

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

43rd Meeting of ACAF on 24 September 2008

Discussion Paper

**FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME &
HORIZON SCANNING**

Action: The Committee is invited to review its current work programme and agree future priorities.

**Secretariat
September 2008**

ACAF FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Background

1. The Committee last discussed horizon scanning and future work at its thirty-ninth meeting on 11 September 2007. This year the Secretariat has once again combined both exercises. The Committee's current Forward Work Programme is at Annex I and at Annex II are suggestions for possible new areas of work, including those submitted by members.
2. The Committee might also consider giving further consideration to the following items:
 - Lipgene project – possible widening of discussion to include SACN etc and promote a measured scientific response; and
 - the possible impact of biofuel production on the availability and cost of selected feedingstuffs widely used in animal feeding. Position paper to be reviewed as this issue is likely to evolve fairly rapidly.

Action

3. The Committee is invited to review its current work programme and agree future priorities.

**ACAF Secretariat
Food Standards Agency
September 2008**

Annex I**ACAF Forward Work Programme**

Item no.	Topic	Progress
1	The manipulation of animal feed to enhance the nutritional value of food.	At its meeting on 30 November 2004 the Committee received a presentation from Dr Minihaue of Reading University on manipulating feed to affect the 'fat' content of animal products for human consumption. The Committee also discussed the issue at its meetings in February and April 2005. Plans to hold an exploratory workshop in conjunction with the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) were deferred. However, the General Advisory Committee on Science is now intending to arrange a workshop covering this subject in 2009.
2	Non-feed use of additives (boluses, additives in water, etc).	In November 2006 the Committee received a presentation from James McCulloch of Agrimin Ltd on non-feed use of nutritional supplements. Members requested additional information on the range and types of products available and this was provided in June 2007. The Committee felt these additional means of providing additives should be brought within the scope of EC Feed legislation. The European Commission is currently considering this issue.
3	Aquaculture.	The Committee considered aquaculture at its meeting on 25th June 2003. The Committee also visited a fish farm in Scotland. Prior to its meeting on 3 June 2008, the Committee visited a fish farm in Northern Ireland. EFSA has issued an opinion on astaxanthin and intends to issue opinions on other colours in fish feed. No firm timescale currently available.

		<p>More recently the Committee decided to examine the expanding range of aquaculture species and the consequences for sources of fish protein in feeds and the extent to which alternatives are used.</p> <p>The Committee received a presentation from Ralph Bickerdike of BioMar on aquaculture at its meeting on 5 June 2007. Mr Bickerdike gave some background to the UK's aquaculture industry and outlined specific issues the industry was currently facing. The Committee were particularly interested in hearing how changes in the composition of fish feed were improving the sustainability of farmed fish for human consumption. The Committee will retain an on-going interest in this subject.</p>
4	EC proposal on the marketing and use of feed.	<p>The Committee had an initial discussion on the forthcoming EC proposals on feed labelling at its meeting in April 2006.</p> <p>The Committee received a presentation from the FSA assessor on the proposed EC Regulation on marketing and use of feed at its June 2008 meeting. The presentation covered the main changes to existing legislation. The FSA assessor agreed to provide further updates as the negotiations progress.</p>
5	EC Feed Hygiene Regulation (183/2005) and related issues.	<p>The Committee discussed the microbiological criteria provision in the Feed Hygiene Regulation at its meetings in April 2005 and November 2005. The Committee will be kept informed of progress via regular EC development information papers and discussion papers.</p>
6	Herbal additives.	<p>At its meeting on 8 February 2005 the Committee had a brief discussion on the use of herbal additives. EFSA are currently undertaking a self-tasking study on the assessment of herbs,</p>

		essential oils and other plant products as "additives" for use in animal nutrition. EFSA published a report on this study in August 2007. The Committee will receive a presentation at its September 2008 meeting.
7	The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition's (SACN) Vitamin A Report.	Specifically the recommendation ¹ on animal feed – was discussed at the July 2005 meeting. The Agency's Animal Feed Unit is pursuing this matter with the European Commission and EFSA.
8	Whenever possible to forge closer links with other advisory committees and to tackle issues of common interest.	Ongoing.
9	To be aware of animal welfare implications arising out of the use of certain feeds or feed management.	Yet to be considered in isolation, but regularly arises during discussions.
10	Feed issues relating to organic production.	Yet to be considered.
11	Nanoscience	The Committee discussed nanotechnology and the impact on animal feed at its meeting in February 2006 and concluded that there were no immediate issues to address. Nevertheless, it agreed to put the subject on its forward work programme.
12	Potential carry-over of allergens from animal feed into derived animal products	The Committee discussed this issue at its November 2006 meeting. Members agreed some relevant research would be useful. It would be helpful to determine the pattern of use of peanuts in animal feed in the UK.
13	EC's intention requirement to phase out coccidiostats and histomonostats as feed additives by 31 December	At its meeting on 6 March 2007 the Committee discussed the European Commission's intention to phase out the use of coccidiostats and histomonostats

¹ A reduction in retinol content of poultry and livestock feed as part of a strategy to reduce the retinol intake of regular consumers of liver should be explored further. The implications of lower levels of retinol supplementation for the welfare and productivity of poultry and livestock would need to be determined should such a strategy be considered.

