

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

56th Meeting of ACAF on 14 December 2011

Discussion Paper

**FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME &
HORIZON SCANNING**

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

**Secretariat
December 2011**

ACAF FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Background

1. The Committee last discussed horizon scanning and future work at its forty-seventh meeting on 22 September 2010. Once again, the Secretariat has combined both exercises. The Committee's current Forward Work Programme is at Annex I including suggestions for new work which are highlighted in green.
2. Annex I has been divided into high, medium and low priority items. The Secretariat has listed the items in a suggested order of importance for the Committee to consider.
3. It is proposed that the following items are revised as shown below:
 - Item 1 – manipulation of animal feed to enhance the nutritional value of food – suggest this item is moved from high to medium priority;
 - Item 3 – Biofuels – suggest that this item is moved from high to low priority as the review has now been completed;
 - Item 4 – updates on BSE and TSE developments – suggest that this item is moved from high to medium priority as the Committee was provided with updates during 2011;
 - Items 9 and 10 – climate change and the impact on feed production and global demand for livestock and prices from primary production – suggest that these two items become low priority as they have minimal impact on feed safety;
 - Item 14 – animal production including feeding systems and the effect on the environment – similarly suggest that this item becomes low priority as it has minimal impact on feed safety.
4. The Committee is asked to consider if it is content for these issues to be revised within the work plan.
5. As regards new work, four items are suggested:
 - feed safety – potential gaps (work on this has already commenced);
 - responses to the recommendations on feed law enforcement from the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) audit mission to the UK in November 2011;
 - microbiological issues; and
 - handling of feed incidents.

6. Members should note that on the first item (feed safety – potential gaps), the ACAF Assessor (Mr Tim Franck) will be providing a presentation on the identification of feed business operators (the first of three papers) at the December 2011 meeting.

Action

7. The Committee is invited to review its current work programme, agree desired outcomes and future priorities.

**ACAF Secretariat
Food Standards Agency
December 2011**

ACAF Forward Work Programme

High Priority - position of ACAF to be considered proactively

Item no.	Topic	Progress
1	<p>The manipulation of animal feed to enhance the nutritional value of food (milk, meat, eggs). Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enhancing the selenium content of livestock produce; - enriching foods with polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs); - developing foods with reduced concentrations of saturated fatty acids; - livestock feeding regimes that are designed primarily to improve the nutritional quality of products; - supplementing animal feed with requirements for a healthy diet (e.g. 	<p>The Committee first considered this issue in 2004-2005. A horizon scanning workshop organised by the GACS took place on 24 June 2009 and was attended by a number of ACAF Members. ACAF was requested to take forward the ideas discussed. At ACAF's September 2009 meeting Prof. Ian Givens agreed to carry out a literature review of research being carried out in this area. The report of the review was circulated to Members on 27 November 2009 and the key areas of research summarised.</p>

	<p>omega-3) that remain in the end product for human consumption.</p> <p>Suggest that this work item is moved to either medium or low priority.</p>	
2	<p>Feed Safety – Potential Gaps</p>	<p>At its 1 June 2011 meeting, the Committee was asked to consider potential safety gaps in the feed sector. It agreed to consider in further detail the following areas identified at the June meeting:</p> <p>identification of feed businesses; imports; and awareness/competence of feed business operators.</p> <p>The Committee considered identification of feed businesses at its December 2011 meeting.</p>
3	<p>Biofuels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> possible impact of the availability and cost of widely used selected feeds ; and the safety and use of feed co-products from the production of biofuels. <p>Suggest that this item is</p>	<p>The Committee has considered this subject area in depth and its position paper was published on 30 April 2008.</p> <p>At its 3 March and 3 June 2010 meetings the Committee received presentations on biofuels. The Committee agreed that its position paper should be revised and adapted to take account of quantifiable data and new developments.</p> <p>The Committee discussed updating its Position Paper on biofuels at its September 2011 meeting. It agreed to publish a revised position paper on biofuels.</p>

	moved to low priority.	
4	GM issues including future developments in biotechnology (e.g. use of second generation GMOs) and possible links with GM nutritional work.	<p>The Committee receives a report from the GM Sub-group Chairman regularly; this includes future developments in biotechnology and the possible links that GM has with animal and human nutrition.</p> <p>Additionally, the Secretary provides a regular oral update on EU developments.</p> <p>The 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.</p>
5	<p>Updates on BSE and TSE developments.</p> <p>Suggest that this item is moved to medium priority.</p>	<p>Update on TSE and Bone meal issues was provided by Mr Patrick Burke (Defra) at the Committee's December 2008 meeting.</p> <p>A further update by Mr Burke was provided at the Committee's June 2011 meeting. At this meeting, the Committee agreed with proposals to partial relaxation of certain provisions of the current controls. At its September 2011 meeting the Committee was informed that Defra officials would be seeking an agreed UK position from Ministers.</p> <p>The Committee also received a presentation from Mr Neil Leach (Defra) on an update of EU Animal By-Product Controls at its meeting in December 2009. Members agreed that this item should remain on its work plan and be periodically reviewed.</p> <p>The Committee received a further update on developments involving animal</p>

		by-products at its September 2011 meeting. It asked to be kept updated on developments on this subject area.
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Medium Priority - position of ACAF responsive to developments and considered regularly:

