

ACAF Forward Work Programme

Introduction

The Committee is committed to taking a proactive approach to ensure developments in animal feed and feed safety are identified and prioritised as appropriate. Therefore this is a living document which can be amended to take account of changing priorities as new issues arise or the urgency of existing priorities change due to impacts on feed safety.

High Priority issues. ACAF to consider proactively based on emerging and current issues with high and/or immediate impact on feed safety and short term policy issues and strategic objectives for FSA and agricultural departments. Considerations include short term uncertainty risks, media interests and consumer perception.

Topic	Progress	Expected Output
Feed additives – potential for over-supplementation	<p>Committee Member Geoff Brown provided the Committee with a presentation on feed additives at its October 2016 meeting. The presentation noted the issues of potential over-supplementation of animals, through multiple feed sources (e.g. forage, compound feed, boluses and drenches etc.). In addition, the presentation highlighted concern at the scale of non-compliance of products, such as those which exceed MPLs even when used on their own, or products with inadequate labelling, with some internet sales adding to the challenge of compliance. The Committee agreed that this was an important issue and that it could develop several work strands to help mitigate any potential risks.</p> <p>Since the October 2016 meeting the Committee has discussed on several occasions optimum ways to communicate with the feed industry to emphasise the importance of compliance with maximum permitted levels set for certain feed additives in feedstuffs. The</p>	To note developments, including industry and public opinion, and to provide considered and substantiated guidance to help shape FSA policy

	<p>Committee considered a scoping paper and agreed that a working group would be convened before the next full committee meeting in February 2018. The Working Group met in December 2017 where it undertook a further scoping exercise to assess the size and potential length of the task and also agree its terms of reference and whether membership should be extended to external organisations and individuals.</p> <p>At the ACAF's February 2018 meeting, the Working Group chairman provided an oral report on the outcomes of the inaugural meeting and agreed to provide a further update at the Committee's June 2018 meeting on the outcome of the second working group meeting to be held in April 2018.</p>	
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Medium Priority issues - ACAF to respond to developments and consider regularly. This will be based on emerging and current issues with potential increasing impact on feed safety along with medium term policy issues and strategic objectives for FSA and agricultural departments. Considerations for determining medium priority include medium term uncertainty of risks, media interests and consumer perception.

Feed additives – legislative changes impacting micronutrient status	<p>There is some concern that changes in feed legislation leading to the manufacture of animal feed with lower levels of certain trace elements might lead to inadequate nutrient supply to humans.</p> <p>In 2016, reductions in maximum limits for zinc were introduced for some animal species. In 2017, levels for manganese were retained and reductions set for iron MPLs for specific species.</p> <p>Standing Committee discussions on maximum limits are underway for copper.</p>	To provide recommendations and advice on potential impacts on feed safety as appropriate.
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Feed Safety – Potential Gaps	<p>In June 2011, the Committee was asked to consider potential safety gaps in the feed sector. It agreed to consider in further detail the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identification of feed businesses; • awareness/competence of feed business operators (FeBOs); and • imports. <p>The Committee explored the three areas during 2012 and 2013 including presentations from industry organisations (e.g. the Agricultural Industries Confederation and the British Society of Animal Science on work they are doing on the awareness and competence of FeBOs). At its May 2013 meeting the Committee considered the conclusions it had reached during its exploration of potential safety gaps in the feed sector. These were published on 10 December 2013. http://acaf.food.gov.uk/papers/reviewgaps</p>	To identify potential gaps in feed safety and provide recommendations to address the gaps identified.
Safety and practical use of food waste	<p>Yet to be considered in general terms.</p> <p>The Committee is already aware of work being done in respect of the presence of adventitious packaging material in feed produced from surplus food.</p> <p>The European Commission published its Circular Economy Package in December 2015. At its June 2016 meeting Alexander Döring the Secretary General for the European Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC) provided the Committee with FEFAC's views on the recent EU Commission Communication on the Circular Economy and its potential impact on and implications for</p>	To provide comments to help to inform the FSA position on such initiatives.

