

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

48th Meeting of ACAF on 3 December 2009

Information Paper

**UPDATE ON THE WORK OF OTHER ADVISORY
COMMITTEES**

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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 next meeting of ACMSF will be held on 3 December 2009. The following items are on the agenda for discussion:
 - a presentation on Defra and FSA research on E. coli O157 with relevance to supershedder cattle;
 - a report on the findings of the FSA's Campylobacter and Salmonella in Retail Chicken Survey;
 - a report from the November meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene; and
 - a discussion on horizon scanning.
3. The ACMSF's Report on the Increased Incidence of Listeriosis in the UK was published on 14 September. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2009/sep/acmsflisteria>

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

4. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 26 November 2009.

Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE)

5. ACRE met on 6 November 2009. Details from this meeting will appear on ACRE's website which can be accessed using the link below:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/acre/index.htm>

6. The next ACRE meeting will be held on 12 January 2010.

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

7. The next meeting of COT will be held on Tuesday 15 December 2009. The following items are currently included on the draft agenda for discussion:
 - Idiopathic Environmental Intolerance (IEI): Evidence for a toxicological mechanism. Overview of studies of Polymorphisms relevant to toxicological mechanisms;

- WRAP – Dioxin report/release;
 - Developmental Neurotox; and
 - EFSA Arsenic.
8. At its September 2008 meeting COT discussed Organophosphates and Human Health, in particular the Survey of Health and Pesticides Exposure SHAPE report, which can now be found on the Defra website:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=VM0299_8421_FRP.pdf

9. The next COT meeting will be held in Leeds on 2 & 3 February 2010.

General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS)

10. The GACS holds its next open meeting on 4 March 2010. Items provisionally up for discussion include:

- report back from the Working Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management;
- report back on the first SACs Annual Conference and cross-government lay members event (both taking place on 27 November);
- horizon scanning – outputs and cross-cutting issues; and
- feedback from ACAF Chair on the independent review of the ACAF.

Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN)

11. At the SACN Horizon Scanning meeting on 2nd October 2009, the Committee discussed a short paper on the increasing artificiality and manipulation of the human diet written by one of its Members. The paper explained that, with advances in food technologies, the addition of novel ingredients in food has increased and that it is an issue that needs to be discussed. The SACN see this as an item to be taken forward by a joint SACN and ACNFP working group.
12. In June 2009, SACN published its draft report on Iron and Health for scientific consultation. The draft report made four recommendations, including a recommendation on meat consumption in light of evidence that suggests that red and processed meat intake is probably associated with increased colorectal cancer risk. Fifteen responses were received in response to the draft report. SACN is currently amending its report to take account of these comments and new evidence, and it is anticipated that the final report will be published in April 2010.
13. In November 2009, SACN published its draft report on Energy Requirements for scientific consultation, which will run until 11 February 2010. The draft report is a technical report that considers current UK energy intakes and physical activity levels, existing energy requirement values, new evidence on energy expenditure, and the various methods that

may be used to calculate energy requirements. On the basis of their review, SACN has calculated new draft Estimated Average Requirements (EARs) for energy for the UK population for each age group and gender. The draft report is available on the SACN website (www.sacn.gov.uk). SACN will consider all responses received in relation to the draft report, and amend and finalise the report. It is anticipated that the final report will be published in mid-late 2010.

Social Science Research Committee (SSRC)

14. The Social Science Research Committee held a meeting on 20 October 2009. Items discussed included:

- the Food Issues Survey that the Committee was involved in developing;
- an update on the first project funded as a result of the Agency's strategic partnership with the Economic Social Research Council;
- the background to the work to implement the Pennington recommendations (as a result of the inquiry into the 2005 E. coli outbreak in South Wales) including literature sources for the evidence review on the cultures of food business operators and enforcement operators; and
- the recommendations made to the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Foods in relation to the incidence of Listeria in the over 60s.

15. The next SSRC meeting is scheduled for 27 April 2010.

Recruitment Exercises

16. ACNFP will shortly announce the successful candidates for their new Chairman and expert member.

17. COT has interviewed for two non-specialists and two specialist members. The successful candidates will be in post on 1 April 2010. COT has two additional posts to fill.

18. SACN is reaching the end of an appointments exercise which could potentially see the appointment of 6 new Members by the beginning of 2010 (depending on Ministerial decisions) and of a new Committee Chair by July 2010.

**ACAF Secretariat
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