



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.