

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS**

**56<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ACAF on 14 December 2011**

**Presentation Paper: Organic Feed Issues**

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# Regulations EC 834/2007 and EC 889/2008

Feed issues November 2011

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# Why discuss organic feed now?

- There is a requirement in the Council Regulation (834/2007) for feed to be 100% organic.
- The Commission Regulation 889/2008 has allowed a percentage of non-organic feed to be included as an interim measure, but the deadline to move to 100% organic is the end of 2011.

# The Problem

- Organic operators may not use synthetic amino acids so diet formulation is more complex.
- Organic feed ingredients of agricultural origin do not include very high protein source ingredients such as prairie meal or potato protein – nor are these likely to become available.

# Possible solutions

1. Formulate 100% organic rations so as to provide suitable nutrition for monogastrics.
2. Utilise allowed non-agricultural inputs such as fish-meal to enable correct formulation.
3. Continue to allow a percentage of non-organic feed to be used.

# 100% organic diets

- Some companies are already selling compound feed with 100% organic agricultural ingredients.
- However, whilst they have not found difficulty sourcing suitable organic ingredients, this may not be the case once all companies are required to operate to the same requirements.

# Non-agricultural inputs: Fishmeal

- Fishmeal will remain available for inclusion as part of monogastric diets. The current proposal is not to limit this in percentage terms as it is self limiting due to taste issues. A limitation is the horizontal rules that do not allow its use in all feed mills.

# Non-agricultural inputs: amino acids

- Whilst the use of amino acids would enable the use of entirely regional feed and would allow a well formulated diet for all animals, their use is not supported by the majority of Member States.
- It should be noted that it is only “synthetic” amino acids that are banned under the Council Regulation so non-synthetic forms could be proposed for inclusion in the list of organic feed additives.



# Non-agricultural inputs: General

- The UK is proposing that such inputs should not be included in the percentage calculations for organic feed labelling. This would affect both monogastric and other feed (with the exception of aquaculture feeds for which there is no intended adjustment at present).

# Continued use of non-organic feed

- The current proposals from the Commission are for a reduced level of non-organic agricultural ingredients to be allowed in monogastric diets, but do include a proposal for an ongoing acceptance of levels <1%.
- The levels likely to be proposed are 5% for twelve months and 3% for the following two years then a move to <1% for binders etc.

# Will feed ever be 100% organic?

- 100% organic feed for monogastrics is required in the US. However they allow the use of synthetic amino acids.
- The Commission are likely to propose a <1% allowance on an ongoing basis in order to allow minor non-organic ingredients that are not available in organic form – e.g. Herbs, binders etc.

# The way ahead

- The Commission have shown themselves ready to listen to some Member State concerns. But they are required by the Council Regulation to move to 100% organic diets when possible.
- Commission and Member State concerns are mainly over ensuring that organic production is not seen as “industrialised” so points to improve animal welfare requirements across the EU may assist.