



**Foundation**  
Analytical Laboratory

# Receiving the Best from your 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Laboratory



- The Problem is that we all have so many things on our plates, the last thing we need is questionable data from our 3<sup>rd</sup> party laboratories.



- The Solution is to expect more so our 3<sup>rd</sup> party contract labs are helping solve our problems, not add to them.



- 5 Practical Steps
  - Know the methods being used on your samples
    - Is the method applicable to sample types?
    - What is the sample prep being used?
      - Is the lab prepping the samples? If so, how?
      - Is the plant prepping the samples? If so, how?
  - What are their Certifications & Accreditations?
    - What is their QA program?



- 5 Practical Steps (cont.)
  - Push your labs to be enrolled in PT programs
    - Ensure the PTs are specific to your sample types
      - ASTM DDGS Proficiency Testing
      - AOCS DDGS Proficiency Testing
      - AAFCO PT are great, but not specific to our industry
    - What do they do with the results?
    - As an industry, we need them to mean something.



- 5 Practical Steps (cont.)
  - Don't be afraid to send blind repeats
    - Communicate if they fail and ask for a CAR (Corrective Action Report)
  - Ask Questions



- Your 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Contract Laboratory should be your partner and viewed as an extension of your business, so hold them accountable.