

PAACO

Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization, Inc.

P.O. Box 31 • Redfield, IA 50233 • Phone: 402-403-0104 • Website: www.animalauditor.org

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Executive Director:

Mike Simpson, MS

Who makes up the PAACO organization?

PAACO is the Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization, Inc., made up of a coalition of five professional animal industry organizations.

Those organizations are:

- American Association of Avian Pathologists
- American Association of Bovine Practitioners
- American Association of Swine Veterinarians
- American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists
- Federation of Animal Science Societies

What does the PAACO organization do?

PAACO's mission is to promote the humane treatment of animals through education and certification of animal auditors, as well as the review and/or certification of animal audit instruments, assessments and programs.

PAACO has a full-time professional executive director charged with advancing our mission and maintaining our programs and policy system. Every director is active in volunteering their services beyond setting policy. Committees function to plan and develop activities to further the mission of PAACO and to serve the animal and food industries.

When was the PAACO organization formed?

PAACO was formed in 2004 when leaders of the founding organizations identified a need to promote and advance sound animal auditing through standards for auditors in education, training and experience.

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Why is the PAACO organization important?

PAACO serves:

Animal welfare issues affect multiple segments of our animal and food industry. We must rely on allied groups to support the comprehensive animal care areas we serve. Animal care is widely recognized to have an impact on the following areas:

- food retailing • food service industry • government food purchases • meat/poultry manufacturers and processors • meat/poultry packers • meat animal marketing • animal production facilities/farms
- pharmaceutical companies • equipment manufacturers • animal laboratories • recreational interests associated with animals.

PAACO provides:

- A. Uniform minimum standards for auditors:
- Education and experience
 - Training that leads to uniform competency
 - Procedures based on best professional practices and science
 - Continuing education requirements to maintain certification
 - Professional training in audit protocol and education of criteria to be verified. **PAACO** auditors are trained to report findings to their clients in a quantifiable and unbiased manner.
 - Applicable code of conduct to maintain certification
- B. Uniform minimum criteria for audits:
- Animal science and veterinary professionals objectively assess the completeness of industry developed audits, develop conclusions, back them up and verify that an audit meets the required minimum standards.
 - Required annual recertification during which updates are reviewed and new science relative to current welfare practices is approved

PAACO meets needs:

Audit and auditor evaluation, training and certification programs were initiated in 2006. Auditor training has been conducted for meat plant (cattle, swine, & sheep) and poultry (broiler, turkey & layer) production and slaughter areas. Auditor training programs have been based on professional and industry developed welfare criteria such as the American Meat Institute Foundation and the national poultry associations.

Auditor training consists of 2 to 3 days of instruction by professionals, testing and successful completion of shadow audits to become certified.

PAACO continues to develop audit and auditor welfare certification and training relationships in all livestock species.

PAACO promotes collaboration:

PAACO generates basic operational revenue from independent certification of audits and auditor training and certification fees. **PAACO** is supported by cash sponsorships from other parties interested in our mission including industry producer associations and allied food and animal industries.

Council concept:

Through its activities over the past 5 years and its interactions with all segments of the food chain – retail and food service to producers – **PAACO** has recognized an opportunity to continue to serve these segments and solve common problems related to quality auditing and audits. **PAACO's** founding members provide a core of animal and poultry scientists and veterinarians who bring a level of expertise and excellent resources to the players in the food chain.

PAACO has established a council that is open to associations, companies and other interested parties for a \$5,000 annual membership. The purpose of the council is to advance, address and solve common issues in the animal care and verification areas through quality audits and auditing.

Council member benefits include:

- Participation in food chain industry sessions that are targeted to address specific identified issues in animal care, training and auditing
- Provide advice to **PAACO's** board of directors
- Provide direction and input on programs and activities
- Receive regular communications on organization activities and industry-related happenings
- Identification as a company or organization that supports professional training, auditors and auditing as well as animal care
- Company/organization logo and link to your website from the **PAACO** website