



## PRESS RELEASE

### **International Safe Feed/Safe Food certification program reaches milestone**

**BRUSSELS, Belgium - 2011-09-07** – The International Safe Feed/Safe Food Certification Program has reached its two year anniversary. Representatives of FAMI-QS (Specialty Feed Ingredients Quality System) last week met at the American Feed Industry Association's office in Arlington, VA, to discuss and implement developments of FAMI-QS, including the new scope and rules for operators and certifying bodies.

AFIA's International Safe Feed/Safe Food Certification Program integrates FAMI-QS, and is working under the same rules and scope. Launched in 2010, I-SF/SF is a unique, third-party-verified program for ingredient facilities. Domestically, AFIA has also sponsored the Safe Feed/Safe Food Certification Program in the US since 2005. I-SF/SF was designed to help facilitate US trade with European feed and ingredient customers by providing a tool to demonstrate compliance with the EU's feed hygiene regulation, which requires certification under the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points system.

The second half of the week-long meeting served as a training opportunity for US feed-facility auditors from Eurofins Scientific Inc. (ESI). This annual training allows auditors to maintain compliance in the program, allowing them to inspect U.S. facilities for compliance with I-SF/SF / FAMI-QS.

According to Keith Epperson, AFIA's vice president of manufacturing and training, *"The basis for a program to be successful and recognized worldwide is to develop a program that helps facilities provide a safe product and then audit everyone to the same safety level. Training auditors worldwide is a key focus of FAMI-QS and ensures everyone certified in the program meets the same code."*

Attending the meeting and the training session were: Dr. Didier Jans, secretary general and Emmanuel Geneiatakis, quality manager of FAMI-QS, I-SF/SF auditors Dr. Jerry Poley and Dan Uthe, and AFIA was represented by Joel Newman, Richard Sellers, Keith Epperson and Sharon Henry.



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**About FAMI-QS**

FAMI-QS Asbl is the management and co-ordination center for the FAMI-QS code of practice. FAMI-QS is a pioneer in its field as it is the only certifiable code specifically aimed at specialty feed ingredients and their mixtures for animal nutrition. The code addresses safety, quality and regulatory compliance in order to minimize the risk that unsafe specialty feed ingredients enter the food and feed chain. It offers independent certification for all operators placing these products on the market. Based on partnership with international certification bodies and third countries institutional partners, it includes more than 600 certified sites spread across more than 45 countries. The current FAMI-QS President is Dr. Dieter Greissing of *Evonik Industries AG*.

**About AFIA**

AFIA, based in Arlington, VA, is the world's largest organization devoted exclusively to representing the business, legislative and regulatory interests of the US animal feed industry and its suppliers. Founded in 1909, AFIA also is the recognized leader on international industry developments. Members include more than 500 domestic and international companies and state, regional and national associations. Member-companies are livestock feed and pet food manufacturers, integrators, pharmaceutical companies, ingredient suppliers, equipment manufacturers and companies which supply other products, services and supplies to feed manufacturers.

The feed industry makes a major contribution to food safety, nutrition and the environment, and it plays a critical role in the production of healthy, wholesome meat, milk, fish and eggs and pets. More than 70 percent of the feed in the United States is manufactured by AFIA members.