

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

76th Meeting of ACAF on 28 June 2018

Discussion paper

Feed Additives: Working Group on feed additives and over-supplementation

ACAF Secretariat

June 2018

ACAF Paper on the Working Group on feed additives and over-supplementation

ISSUE

1. To update the Committee on the work of the Working Group on feed additives and over-supplementation.

BACKGROUND

2. At the Committee's 27 October 2016 meeting, Geoff Brown (ACAF member) sought the views of the Committee on communication with different sectors of the feed industry in order to emphasise the importance of compliance with Maximum Permitted Levels set for feed additives.
3. Following the meeting, Committee members were asked to consider possible work streams arising from the points raised during Mr Brown's presentation. An update was provided at the Committee's 23 February 2017 meeting by Miss Jumnoodoo and Mrs Benson of the Agency's Animal Feed Delivery Team, who suggested that based on the responses received, it was clear that an industry guidance document was required. It was therefore proposed that a short, medium and long-term strategy should be developed that would emphasise the issues and potentially explore extending the scope to look at behavioural changes in maintaining compliance, involving relevant industry bodies and local authorities.
4. At its June 2017 meeting the Committee was asked to consider these short, medium and long-term strategies. It was noted that additional factors be considered, such as environmental, target species and the different administration forms of feed additives in terms of their specific purpose and what controls needed to be taken into account. Members were therefore keen to scope out further the details of the strategy, noting that the task set would be difficult without a more focused approach being adopted. A working group will undertake a scoping exercise to assess the size and potential length of the task.
5. A further paper on this subject was presented at the Committee's October 2017 meeting where the Committee

agreed that a working group should explore this area and agree workstreams. The working group had its inaugural meeting on 12 December 2017.

6. Members of the working group includes Tim Riley (Chair); Geoff Brown; Peter Francis; David Peers; and Rob Smith. The Secretariat is formed by officials from the Food Standards Agency and includes Helen Atkinson; Julie Benson; Mark Bond; and Mandy Jumnoodoo.
7. At the inaugural meeting the group agreed its name and terms of reference. Additionally, after looking at the evidence on the issue, the size and compliance at farm level, the Group agreed that it did not wish to duplicate work already carried out. It agreed to produce a matrix on the species against particular supplements and additives that should be considered as part of the Group's work. Other areas discussed by the Group was identification of knowledge-gaps, the role of local authorities, and methods of communication.
8. A second meeting of the Working Group was held on 19 April 2018.

DISCUSSION

9. At the second meeting the group's main discussion focussed on development of the matrix. It was agreed that the matrix was currently in a two-dimensional format but consideration was now needed to convert the matrix into a three-dimensional form. This would include the identification of the main avenues of risk; and categorising where the highest probability of risk lies in terms of products which when combined create the risks e.g. boluses, feed blocks, and from natural geo-chemicals.
10. In terms of species, the group agreed that there did not appear to be a large problem of over-supplementation in monogastric animals (pigs or poultry), with the main issues occurring in ruminants. However, there could be instances of over-supplementation in pigs and poultry that are kept as pets (by hobby-farmers). Additionally, there could be issues with feed additives that are added to water (as liquid feed) which are then given to monogastric animals. Therefore, it was agreed that the group would quantify the scale of the issue and describe the nature and risks that could result. It was

also agreed that in terms of liquid feed, further data was required on the routes, the stakeholders involved and the supply.

11. It was agreed that a literature study would be carried out to identify where minerals have been identified as causing over-supplementation. The study would encompass all ruminant species and on a global spectrum. The Group also agreed that the literature study should also be extended to include the 'motivators' for the use of certain elements i.e. copper and iodine. Additionally, research on veterinarian views on the use of elements and supplements should also be undertaken.

SCOPE OF WORK

12. Although recognising that formulation levels could lead to over-supplementation, and that there were no regulatory tools, the group after discussion agreed to exclude amino acids as part of the work (as no MPLs exist). It was also agreed that the areas of deer, aquaculture and insects could be considered at a later date as the group was not aware of any issues surrounding over-supplementation.

TIMEFRAMES AND DELIVERY DATES

13. The Working Group has agreed that by June/July 2018 there will be sufficient data to identify the issues surrounding feed additives and over-supplementation, so that by early autumn draft documents can be prepared to highlight these and describe the actions that can be adopted to mitigate the issues.
14. The next meeting of the Working Group is expected to take place in August 2018.

ACTION BY COMMITTEE

15. The Committee is invited to note the discussions and work being taken forward by the Working Group on feed additives and over-supplementation. The Committee is also invited to provide any comments or direction the Working Group should focus on.

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