

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

58th Meeting of ACAF on 15 June 2012

**Presentation Paper: Feed Incident Management in Northern Ireland
from an Enforcement Perspective**

**Alan McCartney & Stephen Nixon – Department of Agriculture and
Rural Development**

June 2012

Feed Incident Management in Northern Ireland from an Enforcement Perspective

**Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs
58th Meeting, at The Queen's University of Belfast**

Alan McCartney & Stephen Nixon

Agri-food Inspection Branch



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Outline

- Introduction & Background
- Systems and responsibilities
- Practical Examples
- Advice from ACAF



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DARD Strategic Plan 2012-2020

The new draft DARD Strategic Plan has direct reference to Animal Feeds

GOAL 3

To enhance animal, fish and plant health and animal welfare:

What success will look like:

- 7. Risks to animals and consumers arising from the livestock feed chain are insignificant.**

Key Actions:

- 8. With stakeholders, use risk-based surveillance to detect contamination of the livestock feed chain early and maintain robust controls and contingency plans for preventing and controlling major contamination incidents.**



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AGRI-FOOD INSPECTION BRANCH

Agri-food Inspection Branch (AfIB) is part of the Service Delivery Group (SDG) of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), and is responsible for the implementation of a range of agri-food legislation.

We implement UK/Ni and EU legislation relating to food safety, plant health, product certification and marketing standards. This is achieved through a number of specialist teams of professional staff with expertise in food technology, agriculture and horticulture

CROP CERTIFICATION, PLANT & BEE HEALTH INSPECTORATE

Seed Potato Certification;
Cereal Seed Certification;
Plant Health;
Noxious Weeds;
Bee Health;

FEED & FOOD INSPECTORATE

Animal Feed Safety
Quality & Labelling
Primary Produce Hygiene
Fertilisers & Lime
Composition & Labelling;
Cross Compliance;
Agricultural Wages Investigations;

PLANT HEALTH & HORTICULTURE INSPECTORATE

Plant Health;
Horticulture Marketing
Standards;

MEAT & EGGS INSPECTORATE

Beef, Sheep & Pig
Beef Labelling;
Egg & Poultry Meat
Marketing Standards;

MILK INSPECTORATE

Production Hygiene;
Liquid milk processing
Hygiene;



ADMINISTRATION & TECHNICAL SUPPORT SECTION

Further information and assistance is available from:

Agri-food Inspection Branch
Room 1019
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast
BT4 3SB

Tel: 028 9052 5001
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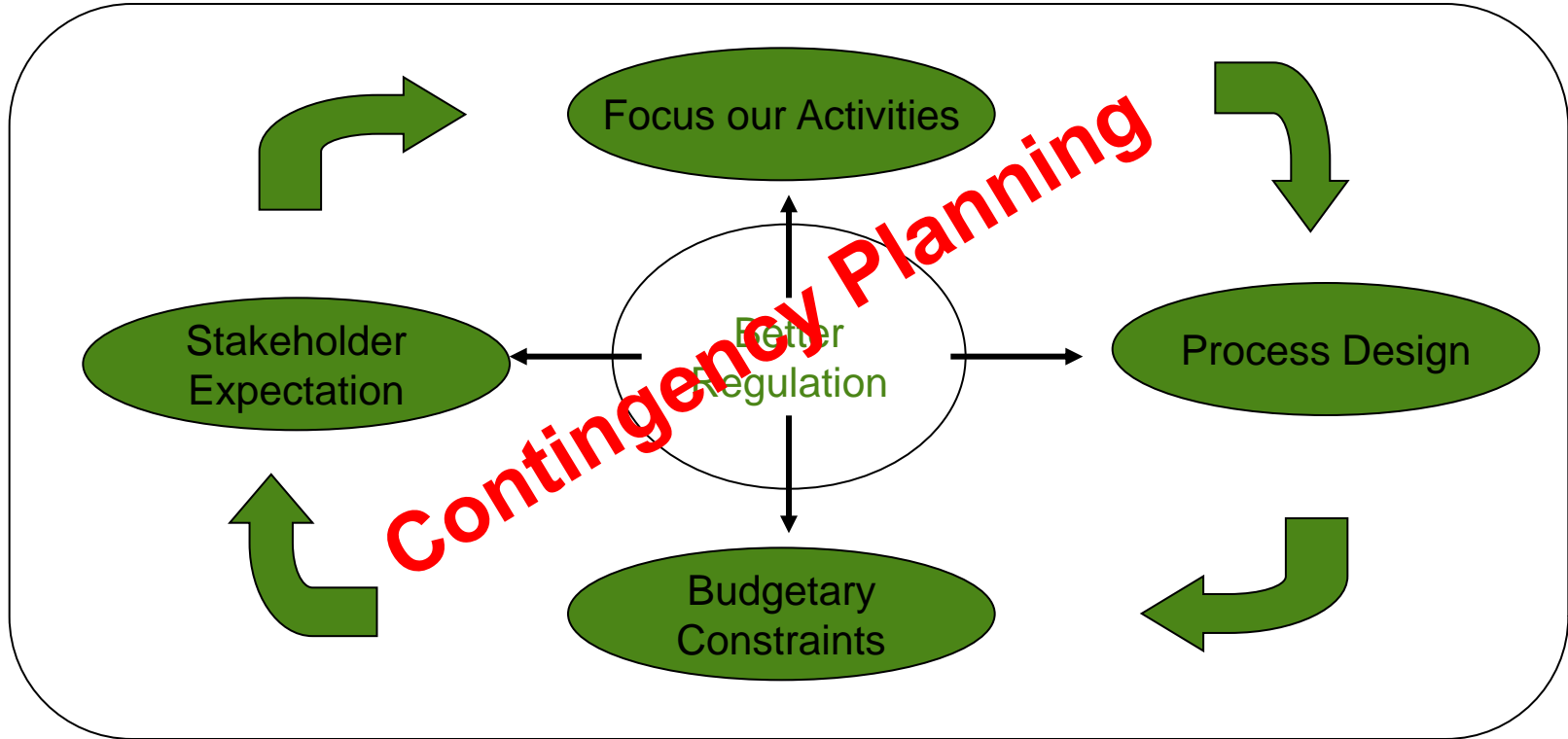
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Ethos



