

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS**

**65th Meeting of ACAF on 22 October 2014**

**Discussion Paper**

**FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME &  
HORIZON SCANNING**

**Action:** The Committee is invited to review its current work programme, agree desired outcomes and future priorities.

**Secretariat  
October 2014**

## ACAF FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

### Background

1. The Committee's forward work plan ACAF paper 14/17 was uploaded onto the ACAF website in May 2014. As is the usual practice, the Secretariat has combined horizon scanning and future work of the Committee into one exercise. The Committee's current Forward Work Programme is at Annex I including suggestions for new work which are highlighted in green.
2. Annex I has been divided into high, medium and low priority items. The Secretariat has listed the items in a suggested order of importance for the Committee to consider.
3. Please note that the Secretariat has proposed that the following items (highlighted in purple) are moved from low priority and periodical update items respectively to medium priority:
  - Food/Feed security; and
  - EU developments – including providing advice on UK negotiating lines.
4. The Secretariat has also suggested a new item on consolidation of legislation (highlighted in green) to be included in the medium priority of the forward work plan.
5. Please note that Members have provide the following comments on the revised forward work plan including the proposed changes:
  - suggest that the proposed revision of the ACAF report on on-farm feeding practices should be moved to high priority. The justification for suggested move is that a specific sub-group has been formed to tackle this work;
  - the EU developments papers appears still to be a periodic item, therefore should this item be moved?
  - in terms of food/feed security a Member has asked whether ACAF should be more proactive in the area perhaps highlighting key issues, given that there will be increasing pressure for foods to be produced more efficiently. As a result, more emphasis will be placed on feeds to contain less materials that can be used in human diets; demonstrate their beneficial nutritional/health attributes and have minimal or positive effects on the environment;
  - there are a number of topics listed where inevitably some subjects overlap, for example there are a number of work areas which refers to vitamins and trace elements. Would it be better to have a generic heading such as 'nutrient status of animal feeds', which would cover a wide area including trace elements, vitamins and feed additives. Similarly there are several entries

relating to food/feed safety – suggest that these are grouped under one title with several sub titles; and

- should the item on brominated flame retardants remain as a medium priority?

**Action**

6. The Committee is invited to review its current work programme, agree desired outcomes and future priorities.

**ACAF Secretariat  
Food Standards Agency  
October 2014**

### ACAF Forward Work Programme

#### High Priority - position of ACAF to be considered proactively

Item no.	Topic	Progress
1.	Feed Incidents and related issues.	At its June 2012 meeting the Committee received a presentation from officials of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on Feed Incident Management in Northern Ireland from an enforcement perspective. The presentation 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.
2.	Recommendations from Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) audit to UK on feed law enforcement.	<p>The Committee was informed at its December 2011, March, June and September 2012 meetings of the recommendations of FVO audits on the enforcement of feed legislation and work the Agency and other control authorities were carrying out to address the recommendations.</p> <p>The FVO conducted an audit of UK feed enforcement in January 2014. The official report and recommendations have been received and a formal UK response was sent to the Commission on .</p>
3.	Antimicrobial Resistance	<p>The Committee received a presentation on this issue at its September 2012 meeting. It agreed this topic was complex and it wished to explore the issues at a future meeting, where it could discuss the available evidence to support whether antimicrobial resistance was a significant issue for animal feed.</p> <p>The Committee received a presentation from the Chief Executive of NOAH on work the organisation had carried out on antimicrobial resistance with</p>

		<p>regard to the use of veterinary medicines. The Committee noted that although it has a peripheral interest in the subject, it was an important area and wished to be kept informed of developments.</p> <p>At its May 2013 meeting a Member of the Committee informed ACAF Members that they been invited to be a Member of an Advisory Committee on Microbiological Safety of Food Working Group on antimicrobial resistance. The Member agreed to keep ACAF Members informed on the Working Group's discussions. The ACAF Member has attended five meetings of the working group providing feedback including requests for information from these meetings at subsequent ACAF meetings.</p>
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**Medium Priority - position of ACAF responsive to developments and considered regularly:**

<b>4</b>	Consolidation of Legislation	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. An Agency official will provide a presentation on the work being undertaken on the consolidation process at its October 2014 meeting.
<b>5.</b>	Trace element status of Feeds	There is some concern that changes in feed manufacture (including those related to revised feed legislation) might lead to inadequate nutrient supply to humans. Key issues currently are iodine and selenium. The Committee received a presentation from an ACAF Member and a representative from the University of Surrey on iodine in feed at its October 2013 meeting. New advice from EFSA is being considered by its FEEDAP Panel to see whether this impacts on its previous advice regarding revised controls for iodine-based additives.
<b>6.</b>	Proposed revision of the	A sub-group of the Committee has been tasked to revise the Committee's

