

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
Proposed revision of the ACAF Review of On-Farm Feeding Practices.	<p>A sub-group of the Committee has been 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. 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.</p> <p>An update on the progress of the review was provided at the Committee's February, June and October 2015 meetings.</p>	To review and update the Committee's 2003 report on on-farm feeding practices identifying developments since the report was published.

<p>Recommendations from the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) audit to UK on feed law enforcement.</p>	<p>The Committee was updated in December 2011, March, June and September 2012 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 in September 2014.</p> <p>During the period 8 -15 June 2015, the FVO carried out a general follow-up audit to UK. This was a desk based review of progress on the implementation of all outstanding recommendations from recent audits in the UK including the feed audit in January 2014. One of the outstanding recommendations from that audit was - to ensure that the labelling of oils and fats is not altered from technical grade into feed grade as required by Article 5(2) of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005. Although the FSA had provided the FVO audit team with an example of actions that it has taken to resolve the outstanding recommendation, the FVO advised that they require evidence</p>	<p>To ensure that the proposed actions to implement the recommendations of the FVO are proportionate and protect the consumer.</p>
---	--	--

	<p>of general adoption of the procedures such as technical notes and confirmation of adoption of the revised procedures. The FSA had therefore been in touch with industry representatives to provide the necessary information which should satisfy the auditors.</p>	
Refuse Derived Fuel Market	<p>The Director General of the Grain and Feed Trade Association (GAFTA) has asked the FSA to consider the issue of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) Markets and the potential risks to the safety of animal feed. The potential risks are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of legislation in storage of RDF / legislation not keeping up with the new market; • storage of baled RDF at ports / no zoning; • health and safety issues; and • increased pest and vermin in RDF storage areas. <p>The ACAF Secretariat has invited GAFTA and the Environment Agency) to provide a presentation at a future ACAF meeting.</p>	To provide recommendations and advice on potential impacts on feed safety as appropriate.

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.

Trace element status of Feeds	<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. 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.</p>	<p>To provide recommendations and advice on potential impacts on feed safety as appropriate.</p>
<p>Food/feed security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<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 (DfID) and another representative from the 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</p>	<p>To identify and address potential feed safety issues arising due to food/feed security considerations and provide recommendations as necessary.</p>

	<p>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>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.</p>	
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</p>	To identify potential gaps in feed safety and provide recommendations to address the gaps identified.

	<p>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>http://acaf.food.gov.uk/papers/reviewgaps</p>	
<p>The feeding of farm livestock to improve the quality of human food (milk, meat, eggs, fish). Examples include:</p> <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. A horizon scanning workshop organised by the GACS took place in 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</p>	<p>To note developments, including industry and public opinion, and to provide considered and substantiated guidance to help shape FSA policy.</p>

	developments occur.	
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 (EFFPA). Members were interested in the Association's work which dovetails with initiatives on minimising packaging material in feed produced from former foodstuffs.</p> <p>The European Commissioner has indicated that it intends to issue a working document at the turn of the year.</p>	To provide comments to help to inform the FSA position on such initiatives.
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</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.

	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).	
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 EFSA and as set out in the UK Code of Practice, would be preferable to amendment of the Feed Hygiene Regulation.</p> <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>	To note developments, including industry and public opinion, and to provide considered and substantiated guidance to help shape FSA policy
Biostimulants	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 note developments, including industry and public opinion, and to provide considered and substantiated guidance to help shape FSA policy

	<p>to stimulate natural processes to enhance/benefit nutrient uptake, nutrient efficiency, tolerance to abiotic stress, and crop quality.</p> <p>The ACAF Secretariat proposes to invite an expert to provide a presentation at a future ACAF meeting.</p>	
Outcome of Review of Scientific Advisory Committees and follow-up action	<p>The Cabinet Office (CO) requires all government departments to review their Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) at least once every three years in order to increase transparency and accountability, reduce duplication of activity, and to discontinue activities which are no longer needed. The FSA will review all six of its SACs as a cluster to provide efficiencies in delivering the review. It will use common channels and sources of evidence and will consider how the SACs work with each other, and any gaps and overlaps in their functions and delivery.</p> <p>Following the review there may be follow-up work requiring assistance from Committee Members.</p>	To note updates and provide comments if desired.
Training	<p>Members have identified that there is a lack of any formal training available, other than a specific short HACCP course, for</p>	To identify and address potential opportunities for training and provide recommendations as necessary.

