



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT of
AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

MIKE STRAIN, DVM *Commissioner*

**TENTATIVE MINUTES (PENDING COMMISSION APPROVAL)
IN-PERSON MEETING OF THE
LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY AND SEED COMMISSION**

**May 21, 2025
9:30 AM**

**Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry Building
LDAF Veterans Memorial Auditorium
5825 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70806**

NOTE: THIS IS TENTATIVE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 21, 2025 MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY AND SEED COMMISSION OF LOUISIANA. A FINAL VERSION OF THESE MINUTES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE AFTER APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION AT ITS NEXT, REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Mr. Todd Parker, Confidential Assistant to Commissioner Mike Strain, DVM.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Miss Shelby Powers.

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: Lester Cannon, Director of LDAF Seed Programs Division; Dr. Ted Gauthier, Director of LDAF Agricultural Chemistry Programs Division; 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; Tina Ficklin, Seed Programs; Jade Saunders, LDAF Executive Counsel; Dr. Andre Gama LSU Sugarcane Pathology Specialist; and Dr. Jeffrey Cole Gregorie LSU Sweet Potato Specialist.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Greg Gravois made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 16, 2024 meeting. Dr. Philip Elzer seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

NEXT HEARING DATE

The LDAF staff recommended a tentative date of October 22, 2025 for the next commission meeting. The commission members agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

None

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 2025.

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 – Dr. Ted Gauthier gave an update on the LDAF Agricultural Chemistry Laboratory.

Fertilizer/Lime Program – Ms. Angelle Pearson gave an update on the LDAF Fertilizer/Lime Programs.

AHFS Feed Programs Division

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

SEED AND INDUSTRIAL HEMP REGULATION REVISION PROPOSALS

Bahiagrass Seed Certification Standards –

Mr. Cannon provided a summary of the proposed amendments to the Bahiagrass Seed Certification Standards.

Motion to approve regulation changes to §707 Bahiagrass Certification Standards as recommended by LDAF staff was made by Dr. Philip Elzer; seconded by Mr. David Causey. No opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

Tissue Culture Sugarcane Seed Certification Standards –

Mr. Cannon and Dr. Andre Gama provided a summary of the proposed amendments to the Sugarcane Certification Standards.

Motion to approve regulation changes to §763 Sugarcane (Tissue Culture) Certification Standards as recommended by LDAF staff was made by Mr. Gregory Gravois; seconded by Mr. Andy Brown. No opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

Sweet Potato Seed Certification Standards

Mr. Cannon and Dr. Cole Gregorie provided a summary of the proposed amendments to the Sweet Potato Certification Standards.

Motion to approve regulation changes to §755 Sweet Potato Certification Standards (Virus and Non Virus-Tested) as recommended by LDAF staff was made by Mr. David Causey; seconded by Mr. Travis Walker. No opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

Industrial Hemp Seed Certification Standards

Mr. Cannon provided a summary of the proposed Hemp Seed Certification Standards.

Motion to accept and approve newly established Hemp (*Cannabis sativa* L. Subsp. *Sativa*) Seed Certification Standards as recommended by LDAF staff was made by Dr. Philip Elzer; seconded by Mr. David Causey. No opposition. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Greg Gravois and seconded by Mr. David Causey. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.