

Making and Selling Pet Foods & Pet Treats in Louisiana

Feed Program
Louisiana Department of
Agriculture and Forestry

What's required?

REGISTRATION APPLICATION & FEES

We require annual registration of companies and products both of which are due by June 30th each year

Annual Company Registration Submission

\$40.00 company fee

Annual Product Registration Submission

\$10.00 label fee per product label

Specialty Product Fees

If products are sold ONLY in packages of 10 pounds or less, a \$200.00 specialty fee is due, which eliminates the quarterly tonnage payments

***Your company and your products must be registered with our office before selling in Louisiana**

What's required?

Quarterly Tonnage Requirement Submission

1st QUARTER – July 1-Sept 30

DUE: Oct 1 (Postmarked by Oct 30)

2nd QUARTER – Oct 1-Dec 31

DUE: Jan 1 (Postmarked by Jan 30)

3rd QUARTER – Jan 1-March 31

DUE: April 1 (Postmarked by Apr 30)

4th QUARTER – April 1-June 30

DUE: July 1 (Postmarked by July 30)

- Inspection fees are computed at \$1.00 per ton for each ton sold. Be advised there is a minimum quarterly inspection fee of \$10.00
- Those accounts who paid the \$200 specialty fee with registration are exempt from paying quarterly inspection fees; however, tonnage reports must still be submitted, depicting accurate tonnage amounts distributed in Louisiana

What's required?

All pet foods and pet treats are required to be labeled with the following information:

1. Product Name
2. Designation of “food” or “treat/snack” and for what species the product is intended for
3. Guaranteed Analysis
4. Ingredient Statement
5. Feeding Directions
6. Net Weight Statement
7. Manufacturer Information

Product Name & Intended Use

- Each pet food or treat must be identified with a name that conforms to the product
 - > For example: Sketch's Bacon Dog Treats or Beef and Lamb Dog Food
- The intended species must be identified on the label – usually it's either “cat” or “dog”
 - > This can be declared in the product name, but it doesn't have to be, as long as it's designated somewhere on the label

Guaranteed Analysis

A “Guaranteed Analysis” is required on all pet foods. The following guarantees are always required:

1. Crude Protein, minimum percentage
2. Crude Fat, minimum percentage
3. Crude Fiber, maximum percentage
4. Moisture, maximum percentage

Other guarantees can be voluntarily guaranteed. For more information, contact the LDAF Feed Program

Ingredient Statement

- Each pet food or pet treat must have an “Ingredient Statement” declaring all ingredients used in the product

For example:

INGREDIENTS: Wheat Flour, Oats, Beef Broth, Cheddar Cheese, Bacon

- If an ingredient used contains multiple ingredients, all ingredients that make up that ingredient must be declared

For example, if wheat crackers are used, the ingredient statement would read:

INGREDIENTS: Whole wheat flour, soybean oil, salt (as they appear on that ingredient label)

Ingredient Statement

- All ingredients used must be AAFCO defined or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or by the LDAF Feed Program
- Remember: Just because it's safe for humans to eat doesn't mean it's safe for pets

For example: Chocolate may be deadly to dogs

Feeding Directions

- All animal feeds, including pet foods and treats, require adequate directions for use on the label
- These directions must be easily understood in order to feed the product appropriately
- Even if it's a pet treat, feeding directions are required. The most commonly used directions on pet treats simply state "Feed as a snack or treat"

Feeding Directions – Pet Foods Only

- Products labeled as “pet foods” are usually considered to be “complete and balanced” for the specific animal the product is intended for
- If you are manufacturing a pet food, please contact the LDAF Feed Program for further information regarding manufacturing a food that is indeed complete and balanced for the animal it is intended for, and for further labeling instructions

Net Weight Statement

- All feeds distributed in Louisiana are required to have a declaration of weight of the product
- This statement should be in both standard measurements and metric measurements.
For example: 1 lb. (2.2 kg)
- Occasionally we'll allow a quantity statement to be used. If you are selling a certain number of treats, you can list the number of treats the packaging contains

Manufacturer Information

- The responsible party for the product shall be listed on feed labels
- This person is not only responsible for registration requirements with our office, but the person the purchaser of the product should contact if they have any questions
- Provide the company name, the street address of the company, as well as the city, state and zip code

Commonly Asked Questions

If I make 5 different flavors of treats, does each treat need to be registered separately?

Yes. If the recipe for a treat has changed, then a separate label is required for each product, and each product must be registered with our office.

Commonly Asked Questions

If I sell my treats in containers that allow for the customer to mix and match their purchase, what do I need to do?

Each container must have labels available for the customer to take with them that provides all the required information talked about in this presentation.

When the customer is ready to purchase their treats, the weight of the total mix and match is then determined

Commonly Asked Questions

Bakery Display Cases – How do I meet the labeling requirements if my treats are in a display case?

In this situation, make sure that the employee can provide a label (card) that provides all the required information for each product selected from the bakery display case

Commonly Asked Questions

If I prepackage multiple flavors of dog treats to make a variety pack, what is required for labeling?

Each flavored treat labeling information should be provided with the variety pack to provide the required information.

Commonly Asked Questions

If I have a product already registered and I decide to treat and top it with icing, is this a new product?

Yes it is. A new label for that product must be created and the product registered with our office.

Commonly Asked Questions

If I add beef stock to my treats, can I tell my customers it is beef flavored?

Yes you can. In this case, the beef stock imparts a distinctive flavor to the treat and it may be stated.

Commonly Asked Questions

If I add peanuts to the treat, can I call it peanut butter flavored?

No. This would be peanut flavored treats. The peanuts would have to be processed into peanut butter before the product could be called “peanut butter flavored”

Commonly Asked Questions

How do I determine the guarantees for my pet treat?

You can submit your product to the LSU Ag Chemistry Division of our office. For a fee, our laboratory can run the required testing to provide you with the nutrient information needed to determine your guarantees. Contact the LDAF Feed Program for further information.

Commonly Asked Questions

I make the dog treats at my house. Am I required to meet commercial kitchen standards? Will my home be inspected?

As a feed manufacturer, you are required to meet only the regulations that are applicable to animal feeds. Though we have the authority to inspect the manufacturing site, we will not perform an inspection under normal circumstances. If we receive a complaint regarding your products, the investigation may require an inspection however.

Commonly Asked Questions

Can I call my product “natural” or “all natural” or “organic”?

Most foods will not be “natural” or “all natural” because they contain man made ingredients, which may include some minerals, some vitamins, and artificial flavoring. You may be able to say “Contains natural ingredients with added vitamins and minerals”.

For a feed product to be considered organic, the product must be reviewed by a third party organic certifier. This will require additional labeling information on the product.

Resources

- ◉ AAFCO – Association of American Feed Control Officials visit www.aafco.org
- ◉ AAFCO Business of Pet Food visit <http://petfood.aafco.org>
- ◉ FDA – Food and Drug Administration visit www.fda.gov
- ◉ LDAF – Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry visit www.ldaf.state.la.us

Contact Us

If you have any questions regarding registration requirements, labeling requirements or manufacturing information, please contact LDAF Feed Program for further assistance:
FeedProgram@ldaf.state.la.us

Our office can also be reached by phone at
225-935-2169