Berlin	WI	Nov-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Blue Island	IL	Sep-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Clinton	IA	Sep-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Crow Landing	CA	Oct-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Denver	CO	Oct-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Des Moines	IA	Oct-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc. (Nishnabotna-blending)	Fairfax	MO	Aug-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Fresno	CA	Oct-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Houston	TX	Aug-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Indianapolis	IN	Dec-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc. Adams Rendering	Kansas City	KS	Sep-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc. James Bakery	Kansas City	KS	Aug-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Lexington	NE	Feb-18	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Lynn Center	IL	Dec-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Mason City	IL	Nov-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	National Stock Yards	IL	Nov-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Newark	NJ	Oct-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Omaha	NE	Dec-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	San Francisco	CA	Nov-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Tacoma	WA	Oct-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Wahoo	NE	Mar-18	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Wichita	KS	Dec-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Cleveland	OH	Nov-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Butler	KY	Sep-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Bellevue	NE	Jan-18	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Columbus	IN	Dec-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Jackson	MS	Dec-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Paducah	KY	Feb-18	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Pocahontas	AR	Nov-17	FSC36

# SAFE FEED/SAFE FOOD

FACILITY	CITY	STATE / PROVINCE	CERTIFICATION DATE	TYPE
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Ravenna	NE	Dec-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Tampa	FL	Oct-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Watts	OK	Aug-17	FSC36
Darling Ingredients, Inc.	Winesburg	OH	Dec-17	FSC36
Esmilco	Modesto	CA	Jan-18	FSC36
Foster Farms LLC	Aurora	OR	Jul-18	FSC36
GLC Minerals, LLC	Green Bay	WI	Jun-18	FSC36
Harvest Fuel SweetPro Feeds	Horton	KS	Aug-17	FSC36
Hormel Foods Corporation	Austin	MN	Jul-17	FSC36
Hormel Foods Corporation	Fremont	NE	Nov-17	FSC36
Lotron Industries USA	Columbia City	IN	Nov-17	FSC36
Lortscher Animal Nutrition Inc.	Brownwood	TX	Oct-17	FSC34
Lowe's Pellets & Grain, Inc.	Greensburg	IN	Dec-17	FSC36
Meyers Grain LLC - Railsiding	Chambersburg	PA	Nov-17	FSC36
Midor LTD	Elroy	WI	Mar-18	FSC36
Mid-South Milling Company, Inc	Memphis	TN	Aug-17	FSC36
Nutrius LLC	Hereford	TX	Mar-18	FSC34
Omega Protein	Moss Point	MS	Oct-17	FSC36
Pilgrims Corporation	Guntersville	AL	Feb-18	FSC36
Pilgrim's Pride	Mount Pleasant	TX	Feb-18	FSC36
PQ Corporation	Utica	IL	Oct-18	FSC36
Quincy Farm Products	Quincy	IL	Dec-17	FSC36
Renew Biomass	Aurora	MO	Apr-18	FSC36
Simmons Grain Company	Salem	OH	Nov-17	FSC36
Solvay Chemicals, Inc	Green River	WY	May-18	FSC36
Starlabs/Forage Research	Clarksdale	MO	Mar-18	FSC36
Sustainable Sourcing	Clinton	IN	Feb-18	FSC36
TechMix	Stewart	MN	Jan-18	FSC36
Tembec	Temiscaming	Quebec (Canada)	Dec-17	FSC36
Texas Feed Fat	Durant	TX	Sep-18	FSC36
Tyson Foods - Logansport Rendering Plant	Logansport	IN	Jul-17	FSC36
Tyson Foods - Louisa	Columbus Junction	IA	Dec-17	FSC36
Tyson Foods - Madison Processed Meats	Madison	NE	Jun-17	FSC36
Tyson Foods	Perry	IA	Jan-17	FSC36
Tyson Foods	Storm Lake	IA	Dec-17	FSC36
Tyson Fresh Meats	Wallula	WA	Apr-18	FSC36
Tyson Prepared Foods	Waterloo	IA	Jul-17	FSC36
Valley Grain Milling	Beulah	ND	Dec-17	FSC36
Valley Grain Milling	Casselton	ND	Dec-17	FSC36
Valley Grain Milling	Wheatland	ND	Dec-17	FSC36
Wake Stone Corporation	Loris	SC	Jan-18	FSC36
Yara North America	Sacramento	CA	Jan-18	FSC36