



**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT of
AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY**

MIKE STRAIN, DVM *Commissioner*

LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY AND SEED COMMISSION

**October 22, 2025
9:30 AM**

**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY
VETERANS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
5825 FLORIDA BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Mr. Todd Parker, Confidential Assistant to Commissioner Mike Strain, DVM.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Mrs. Tina Ficklin.

The following commission members and/or designees were present: Mr. Todd Parker, Designee for Commissioner Mike Strain; Dr. Philip Elzer, Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station; Dr. Edward Twidwell, Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service; Mr. Cecil Jones, Seed Industry Representative; Mr. David Causey, Fertilizer Industry Representative; Mr. Andy Brown, Designee for Mr. Richard Fontenot, Louisiana Farm Bureau Assn; Mr. Gregory Gravois, House Ag Committee Appointee; Mr. Travis Walker, Senate Ag Committee Appointee. A quorum was declared.

Others Present: Dr. Ansel Rankins Sr, Assistant Commissioner LDAF Office of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences; Craig Waguespack, Director of LDAF Feed Programs Division; Angelle Pearson, Director of the LDAF Fertilizer Programs; Dr. Greg Olson, Fertilizer Program; Russell Richardson, Fertilizer Program; Michael Lowe, Seed Program Coordinator; Brent Cutrer, Industrial Hemp Program Coordinator; Courtney Foote, Feed Programs; Tina Ficklin, Seed Programs; Angela Jackson, LDAF Attorney; and Mr. Garry Primeaux, Executive Director Louisiana Ag Industry Association.

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NO PUBLIC COMMENT.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Philip Elzer made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2025 meeting. Mr. David Causey seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

The LDAF staff recommended tentative dates for calendar year 2026 commission meetings. The commission members were in agreement with May 20, 2026, and October 21, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

PROGRAM UPDATES

Seed and Industrial Hemp Programs Division

Seed Program – Mr. Michael Lowe gave an update on LDAF seed sampling and seed laboratory testing data for FY 2026. Mr. Lowe recognized Janet Riggle for passing the AOSA Seed Analyst Certification Exam.

Mr. Brent Cutrer gave an update on the field acreage certified for Louisiana for crop year 2025.

Mr. Cutrer also informed the board that the promulgation process is completed for the Certification Standard Revisions (Industrial Hemp, Sweet Potato, Sugar Cane YLV and Bahiagrass) proposed at the May 21, 2025, meeting and were published in the October 20, 2025, Louisiana Register.

Industrial Hemp Program – Mr. Brent Cutrer gave an update of current calendar year Industrial Hemp data including an update on the Industrial Hemp Promotion Research & Advisory Board.

Agricultural Chemistry Programs Division

Agricultural Chemistry – Ms. Angelle Pearson gave an update on the LDAF Agricultural Chemistry Laboratory and the *Fertilizer/Lime Program*.

Mr. Andy Brown commended the Department for their efforts in assisting the industry with control measures for two invasive pests found in Louisiana this year, the Rice Delphacid and Cotton Jassid.

AHFS Feed Programs Division

Feed Program – Mr. Craig Waguespack provided an update on the LDAF Feed Program.

SEED PROGRAMS PROPOSED REGULATION REVISION

Regulatory Fee on Seeds

Dr. Rankins provided a summary of the proposed regulation change to LAC 7:XIII.123.A Regulatory Fee on Seeds, enabled by R.S. 3:1433 to be promulgated in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, (La R.S. 49:950 *et.seq.*)

Proposed change to §123(A) Seed Regulatory Fee – to increase the fee from \$0.25 to \$0.30 per hundred pounds of agricultural or vegetable seed at the first point of sale in Louisiana. Last increase was in 2016.

Motion to accept and approve regulation change to §123(A), Regulatory Fee on Seeds, as recommended by LDAF staff, was made by Mr. Cecil Jones and seconded by Mr. David Causey. No opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Angela Jackson, LDAF Attorney, recommended the Commission grant the Department staff authority to promulgate all future rules on behalf of the Commission, once rules have been presented to the board in an effort to streamline the promulgation process.

Motion to grant the Department staff authority to promulgate all future rules on behalf of the Commission, once rules have been presented to the board, was made by Dr. Philip Elzer. Seconded by Mr. Travis Walker. No opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Garry Primeaux, addressed the LAIA Feed Representative vacancy on the board. LAIA will send the nomination for Mr. Brett Richard to the Commissioner for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Andy Brown and seconded by Mr. David Causey. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

APPROVED: _____

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