	<p>feed safety management along the feed supply chain. The Committee empathised with the issues raised during the presentation.</p>	
<p>Alignment of National and EU Feed legislation</p>	<p>The Government has set a clear aim to reduce the overall burden of regulation. To this end and under the auspices of the Red Tape Challenge, the national animal feed regulations will be simplified by consolidating the four main pieces of legislation into two. The following came into force on 6 April 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Animal Feed (Composition, Marketing and Use) (England) Regulations 2015 (SI 2015 No. 255) http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/255/contents/made; and (ii) Animal Feed (Hygiene, Sampling, etc. and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2015 (SI 2015 No. 454) http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/454/contents/made <p>However a further amendment is required on (i) which is expected to be finalised in 2018.</p>	<p>To note developments, including industry and public opinion, and to provide considered and substantiated guidance to help shape FSA policy</p>
<p>Forge closer links with other Advisory Committees and tackle issues of common interest.</p>	<p>ACAF will continue to take opportunities to develop links with other SACs in respect of cross-cutting issues.</p> <p>ACAF Members and the Secretariat continued to work with the Advisory Committee on Microbiological Safety of Food (antimicrobial issues) and the Advisory Committee on Novel Food and Processes (GM Feed).</p>	<p>To identify opportunities for working with other SACs to ensure potential feed safety issues in discussions by other SACs are identified and addressed appropriately.</p>
<p>Microbiological issues – including antimicrobial resistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salmonella 		<p>To note developments, including industry and public opinion, and to provide considered and substantiated guidance to help shape FSA policy.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMR 	<p>In light of comments by some Member States that the European Commission should consider a harmonised EU Salmonella strategy, ACAF Members may be asked for their views should the exercise go forward.</p> <p>On antimicrobial resistance the Committee initiated discussions in 2012 where it agreed the topic was complex. A presentation was provided by NOAH after which the Committee agreed although it has a peripheral interest in the subject, it was an important area and wished to be kept informed of developments.</p> <p>A Member of the Committee is currently a Member of an Advisory Committee on Microbiological Safety of Food Working Group on antimicrobial resistance.</p>	<p>Additionally, to be aware of updates and discussions affecting feed safety. To provide recommendations and comments on feed safety issues as necessary.</p>
<p>Biostimulants</p>	<p>A Committee Member has suggested that ACAF should explore this issue further. Plant biostimulants contain substance(s) and/or micro-organisms whose function when applied to plants or the rhizosphere is to stimulate natural processes to enhance/benefit nutrient uptake, nutrient efficiency, tolerance to abiotic stress, and crop quality.</p> <p>At ACAF's October 2017 meeting in order for the Committee to decide if further work on the subject should be taken forward, two ACAF Members provided a presentation on the subject. During the presentation, a potential animal feed issue was identified but could not be quantified or confirmed. Following the presentation, the Committee agreed that further information was</p>	<p>To note developments, including industry and public opinion, and to provide considered and substantiated guidance to help shape FSA policy</p>

	required before it could confirm that work was required by ACAF on this subject.	
Training	Members have identified that there is a lack of any formal training available, other than a specific short HACCP course, for individuals in the animal feed sector who have feed/food safety roles. The Committee intends to carry out a formal review on this area with a view to providing recommendations.	To identify and address potential opportunities for training and provide recommendations as necessary.

Periodical update - items for the Committee to be aware of which includes those which may impact on feed safety. The following considerations for determining periodical updates will include long term uncertainty of risks, media interests and consumer perception.

Food/feed security: a) climate change and the impact on feed production; b) animal production including feeding systems and the effect on the environment; and c) global demand for animal derived foods and prices for primary production.	In October 2014 Members received a presentation from the Chairman of the AIC's Sustainability Committee. The Committee agreed to revisit the area of sustainability at a future meeting.	To identify and address potential feed safety issues arising due to food/feed security considerations and provide recommendations as necessary.
GM issues including future developments in biotechnology (e.g. use of second generation GMOs) and possible links with GM nutritional work.	The Committee receives regular update reports from the Secretary on EU developments; these include future developments in biotechnology. The issue of asynchronous approvals of GM varieties and its future impact on the security of feed supply has been brought to the attention of the Committee and is being monitored by the Secretariat.	To note developments, including industry and public opinion, and to provide considered and substantiated guidance to help shape FSA policy.

<p>Feed Incidents and related issues.</p>	<p>In June 2012 the Committee received a presentation from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on Feed Incident Management in Northern Ireland from an enforcement perspective. It outlined the level of preparedness in Northern Ireland for the handling of feed related incidents, including contingency planning, and risk assessment activities. The Committee was encouraged by the arrangements in place.</p>	<p>To maintain safety of consumers by ensuring that systems in place to deal with incidents are robust and mitigate risks within a timely response.</p>
<p>Updates on BSE and TSE developments.</p>	<p>An update on TSE and Meat and Bone meal (MBM) issues was provided by an official from Defra at the Committee's December 2008 and June 2011 meetings.</p> <p>At its June and September 2011 meetings, Members agreed to receive updates and monitor developments in respect of the European Commission's draft proposal to establish new criteria for feeding non-ruminant processed animal protein (PAP - excluding fishmeal) to non-ruminants of a different species.</p> <p>The Committee also received a presentation from another official from Defra on an update of EU Animal By-Product controls at its meetings in December 2009 and September 2011.</p> <p>Members were provided with an oral update at the September 2012 meeting.</p> <p>Members agreed that this item should remain on its work plan and be periodically reviewed.</p>	<p>To note developments, including industry and public opinion, and to provide considered and substantiated guidance to help shape FSA policy.</p>