	ACAF Review of On-Farm Feeding Practices.	Review of On-Farm Feeding Practices which was published in September 2003 and report back to the full Committee. The sub-group held its inaugural meeting on 2 June 2014 where Members agreed the sub-groups terms of reference, and timetable for production of a revised document. A further meeting was held on 3 September 2014, where Members reviewed a first draft of the revised document.
7.	<p>Food/feed security:</p> <p>a) climate change and the impact on feed production;</p> <p>b) animal production including feeding systems and the effect on the environment; and</p> <p>c) global demand for animal derived foods and prices for primary production.</p>	<p>During 2010, the Committee received presentations from a representative from the University of Reading/Deputy Chief Scientific advisor to the Department for International Development and another representative from University of Reading on items (a) and (b), respectively. The Committee agreed to keep these items on its workplan.</p> <p>Item (c) stems from a GACS horizon scanning workshop held on 24 June 2009. The Committee agreed it would like to explore this area further at a future meeting. It was agreed that the Secretariat should arrange for presentations to cover: (a) the UK position; (b) the European position; and (c) the worldwide position. The Committee envisages that the proposed presentations will help it to determine its formal stance on these issues.</p> <p>At its 22 October 2014 Members will receive a presentation from the Chairman of the AIC's Sustainability Committee.</p>
8.	Feed Safety – Potential Gaps	<p>At its 1 June 2011 meeting, 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"> <li>•identification of feed businesses;</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•awareness/competence of feed business operators (FeBOs); and</li> <li>•imports.</li> </ul> <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.</p> <p><a href="http://acaf.food.gov.uk/papers/reviewgaps">http://acaf.food.gov.uk/papers/reviewgaps</a></p>
9.	New Developments in feed for livestock species (including aquaculture).	<p>The Committee will continue to be updated on developments and will be asked for advice as required.</p> <p>The Committee received a presentation on work being carried out by FERA on insect protein as potential animal feed at its 9 October 2013 meeting. The Committee was keen to receive further updates on the work being carried out by FERA.</p> <p>The Committee received a presentation at its 26 February 2014 meeting on work being carried out by NIAB to develop a new type of wheat which could increase productivity by 30% offering greater yields. It asked for further updates on the work being carried out by NIAB.</p> <p>At its May 2014 meeting, the Committee received a presentation from Dr Wendy Harwood on new plant breeding techniques. The Committee noted that clarity was required on the legislative aspects of these techniques. It was interested in the research and wished to be kept informed of developments.</p>

10.	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.
11.	Work of 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.
12.	<p>The manipulation of animal diets to enhance the nutritional value of food (milk, meat, eggs, fish). Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- enhancing the selenium content of livestock produce;</li> <li>- enriching foods with polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) including long chain n-3 PUFA;</li> <li>- developing foods with reduced concentrations of saturated fatty acids;</li> </ul>	<p>The Committee first considered this issue in 2004-2005. A horizon scanning workshop organised by the GACS took place on 24 June 2009 and was attended by a number of ACAF Members. ACAF was requested to take forward the ideas discussed. At ACAF's September 2009 meeting a Member of the Committee agreed to carry out a literature review of research being carried out in this area. The report of the review was circulated to Members on 27 November 2009 and the key areas of research summarised.</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>
13.	Emphasis on reduction in 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>At its February 2014 meeting, Mr Paul Featherstone the newly-elected Chairman of the United Kingdom Former Foodstuff Processors Association (UKFFPA) provided a presentation on the work of the UKFFPA and its European equivalent, the European Former Foodstuff Processors Association. Members were interested in the Association's work which dovetails with initiatives on minimising packaging material in feed produced from former foodstuffs.</p>
<b>14.</b>	Forge closer links with other Advisory Committees and tackle issues of common interest.	<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>
<b>15.</b>	Microbiological issues	<p>At its September 2011 meeting the Committee was asked to consider whether the policy adopted by the Food Standards Agency in relation to Salmonella in feed was appropriate. The Committee endorsed the line taken by UK officials in negotiations where a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)-type approach, as considered by the European Food Safety Authority and as set out in the UK Code of Practice, would be preferable to amendment of the Feed Hygiene Regulation.</p>
<b>16.</b>	Brominated flame retardants (BFRs)	<p>The Committee received a presentation on this issue at its 14 December 2011 meeting. It recommended that, with respect to further work the Agency proposes to undertake on this subject, specific areas should be considered, including investigating where the entry points of contamination might be for foods that were found to contain high levels of BFRs during food surveys, notably farmed fish and dairy products. The Committee also suggested that the Agency should extend any relevant investigations to cover feed.</p>

		A project on BFRs in food and feed has been commissioned and the research work is underway. To date, 105 samples of fish feed, oilseed/legumes, composite vegetable based feeds and cereals/by-products have been tested for total bromine content and testing is underway for individual BFRs in a subset of samples with the highest bromine content.
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**Low Priority - items to be kept under observation but major changes not expected.**

<b>17.</b>	Feed issues relating to organic production.	<p>The Committee received an update on UK negotiations on organic farming at its December 2011 meeting. The Committee agreed that this was an important issue and requested it be kept informed of developments.</p> <p>At its 22 October 2014 meeting the Committee will receive a presentation from a Defra official on proposals on organic products and labelling of organic products.</p>
<b>18.</b>	<p>Biofuels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• possible impact on the availability and cost of widely used selected feeds ; and</li> <li>• the safety and use of feed co-products from the production of biofuels.</li> </ul>	<p>The Committee has considered this subject area in depth and its position paper was published on 30 April 2008.</p> <p>At its 3 March and 3 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: <a href="http://acaf.food.gov.uk/papers/biofuels">http://acaf.food.gov.uk/papers/biofuels</a></p>

**Periodical update items**

<b>19.</b>	GM issues including future developments in biotechnology (e.g. use of second generation GMOs) and possible links with GM nutritional work.	<p>The Committee receives regular update reports from the Secretary on EU developments; these include future developments in biotechnology.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>20.</b>	Feed additive developments and issues.	<p>An information paper was prepared by the Secretariat for ACAF's March 2008 meeting. The Committee considered this topic again at its June 2011 meeting. It noted that the assessment of applications for the re-authorisation of feed additives according to Article 10 of Regulation 1831/2003 had started. The Secretariat will keep the Committee informed of developments.</p>
<b>21.</b>	Updates on BSE and TSE developments.	<p>An update on TSE and Meat and Bone meal 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 their wish to receive updates and monitor developments in respect of the European Commission's draft proposal to establish new criteria for feeding non-ruminant 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 its September 2012 meeting.</p> <p>Members agreed that this item should remain on its work plan and be periodically reviewed.</p>
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