

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

68th Meeting of ACAF on 28 October 2015

Information Paper

UPDATE ON THE WORK OF OTHER ADVISORY COMMITTEES

**Secretariat
October 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. The ACMSF met on 25 June and 1 October 2015. The main items discussed at these meetings were as follows:

At the June meeting

- the Committee discussed how to take forward the outputs from the January 2015 horizon scanning workshop. It was agreed that the area of genomics was a high priority and a small group of members was identified to consider this topic further;
- the Committee received a paper updating them on the FSA's initial response to the ACMSF report "An update on viruses in the food chain.";
- the FSA gave a presentation on the FSA's Campylobacter Programme;
- the Animal and Plant Health Agency gave a presentation on a risk assessment for the use of *Mycobacterium bovis* BCG Danish Strain 1331 in cattle and the committee commented on the risk assessment; and
- Dr Paul Cook updated Members on the outcome of the Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group meeting which took place on 5 June 2015.

At the October meeting

- the Committee discussed a paper on the current level of risk from Shiga toxin producing E.coli STEC;
- the Committee considered an assessment of the risk of avian influenza viruses via the food chain; and
- the Committee was asked for its comments on the issue of histamine in cheese following an evaluation by EFSA on biogenic amines and a recent discussion on histamine in cheese by the COT.

ACMSF sub-groups

3. The **Antimicrobial Resistance Working Group** met on 16 June and 29 September 2015. Summaries of these meetings are available on the sub-group page of the ACMSF website.
 - the **Ad Hoc Group on Eggs** met on 30 April 2015 when members discussed an outline of the sections of the report they would be producing. The next meeting is on 12 October when first drafts of chapters will be reviewed. The terms of reference for this group can be found at the sub-group page of the ACMSF website.
 - the **Surveillance Working Group** met via teleconference on 9th July 2015 to discuss the sampling protocol for years 2, 3, and 4 of the FSA's Campylobacter retail survey. The group also reviewed a draft of the final report of year 1 of the FSA's Campylobacter retail survey.
 - the next meeting to be held on 28 January 2015.

Advisory Committee on Releases into the Environment (ACRE)

4. ACRE met on 4 September 2015 when it discussed the following:
 - Members were informed the ACRE triennial review of the committee had been published since the previous meeting in March. It concluded the committee is effective and delivers a high quality service and that the current format is appropriate for delivery of the required advisory functions. The review has been published on the Gov.UK website. A wider review of Defra's advisory bodies is now under way, which will consider options for how these groups could be organised to optimise efficiency and best meet Defra's evidence needs;
 - ACRE considered three documents issued by EFSA for consultation. The most important was the guidance to define protection goals for environmental risk assessment in relation to biodiversity and ecosystem services. ACRE felt that there needs to be more coherence in establishing what constitutes a risk of environmental harm before risk assessments are carried out. ACRE welcomed this initiative but was not clear what practical steps will follow. ACRE also welcomed the use of an ecosystem services approach to rationalise high level protection goals;
 - ACRE has been invited to provide evidence to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee inquiry into GM insect technologies. ACRE agreed to focus on questions dealing with whether the current EU and UK GMO regulatory frameworks work for GM Insects. ACRE noted that EFSA's guidance on GM animals (which includes insects) was helpful in highlighting

the fact that the EU Directive dealing with the ‘Deliberate Release of GMOs’ was drafted with GM plants in mind; and

- ACRE discussed developments in synthetic biology since the last meeting held on 19 March 2015. One ACRE member has now been appointed as a cross-committee expert sitting on both ACRE and the Scientific Advisory Council on Genetic Modification (SACGM). The online forum on synthetic biology, co-ordinated by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), had been completed and an HSE representative has been invited to participate in the CBD’s Ad Hoc Expert Group on synthetic biology. ACRE would be commenting on the draft opinion of 3 EU scientific committees on synthetic biology.

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

5. The ACNFP met on 2 July 2015. Details of items discussed at this meeting can be found on the meetings page of the ACNFP website.

The Committee on Carcinogenicity (COC)

6. The COC met on 9 July 2015, items discussed included:
 - the Committee continued its assessment of alcohol and cancer with a review of the epidemiology studies investigating interactive effects of alcohol intake and genetic susceptibility factors on cancer risk and consideration of the first draft of a statement on ‘alcoholic beverages and risk of cancer –consideration of the significance to public health’;
 - the Committee considered a paper suggesting a way to assess the risks of acute and short-term exposure to carcinogens and endorsed the suggested approach. This entails uniformly distributing the acceptable cumulative lifetime dose over the total number of exposure days during less than lifetime exposure, thereby allowing for a higher daily intake than would be the case for lifetime exposure, and use of the Margin of Exposure approach to calculate cancer risk. This will form the basis of updated guidance from the Committee; and
 - the Committee also discussed further updated guidance on alternatives to the standard 2-year carcinogenicity study. The Committee discussed the benefits and issues of two transgenic animal models. While studies in such models were unlikely to replace the 2 year rodent bioassay completely, they can help avoid some of the confounding factors with older animals and can replace a carcinogenicity study in a second species;
 - The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 12 November 2015.

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

7. The COT met on 8 September 2015 items discussed included:
- review of risks arising from the infant diet and the development of atopic and autoimmune disease: Systematic review C – part I – Hydrolysed formula and Risk of Allergic or Autoimmune Outcomes: a systematic review and meta-analysis;
 - review of risks arising from the infant diet and the development of atopic and autoimmune disease: Systematic review C Part II – avoidance or exposure to specific dietary patterns, food groups or nutrients during infancy, pregnancy and lactation and the risk of developing atopic or autoimmune disease (intervention studies);
 - final report of the Lead Ammunition Group ;
 - further submission for a reformulation of PAVA irritant spray;
 - EFSA consultation on draft guidance document on uncertainty in scientific assessment;
 - Update on the work of COM by David Lovell; and
 - Update on the Review of SACs.

General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS)

8. GACS met on 1 October 2015. Items discussed at this meeting included:
- science in the Scientific Advisory Committee (SACS);
 - update on FSA Science, evidence and Information strategy;
 - UK Agri-Tech strategy skill analysis; and
 - FSA work on Data science.

Social Science Research Committee (SSRC)

9. update on the FSA Science, Evidence, and Information strategy;
 - update from the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food;
 - fifth report from the Economic and Social research council;
 - outputs from SSRC horizon scanning;
 - update on the SSRC Economics Working Group.

Appointments and Recruitments exercises

- ACRE members were reappointed for a second term on 1 September and a recruitment campaign has been launched to fill 3 forthcoming vacancies.
- the COC was informed that a new member had been appointed to the Committee. He is Professor Neil Pearce, Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

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