Refuse Market	Derived Fuel	The Grain and Feed Trade Association (GAFTA) had previously raised concerns about the potential contamination risk of handling and storage of domestic waste material at ports, awaiting export and intended for use in energy generation. This issue has been considered by the Committee on a number of occasions and it agreed recommendations at its June 2017 meeting. An industry code of practice drawn up by the RDF Industry Group (for which ACAF had provided input) was published on 16 October 2017 and included advice on good practice when RDF is stored at ports which also store animal feed or food. The Committee's recommendations, on raising awareness amongst enforcement bodies and encourage better liaison between local authorities and the Environment Agency in relation to RDF were also being progressed.	To provide recommendations and advice on potential impacts on feed safety as appropriate.
The feeding of farm livestock to improve the quality of human food (milk, meat, eggs, fish). Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- enhancing the selenium content of livestock produce;- enriching foods with polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) including long chain n-3 PUFA;- developing foods with reduced concentrations of saturated fatty acids;	<p>The Committee first considered this issue in 2004-2005.</p> <p>At its September 2012 meeting, Members were informed of developments on iodine and vitamin D. A Member of the Committee agreed to provide details of these developments to Members, which was circulated on 11 October 2012.</p> <p>This area will be revisited when significant developments occur.</p>	To note developments, including industry and public opinion, and to provide considered and substantiated guidance to help shape FSA policy.	

Proposed revision of the ACAF Review of On-Farm Feeding Practices.	<p>A subgroup of the Committee was tasked to revise the Committee's Review of On-Farm Feeding Practices which was published in September 2003 and report back to the full Committee. During 2014 and 2015 the sub-group worked on revising the document feeding back to the main Committee at regular intervals. Additionally, the sub-group liaised with colleagues in Defra, VMD, the FSA and industry to ensure that the revision took account of developments.</p> <p>The final review document was uploaded on to the ACAF website in May 2016. The Committee agreed that the document should be reviewed periodically.</p>	Providing periodical updates when significant changes occur to ensure that the document remains relevant.
Nano-technology	<p>A House of Lords Select Committee paper on nano-technology was published in January 2010. The paper contained little information on feed issues. At its September 2012 meeting, Members agreed to the removal of this issue from its forward work plan. However, Members have noted that this issue is much discussed in the food sector and that ACAF should fully understand the potential pros and cons of this technology. This is particularly relevant as the definition of nano-particles as applied to food use has been very contentious.</p> <p>Yet to be discussed.</p>	To be aware of updates and discussions affecting feed safety. To provide recommendations and comments on feed safety issues as necessary.
Feed issues relating to organic production.	The Committee received an update on UK negotiations on organic farming in December 2011. It agreed that this was an important issue and requested it be kept informed of developments.	To be aware of developments in relation to organic production providing as necessary recommendations to take account of potential feed safety issues.

	At its October 2014 meeting the Committee received a presentation from a Defra official on proposals on organic products and labelling of organic products. Members agreed to provide comments to Defra on the Commission proposals.	
<p>Biofuels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> possible impact on the availability and cost of widely used selected feeds; and the safety and use of feed co-products from the production of biofuels. 	<p>The Committee has considered this subject area in depth and its position paper was published on 30 April 2008.</p> <p>At its March and June 2010 meetings the Committee received update presentations on biofuels and agreed that its position paper should be revised and adapted to take account of quantifiable data and new developments.</p> <p>The Committee updated its position paper on biofuels at its September 2011 meeting and agreed to publish a revised document, which is available at: http://acaf.food.gov.uk/papers/biofuels</p>	To be aware of developments in relation to biofuels production providing as necessary recommendations to take account of potential feed safety issues.
EU developments – including providing advice on UK negotiating lines.	The Committee receives EU development updates at every meeting and provides input to the UK delegation on a range of issues.	To note developments, including industry and public opinion, and to provide considered and substantiated guidance to help shape FSA policy.
Work of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), including opinions on additives and contaminants relating to animal feed.	The Secretariat will continue to draw relevant EFSA Opinions and documents to the attention of ACAF for discussion.	To note updates and maintain links with EFSA, providing comments as necessary.
Conclusions of ACAF on the feeding of fish meal to farmed animals	In 2001, the Committee was asked by the Food Standards Agency for information and advice on the nutritional and other benefits of including fish meal and oil in animal feed (with the cost of any controls), set against any human and animal health risks. The Committee was made aware of the urgency of the	To provide recommendations and advice on potential impacts on feed safety as appropriate.

	<p>matter: by this time it was expected that decisions would be imminent on whether the European Community should extend or amend its temporary ban on feeding processed animal protein, which includes fish meal in feed for ruminant animals, beyond 30 June 2001.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the subject at its meeting on 28 February 2001 and concluded its discussion on 2 May 2001. The Committee's conclusions were published on the ACAF website on 15 May 2001.</p> <p>Presentations on fishmeal and fish oil were provided at the Committee's October 2016 and February 2017 meetings.</p>	
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ACAF Secretariat

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