6	EU developments – including providing advice on UK negotiating lines.	<p>The Committee receives EU development updates at every meeting and provides valuable input to the UK delegation on a range of issues.</p> <p>During 2008, the Committee provided inputs to the UK negotiating line on the proposed EC Regulation on the Marketing and Use of Feed. The Regulation was adopted in June 2009 and came into effect in 1 September 2010.</p> <p>The Annexes to the Regulation are subject to amendment, and it is envisaged that an extended Catalogue of Feed Materials and Codes of Practice on Feed Labelling will be drawn up. The Committee's views have also been sought on these developments.</p> <p>At its September 2011 meeting the Committee received an update on negotiations on the review of Directive 90/167 on the preparation, supply and use of medicated feedingstuffs. Members were informed that European Commission proposals following the review were expected in 2012. The Committee confirmed it would be willing to provide any advice as required during the future negotiations.</p>
7	Aquaculture	The Committee will continue to be updated on developments and will give advice as required.

8	Responses to the recommendations on feed law enforcement from the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) audit to the UK in November 2011	The Committee will be asked to comment and advise on the recommendations in respect to feed safety following the FVO audit conducted in November 2011.
9	Climate change and the impact on feed production Suggest that this item is becomes low priority as it has minimal impact on feed safety.	The Committee received a presentation from Professor Tim Wheeler (University of Reading/Deputy Chief Scientific advisor to DFID) at its 22 September 2010 meeting. The Committee agreed to keep this item on its workplan.
10	Global demand for livestock and prices for primary production. Suggest that this item is becomes low priority as it has minimal impact on feed safety.	This item stems from a GACS horizon scanning workshop held on 24 June 2009. The Committee agreed it would like to explore this area further at a future meeting. It was agreed that the Secretariat should arrange for presentations to cover: (a) the UK position; (b) the European position; and (c) the worldwide position. The Committee envisages that these presentations will help it determine its formal stance on these issues.
11	Work of EFSA including opinions on additives and contaminants relating to animal feed	The Secretariat will continue to draw relevant EFSA Opinions and documents to the attention of ACAF for discussion.
12	Feed additive developments and issues	An information paper was prepared by Secretariat for ACAF's March 2008 meeting. The Committee considered this topic again at its June 2011 meeting. It noted that the assessment of applications for the re-authorisation

		<p>of feed additives according to Article 10 of Regulation 1831/2003 had started.</p> <p>In 2005, the Committee considered the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition's (SACN) Report on Vitamin A. At its 4 March 2009 meeting, the Committee was advised that EFSA had published an Opinion on vitamin A in February 2009. ACAF was informed that the Commission had sought the views of Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) in September 2009. Following this advice, the Commission has decided to await the outcome of the re-assessment of vitamin A under Article 10 of the EC Feed Additives Regulation 1831/2003 before considering whether the current maximum permitted levels for this feed additive should be changed. The matter will then be discussed again by ACAF.</p>
13	Forge closer links with other Advisory Committees and tackle issues of common interest.	ACAF will take the opportunity to develop links with other SACs in any cross-cutting issues.
14	<p>Animal production including feeding systems and the effect on the environment.</p> <p>Suggest that this item is becomes low priority as it has minimal impact on feed safety.</p>	The Committee received a presentation from Professor Chris Reynolds (University of Reading) at its 3 March 2010 meeting. Members agreed that the work area would remain in the Committee's forward work plan.
15	Microbiological issues	The Committee was asked to consider at its September 2011 meeting whether the policy adopted by the Food Standards Agency in relation to <i>Salmonella</i> in feed is appropriate. It agreed to re-endorse the current line taken by UK officials in negotiations where a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)-type approach, as considered by the European Food Safety

		Authority and as set out in the UK Code of Practice, would be preferable to amendment of the Feed Hygiene Regulation.
16	Establish if there are any feed implications from research on the potential for multiple residues of pesticides and veterinary medicines in food to produce effects on human health.	Yet to be considered.

Low Priority - items to be kept under observation but major changes not expected.

17	Nanoscience	Members have been briefed on issues by an EFSA Opinion on nanoscience. A House of Lords Select Committee paper on this issue was published in January 2010, but contained little information relating to animal feed.
18	Feed issues relating to organic production.	The Committee will receive an update on UK negotiations on organic farming at its December 2011 meeting.

Additional suggestion for new work

19	Handling of Feed Incidents Suggest that this item is placed under high priority work.	
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