

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

64th Meeting of ACAF on 9 May 2014

Information Paper

UPDATE ON THE WORK OF OTHER ADVISORY COMMITTEES

**Secretariat
April 2014**

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 will meet on 26 June 2014. Papers for this meeting will be uploaded on to the ACMSF website:

<http://acmsf.food.gov.uk/acmsfmeets/>

Antimicrobial resistance working group

3. The Group met on 20 March 2014. An update report on this meeting will be presented to the full ACMSF on 26 June 2014. Details will be placed on the ACMSF website at:

<http://acmsf.food.gov.uk/acmsfmeets/>

4. The next meeting of the antimicrobial resistance working group will be held on 12 June 2014.

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

5. The last meeting was held on 16 April 2014, the following novel food applications were discussed:
 - sporopollenin shells
 - D-Ribose
 - cycloastragenol
 - chia seeds
6. The Committee was provided with information on the new security markings, which came into force on 2 April 2014.
7. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 26 June 2014.

Advisory Committee on Releases into the Environment (ACRE)

8. ACRE has not had a meeting since the last ACAF meeting, but its newly established harm sub-group met on 25 March 2014. This sub-group was set up to follow-up ACRE's 2013 work examining the most effective approach to environmental risk

assessment of genetically modified organisms under the current regulatory framework, by specifically considering how environmental harm can be defined or measured in this context.

9. ACRE has also agreed its advice on a trial by Rothamsted Research of GM *Camelina sativa*, also known as false flax. ACRE discussed this at its last meeting and has concluded the trial is safe to proceed, and has recommended conditions to be included in the consent. The consent needed to be issued by 17 April 2014 to meet the statutory deadline for a decision. This GMO line has been developed to produce omega-3 fatty acids in its seeds, known to be beneficial to health.

The Committee on Carcinogenicity (COC)

10. COC met on 27 March 2014. The main item of discussion was the review of alcohol and cancer risk.
11. At this meeting, the Committee considered recent meta-analyses investigating the effect of alcohol on renal cell cancer risk, extrahepatic bile system cancer risk, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and Hodgkin's lymphoma. Also, it reviewed the evidence for the association between alcohol and pancreatic cancer risk and the effect of cessation of alcohol consumption on oesophageal and head and neck cancer risk. The Committee's advice will be published in a statement in due course.
12. The COC also reviewed a draft of its Annual Report for 2013 and the second draft of Guidance Statement G05: Points of Departure and Potency Estimates.
13. The next meeting will be in July 2014.

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

14. COT met on 18 March 2014 and the agenda included the following items:
 - scoping paper on potential risks from tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBPA) in the infant diet; review of the evidence on the effectiveness of shucking for managing the risks associated with Amnesic Shellfish Poison in whole scallops;
 - potassium-based salt replacers - current status of COT consideration;
 - fourth draft statement on potential risks from α -, β - and γ -hexachlorocyclohexanes in the infant diet; and
 - paper for information: COT response to the EFSA Consultation on a draft scientific opinion on the risks to public health related to the presence of bisphenol A (BPA) in foodstuffs.

15. The next COT meeting will take place on 13th May 2014 and the agenda items are listed below:

- scoping paper on flame retardant chemicals (PBBs and PBDEs);
- developmental toxicology;
- soy and thyroid;
- scallops; and
- single dose vitamin D.

General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS)

16. The last GACS meeting was held on 19 March 2014. Draft minutes of the open meeting will be available in due course. Meeting papers are available at: <http://gacs.food.gov.uk/gacsmeets/>

17. Agenda items included:

- report on Science in the FSA;
- science in the SACs - update on SAC activities;
- FSA evidence portfolio;
- report and recommendations from Working Group on Data Exploitation;
- report and recommendations from Working Group on Use of Science in Emergencies;
- report from new joint GACS/SSRC Working Group on Use of Evidence;
- presentation from UK Champion for Global Food Security, Professor Tim Benton;
- GACS work plan (information item) - it was agreed a new working group should be set up to advise on development of the FSA's next science and evidence strategy; and
- FSA Strategy workshop (closed business session) - Members of GACS and of SSRC held a closed session on the FSA strategy led by FSA Chief Executive Catherine Brown.

18. The autumn GACS meeting is scheduled for 29 October 2014.

Social Science Research Committee (SSRC)

19. The SSRC held its thirteenth open meeting on the 20th March 2014. Agenda Items included:

- second report from the Strategy Sub-Group (SSG);
- second report from the ESRC Sub-Group (ESRC SG);

- presentation on Agency Social Media and on-line research project by Farida Vis and discussion;
- presentation on project to draw together what we know about in-home behaviour by Lydia Martens and discussion;
- communications activity to address *Campylobacter* and evaluation of communications initiatives;
- update on joint GACS/SSRC Working Group on use of evidence; and
- update on actions following publication of the Agency's Forward Evidence Plan.

20. Agenda and papers have been published on the committee website at:

<http://ssrc.food.gov.uk/>

Veterinary Residues Committee (VRC)

21. The VRC met on 13 March 2014. The Committee received updates on the progress of the Statutory and Non-Statutory Surveillance programmes for the UK and discussed progress and priorities for the 2014 plan. Also discussed at the meeting:

- testing methodology options for the 2014 non-statutory programme;
- guidance from the VMD to horse owners on horse medicines and horse passports; and
- the results of the FSA's current 100% testing programme for phenylbutazone in horses.

22. Papers from the meeting can be found on the VRC website: <http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/vrc/meetings/papers.html>

23. The next meeting will take place on 17 June 2014.

24. The Committee has submitted an introductory article about the work of the VRC that was published in the Veterinary Record in March (Volume 174, Issue 10). The item can be accessed on the Veterinary Record website at: <http://veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/content/174/10.toc>

25. Articles on Flukicides, Matrix Ranking and other topics are to follow.

26. The Committee intends to hold an open meeting at the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) headquarters on 11 September 2014. Further details will be published nearer the date on its website: <http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/vrc/meetings/open.html>

Appointments and Recruitment Exercises

ACRE

27. ACRE has re-appointed one member and has launched a campaign to find three new members.

ACMSF

28. ACMSF has re-appointed three members. Additionally, it is currently in the process of appointing two new members.

**ACAF Secretariat
April 2014**