	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.	
Feed optimisation	The Committee is to consider how supplemental feed (for ruminant) and principle diet feed (monogastrics) could be optimised to minimise economic inputs without compromising food safety.	To note developments, including industry and public opinion, and to provide considered and substantiated guidance to help shape FSA policy.

Periodical update - items for the Committee to be aware of that have long term impacts on feed safety that may or may not change rapidly over a period of time. The following considerations for determining periodical updates will include long term uncertainty of risks, media interests and consumer perception.

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>	To note developments, including industry and public opinion, and to provide considered and substantiated guidance to help shape FSA policy
Feed additive developments and issues.	An information paper was prepared by the Secretariat for ACAF's March 2008 meeting. The Committee considered this topic again at its June	To note developments, including industry and public opinion, and to provide considered and substantiated guidance to help shape

	<p>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>	FSA policy
Feed Incidents and related issues.	<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>	To maintain safety of consumers by ensuring that systems in place to deal with incidents are robust and mitigate risks within a timely response.
Updates on BSE and TSE developments.	<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</p>	To note developments, including industry and public opinion, and to provide considered and substantiated guidance to help shape FSA policy

	<p>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>	
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.
Antimicrobial Resistance	<p>The Committee received a presentation on this issue in September 2012. It agreed this topic was complex and wished to discuss it in more depth at a future meeting, to explore whether antimicrobial resistance was a significant issue for animal feed.</p> <p>The Committee received a presentation from the Chief Executive of National Office of Animal</p>	To be aware of updates and discussions affecting feed safety. To provide recommendations and comments on feed safety issues as necessary.

	<p>Health (NOAH) on work the organisation had carried out on antimicrobial resistance with 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 had 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>	
<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> <p>(i) Animal Feed (Composition, Marketing and Use) (England) Regulations 2015 (SI 2015 No. 255) http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/255</p>	<p>To note developments, including industry and public opinion, and to provide considered and substantiated guidance to help shape FSA policy</p>

	<p>/contents/made; and</p> <p>(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> <p>However a further amendment is required on (i) which is expected to be finalised in 2016.</p>	
Feed issues relating to organic production.	<p>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.</p> <p>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>	To be aware of developments in relation to organic production providing as necessary recommendations to take account of potential feed safety issues.
<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 	<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</p>	To be aware of developments in relation to biofuels production providing as necessary recommendations to take account of potential feed safety issues.

production of biofuels.	biofuels at its September 2011 meeting and agreed to publish a revised document, which is available at: http://acaf.food.gov.uk/papers/biofuels	
Brominated flame retardants (BFRs)	The Committee received a presentation on this issue at its December 2011 meeting. Following the meeting a project on BFRs in food and feed took place. This is now complete and a draft report received. Initial conclusions include that BFRs occur in feed but, on the basis of limited investigation, their presence is probably as a result of low background environmental contamination.	To be aware of developments in relation to brominated flame retardants providing as necessary recommendations to take account of potential feed safety issues.
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 by FERA on insect protein as potential animal feed at its October 2013 meeting. The Committee was keen to receive further updates on this work.</p> <p>The Committee received a presentation at its February 2014 meeting on work being carried out by The National Institute of Agricultural Botany (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>In May 2014 the Committee received a presentation</p>	To be aware of new developments in feed manufacture and novel techniques and to make recommendations on potential safety issues.

	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.	
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.

ACAF Secretariat

February 2016