	2011.	as feed additives by 31 December 2011. Their use would only be available on prescription after this date. Further updates on developments relating to this subject were provided to the Committee at its September 2007 and June 2008 meetings. Following advice from relevant stakeholders, the Commission considered that these products should continue to remain subject to the controls in the EC's Feed Additives Regulation. All Members agreed that the <i>status quo</i> should be maintained.
14	<p>Biofuels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • possible impact of the demand on the availability and cost of selected feedstuffs widely used in animal feeding; and • The use of feed co-products from the production of bio-fuels. 	<p>The Committee received a presentation from Julian Bell of the Scottish Agricultural College on the impact on the animal feed market from the increased production of biofuels at its meeting on 5 June 2007. Members noted that biofuel production was beginning to have a significant impact on world food and feed markets. At its meeting in December 2007 the Committee discussed the impact of biofuel production on Feeds for livestock. Members were provided with three presentations, from delegates from the Agricultural Industries Confederation, Monsanto UK Ltd and Associated British Agriculture.</p> <p>At its March 2008 meeting, the Committee considered a draft position paper to include a glossary of terms.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that the paper is an evolving document, which would be reviewed by the Committee on a periodic basis in response to new developments in this area. The Paper was placed on the ACAF website on 30 April 2008.</p>
15	Future developments in biotechnology (e.g. use of second generation GMOs) and possible links with GM nutritional work.	Yet to be considered.

16	Developments in analytical techniques for forage analysis.	Yet to be considered.
17	Developments in pig and poultry feeding systems.	Yet to be considered.
18	Explore links with Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC).	A presentation by Simon Renn is to be given to the Committee at its 24 September 2008 meeting.
19	Establish if there are any feed implications from the research work carried out to assess the potential for multiple residues of pesticides and veterinary medicines in food to produce effects on human health.	Yet to be considered.
20	EC review of feed additives under EC Regulation 1831/2005.	Information paper prepared by Secretariat for March 2008 meeting.

Continuous work:

21	GM issues.	<p>The Committee receives a report from the GM Sub-group Chairman at every meeting and has agreed to consider GM topics in some depth at least twice a year. This includes future developments in biotechnology and the possible links GM has with nutritional work.</p> <p>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 as a developing situation.</p>
22	Horizon scanning.	The Committee regularly horizon scans for topics of future consideration.
23	European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) work in relation to animal feed.	The Committee received a paper on the work of EFSA at its meeting on 21 September 2004 and the ACAF Secretariat met with EFSA representatives at their offices on 12 January 2005. An EFSA representative attended ACAF's meeting in September 2005 to give a presentation on the work

		EFSA do in relation to animal nutrition. Contact will be maintained with EFSA's FEEDAP Panel and Secretariat. The Committee received a presentation from Dr Galobart a senior scientific officer in EFSA's FEEDAP Unit on the work of EFSA and FEEDAP at its meeting on 3 June 2008.
24	Discussions on future EFSA Opinions on additives and contaminants in animal feed.	The Committee will discuss EFSA opinions on additives and contaminants in animal feed when appropriate.
25	To make proposals for R&D and surveillance projects as the need is identified.	The Committee makes suggestions for R&D and surveillance work when appropriate.
26	The Committee to receive regular updates on EU developments as they affect animal feedingstuffs and to advise/comment on the UK negotiating line.	The Committee receives updates on relevant feed items at every meeting.

Annex II

Suggestions for possible new areas of work for the Committee

- 1.The use of pre-and pro-biotics in animal feed and the effect on animal health and in particular the use of probiotics as a potential strategy against coccidiosis and histomoniasis
- 2.Categorisation of non-feed additives.
- 3.Review of TSE controls and consideration of future risks to animal feed- recent EU reports mention removing some of the TSE controls to improve animal feed supply.
- 4.Meat and bone meal - the feed/food safety implications on the EFSA suggestion of a possible controlled lifting of the ban in rations for monogastrics.
- 5.By-products - continued monitoring of the status as a feed material.
- 6.Consequences for the feed industry of potential shortages resulting from problems such as asynchronous approval of GM products and biofuel production.
- 7.Commission proposals to establish maximum limits for coccidiostats in non target feed. To review the limits, consider impact on food and the consumer as well as current residue testing programmes for home produced and imported foods.