

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

66th Meeting of ACAF on 2 February 2015

Information Paper

UPDATE ON THE WORK OF OTHER ADVISORY COMMITTEES

**Secretariat
January 2015**

UPDATE ON THE WORK OF OTHER ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Purpose

1. This paper outlines issues from other advisory committees that may be of interest to ACAF.

Advisory Committee on Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)

2. ACMSF is scheduled to meet on 29 January 2015, and the following items are on the provisional agenda:
 - the response to the public consultation on the ACMSF report “An Update on Viruses in the Food Chain;
 - risk assessment of Salmonella from shell eggs;
 - a presentation on findings from Wave 3 of the FSA’s Food and You survey;
 - the results of a microbiological survey of pre-packed ready-to-eat sliced meats at retail in UK small to medium sized enterprises;
 - food safety risk of recycled manure solids used as bedding for dairy cattle; and
 - an update on the work of the Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group and the ACMSF Antimicrobial Resistance Working Group.
3. Following the formal ACMSF meeting there will be a horizon scanning workshop on the afternoon of 29 January.

Advisory Committee on Releases into the Environment (ACRE)

4. The next ACRE meeting is on 19 March 2015 when the Committee will discuss the draft report of the ACRE harm sub-group. The sub-group has been developing a framework for defining harm to ecosystems that could be used in the environmental risk assessment of genetically modified organisms.
5. Papers for the meeting will be published on the following ACRE webpages:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/advisory-committee-on-releases-to-the-environment>

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

6. The last meeting was held in November 2014, details of this meeting can be found at:

<http://acnfp.food.gov.uk/meetings/acnfpmeet14/acnfp-meeting-19-november-2014/acnfp-meeting-19-november-2014>

7. The next meeting is on 12 February 2015, papers for which will be uploaded on the following webpage:

<http://acnfp.food.gov.uk/meetings>

The Committee on Carcinogenicity (COC)

8. The COC last met on 13 November 2014.
9. The Committee continued its assessment of alcohol and cancer with reviews of the risk of breast cancer, and of colorectal cancer. It also considered a strategy paper for the calculation of burden of cancer attributable to alcohol consumption. The Committee's advice on alcohol and cancer will be published in a statement in due course.
10. The COC reviewed a third draft statement on vitamin E and the risk of prostate cancer and a lay version of the statement. The final statement is expected to be published in 2015. The Committee also considered drafts of two of its series of Guidance Statements: 'Alternatives to the 2-year Bioassay' and 'Hazard Assessment and Characterisation'. Completed Guidance Statements can be found on the COC website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coc-guidance-statements>

11. The next meeting is scheduled to be on 23 April 2015.

The Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT)

12. The COT met on 9th December 2014 and the agenda included:

- first draft statement on the potential risks from hexabromocyclododecanes (HBCDDs) in the infant diet:
 - a. potassium-based replacements for table salt and sodium additives - additional information on hyperkalaemia.
 - b. first draft statement on potassium-based replacements for sodium chloride and sodium-based additives
 - first draft statement on polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs) in the infant diet;
 - first draft statement on the effects of soya consumption on thyroid status; and
 - third draft statement on the potential risks from polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) in the infant diet.

13. The next COT meeting will be on 3rd February 2015.

General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS)

14. GACS met on 29 October 2014. This was the first meeting of the FSA's new Chief Scientific Advisor, Professor Guy Poppy. Items discussed at the meeting included:

- Report on FSA Science;
- FSA response to the Elliot Review;
- FSA Science and Evidence Strategy;
- Scientific staffing, skills and professions in the FSA;
- Science in the Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs) (This included a presentation from ACMSF Chair Sarah O'Brien on the IID 2 attribution study); and
- Joint GACS-SSRC working group on the use of evidence.

15. The next GACS meeting will be held on 31 March 2015, details of which will be available on the GACS website;

<http://gacs.food.gov.uk/gacsmeets>

Social Science Research Committee (SSRC)

16. The next meeting of SSRC is on 11 March 2015.

Papers will be published on the SSRC webpages two weeks prior to this date.

Veterinary Residues Committee (VRC)

17. Following a review by Defra in 2014 it was decided that the Committee should be disbanded. The Committee held its last meeting in November 2014.

18. ACAF may be interested to know that the results of residues surveillance will in future be published on the VMD pages of the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterinary-medicines-directorate>

Appointments and Recruitment Exercises

Social Science Research Committee (SSRC)

19. The SSRC is currently recruiting two new members, with a deadline of 14 January 2015 for applications. It is anticipated that the new members will be selected and have an induction in preparation for the SSRC's meeting on the 11 March 2015.

<http://ssrc.food.gov.uk/>

**ACAF Secretariat
January 2015**