

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

44th Meeting of ACAF on 3 December 2008

Presentation

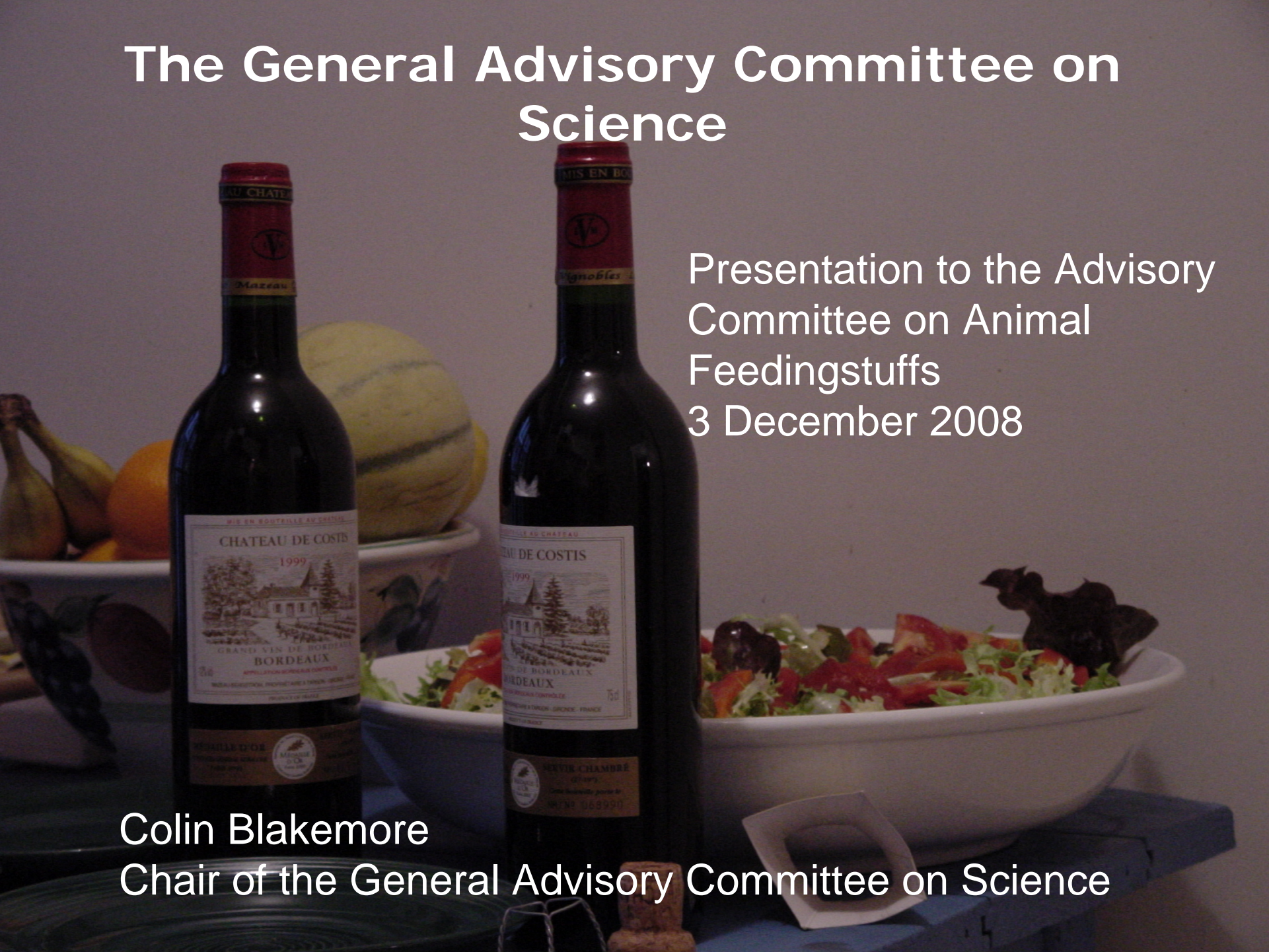
Remit of the General Advisory Committee on Science

PRESENTATION BY PROFESSOR COLIN BLAKEMORE

Secretariat: November 2008

The General Advisory Committee on Science

Presentation to the Advisory
Committee on Animal
Feedingstuffs
3 December 2008



Colin Blakemore
Chair of the General Advisory Committee on Science

The remit of GACS

To provide independent challenge and support to the Food Standards Agency in its use of science



Membership of GACS

Colin Blakemore

Chairs of the nine SACs advising the Agency (or Deputies)

Professor Janet Bainbridge

Professor Jeya Henry

Professor Duncan Maskell

Professor Anne Murcott

Mrs Pamela Goldberg

Mrs Leen Petré

In attendance

Dr Andrew Wadge (Chief Scientist)

Secretariat

Dr Patrick Miller (GACS Secretary)

Dr Paul Willetts (Chief Scientist Team)

Mr Peter Arain (Chief Scientist Team)

GACS work: progress and plans

- Agency science: initial views on strengths and challenges
- GACS progress to date
- GACS future work plan

Science in the FSA – strengths

- Openness, transparency
- Commitment to science and evidence-based work
- Appointment of Chief Scientist and Team
- Willingness to invite and respond to challenge – including from GACS
- Existing structures: Strategy; expert Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs); governance tools

Science in the FSA – challenges

- Getting the best out of the Agency's research spend
- Optimising the use of SACs
- Governance
 - developing good practice further
 - ensuring science input/feedback on how science is used to develop policy and advice
 - obtaining and using different types of evidence
 - evaluation of the assessment and use of evidence
- Engaging with wider expertise and opinion
 - Who? Science community, industry
 - Why? Input of ideas and information, broadening the research base

GACS: progress so far (1)

- From 1st meeting (11 March 08)
 - strong commitment from members
 - robust discussion about Agency science
 - conscious of need to provide credible independent challenge
 - rapporteurs to report on Agency's own research
 - Working Group on measures of success
 - Agreed GACS Work Plan
- Panel debate (11 March 08; part of NSEW)
 - role of evidence in decisions about food
 - many suggestions about issues and governance

GACS: progress so far (2)

- 2nd meeting (29 October 08)
 - Horizon scanning – identifying strategic issues, improving processes, workshop on developments in food production (picking up ideas from ACAF + SACN)
 - Performance Indicators for Agency science
 - Research in the Agency- rapporteurs' report
 - Performance of the SACs – communication, openness, clarity on roles in risk assessment and risk management
 - Governance and good practice – issues raised by two external reports

GACS Workplan (1)

- GO Science Review of the Agency
 - Consider issues identified and Agency response
- Development of next Agency Science Strategy
 - GACS members to take part in scoping workshop, discussion at 3rd GACS meeting
- Governance
 - Review tools and procedures in light of experience and challenges
 - Uses of scientific evidence and advice
 - Relationship between risk assessment and risk management

GACS Workplan (2)

- Territories and ways of working of SACs
 - Missing or overlapping areas of expertise?
 - Facilitating interaction between SACs (Annual Conference)
- Engagement; communication; collaboration
 - College of Experts
 - Web-based tools
- Performance Indicators
 - Refine and agree tools and process for regular evaluation

Thank you!