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Background

- Contingency Plan for Incident Concerning Animal Feedingstuffs
- Reviewed at least annual and after implementation.
- During 2011 implemented
 - twice for incidents
 - once during an internal desk based simulation
 - Once during Operation Larkspur
 - Many positives
- Communication



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Lessons

- Making the transition from our operational plan into the DARD MERP along with protocol for escalation of a multi-agency response.
- Roles, responsibilities and interactions between IMT, FFIMG & DARD Strategic Command.
- Training & awareness programmes.
- Flexible resourcing plans.
- Laboratory capacity issues.
- Improving support and communication at an operational level.



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Feed is Big Business in N.I.



Feed is Big Business in N.I

- **NI Agri-food sector worth £3 billion+ per annum**
- **20% of total manufacturing sales**
- **17% of external manufacturing sales**
- **25% of manufacturing employment**
- **Approx. 80% of this starts with Animal Feed**

Size and Structure of the Northern Ireland Feedingstuffs Industry

- **Annual Production – 2.09 million tonnes.**
- **106 Processors**
 - 9 large [>50k Tonnes]**
 - 8 medium [50k - 25k tonnes]**
 - 89 small [<25k tonnes]**
- **24,000 farms**
- **Raw materials mainly imported ~90%+**

Breakdown of feed production in 2011

Total Production	2,086	000's MT
–Cattle and calf feed	1,079	(57)
–Pig Feed	187	(66)
–Poultry Feed	692	(21)
–Sheep Feed	66	(3)
–Others	52	(7)

(Figure in brackets – 1,000Mt produced in NI sold elsewhere)

EC Regulation 178/2002

Section 2 Emergencies

Article 53 – Emergency Measures for food and feed of Community origin or imported from a third country

Powers for the Commission to intervene in incidents at the request of a Member State or unilaterally:

- Suspension of the marketing or use of the feed in question**
- Laying down special conditions for the feed in question**
- Any other appropriate measure**

Article 55 – General Plan for Crisis management – Commission Decision 2004/478/EC

EC Regulation 882/2004

Chapter IV Crisis Management

Article 13 – Contingency Plans for feed and food

- **Operational Contingency Plans**
- **Implemented without delay**
- **Feed poses a serious risk to humans or animals**

Specify:

Authorities to be engaged

Their powers and responsibilities

Channels and procedures for sharing information

**Review – particularly following organisational changes
or simulation exercises.**

EC Regulation 1831/2003

Laying down requirements for feed hygiene:

- **The principal objective is to ensure a high level of consumer protection with regard to food and feed safety**
- **‘Primary responsibility for feed safety rests with the feed business operator’.**
- **Ensure feed safety throughout the food chain, starting with the primary production of feed, up to and including, the feeding of food producing animals.**

EC Regulation 183/2005

Successive feed crises have shown that failures at any stage in the feed chain can have important economic consequences.

The complexities of feed production and the complexity of the feed distribution chain mean that it is difficult to withdraw feed from the market.

Context for financial guarantees.

Feeds Contingency Plan

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Contingency Plan for Incidents Concerning Animal Feedingstuffs

26 MARCH 2012 – interim REVIEW

Plan Owner:

Quality Assurance Branch (QAB)

Contributors:

Animal Health Strategy and Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy Branch
(AHS&TSEB)

Animal Identification, Legislation and Welfare Branch (AILWB)

Veterinary Service (VS)

Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI)

Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences Division (AFESD)

Veterinary Sciences Division (VSD)

HR and Business Improvement Division

Co-ordination Branch (COB)

Food Standards Agency (FSA)

Incident Handling

- **Contingency Plan for Animal Feed Incidents**
- **Assessment of Risk**
- **Incident Management Team**
- **QAB Investigation**
- **Detention/Analysis**
- **Disposal/Recall**
- **Prosecution**

Dioxins 2008

- **Headline news across Europe!!**
- **Dioxin Monday 0600 – 2300**
- **Considered - if frenetic planning**
- **Golden Hour – despite the pressures**
- **Inspectors dispatched – into the unknown!**
- **Communication – what a challenge!!**

Palm Kernel Expeller 2011

PKE 2011 – Contingency Plan Implementation

- **Industry detected Arsenic in PKE – DARD notified**
- **PKE Detention – sent for destruction**
- **Next consignment – suite of negative results prior to discharge**
- **DARD AFIB sampled PKE – positive for Arsenic**
- **Detention – PKE sent for destruction.**

Conclusions

Incidents can be prevented

Incidents will happen

Incidents ~~can be~~ must be! managed

Simulations can help

Nothing can substitute for reality



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Advice from ACAF

Your views would be welcomed on the

- Level of preparedness as compared to other Devolved Administrations in the United Kingdom.
- The adequacy of our plan and any general comments.
- The risk assessment framework within the plan.



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