

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

57th Meeting of ACAF on 7 March 2012

Information Paper

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

**Secretariat
February 2012**

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 met on 19 January 2012. The main items discussed were as follows:
 - a presentation on horizon scanning in the catering sector focussing on possible risks from changing food preparation techniques;
 - a paper written by the Secretariat giving the background to the way risk assessments have been carried out by the Committee and a possible framework for undertaking risk assessments more consistently in future;
 - a draft response from the Committee to the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) risk assessment on quality, safety and use of digestate in UK agriculture;
 - a paper bringing the Committee up-to-date with current activities in relation to the microbiological safety of sprouted seeds, including a recent EFSA scientific opinion on this subject;
 - proposals for a process for approving and updating the ACMSF work plan; and
 - an update from the last meeting of the Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group.
3. The next meeting of ACMSF will be on 29 May 2012.

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes

4. The most recent ACNFP meeting took place on 15 February 2012. The main items of discussion were:
 - the report of the Quinquennial Review of the ACNFP;
 - review of the Open Event which took place on 24 November 2011; and
 - consideration of a European Union expert working group's report on new techniques of genetic modification (GM).

5. The next meeting of the ACNFP is scheduled for 26 April 2012.

Advisory Committee on Releases into the Environment (ACRE)

6. ACRE met on 9 February 2012. The main item discussed was the draft final report of ACRE's post-market environmental monitoring sub-group.
7. ACRE also discussed EFSA's scientific opinions on 4 food and feed applications including cultivation - MON88017 maize, GA21 maize, the 2009 post-market monitoring report on MON801 maize and an updated evaluation of 1507 maize.

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

8. COT met on 7th February 2012. Items on the agenda included:
 - a presentation by the Agency's Head of Strategy and Policy Unit on 'horizon scanning';
 - use of toxicogenomics data in risk assessment;
 - COT input into Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) - review of complementary and young child feeding;
 - draft statement on the FSA-funded T05 research programme on phytoestrogens;
 - draft 2011 Annual Report;
 - FSA Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs) update – paper for information ; and
 - update on actions taken subsequent to COT advice – paper for information.
9. Papers can be seen on the COT website <http://cot.food.gov.uk/>,
It should be noted that reference papers are not included due to copyright.
10. The COT is trialling an online Forum which is now available, but only to download papers.
11. The next meeting of the COT will be on 20 March 2012 at Aviation House.

The Committee on the Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC)

12. The COC is current reviewing the relative vulnerability of children to asbestos, at the request of the Department for Education. It is also continuing to revise its guidance and plans to produce separate guidance

statements on different areas of carcinogenic risk assessment, as the COM has done.

The Committee on the Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COM)

13. The next meeting of the COM will be held on 8 March 2012. Items on agenda include:

- draft guidance statements on impurities and chlorophenols;
- human health significance;
- horizon scanning;
- Annual Report for 2011 and;
- a statement on nanomaterials and a presentation on QSARs (Quantitative Structure – activity relationship).

General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS)

14. GACS will meet on 14 March 2012. Items on the provisional agenda for this meeting include:

- Chief Scientist's report;
- Science in the SACs – it is hoped that Professor Peter Aggett will provide a presentation on SACN;
- Report of the review of science governance - GACS to discuss the draft conclusions/proposals from the review;
- Quinquennial Review of ACNFP - GACS to discuss responses from ACNFP and FSA to the recent ACNFP quinquennial review;
- Quinquennial Review of GACS – GACS to discuss the quinquennial review, its draft response, and FSA's response, followed by a wider discussion on priorities for GACS in the coming years; and
- Presentation - Philip Lowe (Rural Economy and Land Use Programme) on developing innovative approaches to working across disciplines and with other organisations.

Social Science Research Committee (SSRC)

15. The next SSRC meeting will be held on the 18 April 2012, in Aviation House. An agenda has yet to be finalised.

Veterinary Residues Committee (VRC)

16. The VRC will meet on 7 March 2012. Items on the provisional agenda include:

- statutory Surveillance Scheme;
 - GB results
 - NI results
- non-statutory surveillance results;
- imports Surveillance;
 - funding for non-statutory scheme 2012
 - national monitoring plan: Border Inspection Posts work
 - retailer results
- update on honey issues – FSA;
- communications ;
 - report of the subgroup meeting on 16 February 2012
 - review of Annual Report
 - VRC website
 - planning for open meeting 2012
- preparation for Codex meeting on residues of veterinary drugs in food; and
- update on Review of European Legislation.

Appointments and Recruitment Exercises

ACRE

17. A submission is with Ministers about appointments. Three members are to be replaced in 2012 and 6 members are to be re-appointed.

COC

18. The Committee has vacancies for a cancer epidemiologist and a toxicologist. The closing date for applications was the end of January 2012.

COM

19. The Committee has two vacancies for members with relevant expertise suitable for COM. The closing date for applications was at the end of January 2012.

COT

20. The Chairman advised the Committee of the appointment of two new members with effect from 1 April 2012 - one with expertise in environmental exposure assessment, the other in risk assessment. Appointment letters to be issued by Private office, but names cannot be mentioned until the appointees have accepted.

**ACAF Secretariat
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