Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs

Annual Report 2008

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Foreword

I was honoured and delighted to be asked to serve as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs in May 2008. The previous Chairman, Dr Chitra Bharucha led the Committee with great skill and a wealth of knowledge. I follow in the steps of a capable Chairman who demonstrated balanced views and sound judgement.

I was an original member of the Committee when it was first established in June 1999 and am pleased that ACAF is still a formidable force in providing expert advice and guidance on a range of challenging and interesting issues on the safety and use of animal feeds.

My first meeting as Chairman was held in Belfast. This was an extremely interesting meeting for me in light of the discussions on the Lipgene Project especially the work being carried by ACAF member Dr Ian Givens on the beneficial effects of long chain omega 3 polyunsaturated fatty acids and the reduced risk of coronary heart disease. We will continue to take a close interest on how this work develops. I was also grateful to Dr Jaume Galobart i Cots from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for his presentation on the work of EFSA and its Panel on the assessment of additives and products or substances for use in animal feed. This was not only informative and interesting but was useful in meeting the Committee's commitment to develop links with other bodies.

Additional to the work mentioned above, the Committee has had a very busy year. As part of its core function of horizon scanning to identify new practices that might have a bearing on feed safety, the Committee published a position paper on the use of co-products from the biofuels industry for use in animal feed. This is an extremely topical issue and an area where the Committee will continue to keep a close watch on developments.

The Committee held several discussions and provided comments on the negotiations on the European Commission's proposal on Marketing and Use of Feed. It also provided comments on a Code of Practice for the

Control of Salmonella in Animal Feed. This is being drawn up by Defra and the Food Standards Agency in liaison with the feed industry and will replace previous Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food codes which were first issued in 1989.

The Committee has broadened its knowledge and understanding of issues of science and welfare through receiving a number of presentations. This included a presentation from Professor Colin Blakemore, the Chairman of the General Advisory Committee on Science, (a committee on which I sit as an ex-officio member) and another from the Secretariat of the Farm and Animal Welfare Council.

I hope that this Annual Report will give a good indication of what we have achieved over the past twelve months. We were particularly pleased to read that the Government Chief Scientist Professor John Beddington, mentioned in his review of the Agency's Science, that he particularly valued the work of the independent scientific advisory committees.

The Committee's wide-ranging and detailed work programme could never have been completed without the thoughtful and knowledgeable efforts of all my fellow Members who have selflessly given a tremendous amount of their personal time. Finally, I would like to thank the hard-working ACAF Secretariat for the continuous support they have given me. Their excellent preparation and briefing has been of invaluable help to the work of the Committee and has allowed us to complete our programme of tasks in a timely and efficient manner.

Ian Brown - OBE BSc (Agric) FRCP FFOM

Chairman of ACAF

About the Committee

1. The Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF) was set up in June 1999 to advise on the safety and use of animal feeds and feeding practices, with particular emphasis on protecting human health and with reference to new technical developments and new feed materials and products.

2. The decision to set up the Committee was made in the light of concern about the integrity of animal feeds, particularly over the implications of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and the use of genetically modified (GM) feed ingredients. The decision was announced in the White Paper, "The Food Standards Agency: A Force for Change", published in January 1998 and it implemented the principal recommendation of the report of the Expert Group on Animal Feedingstuffs, published in July 1992.

3. The Committee's primary purpose is to advise on the safety and use of animal feed in relation to human health. However, it also covers animal health aspects and a wide range of contemporary issues including advice on the UK negotiating line on new European Community (EC) proposals, animal feed ingredients including genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and labelling and information for purchasers of animal feed.

4. ACAF is a UK-wide advisory committee and is made up of independent experts who are appointed by UK Ministers and the Food Standards Agency (FSA). Members are appointed for their individual expertise and experience and are not representative of any organisation.

Terms of Reference

5. ACAF advises the Food Standards Agency, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Ministers of the Scottish Government and the National Assembly for Wales, and the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland on the safety and use of animal feeds and feeding practices, with particular emphasis on protecting human health and with reference to new technical developments. In carrying out its functions, the Committee liaises with other relevant advisory committees as appropriate.

How to Contact the Committee

6. ACAF welcomes your views and suggestions on all aspects of its work. Please address your comments and any requests for information to:

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If you would like to receive ACAF documents regularly, please complete the form at Annex I and return it to the Secretariat at the address above.

The Committee's Work in 2008

Biofuels

7. As part of the Committee's work programme throughout 2007, the Committee commenced the examination of the impact of biofuel production on the safety, composition and availability of animal feed. In particular, it reviewed the types of co-products derived from the production of biofuels that have, or may have, a use in animal feeding. This took into account the possible new types of co-products from the biofuel industry. The Committee also examined the implications of the use of crops for biofuel production on the continued supply of materials for use as animal feed. It was agreed that the Committee's findings and recommendations would be eventually published in a position paper.

8. During its discussions the Committee identified a concern in relation to the possibility that materials destined for biofuel production could be diverted for animal feed use. Such materials may not have been subject to relevant safety controls and standards prior to their diversion for feed use. However, it was noted that this type of practice was not restricted to the biofuel sector; crops and materials designated for other purposes could also be subject to changes in use. Any crop or material diverted for feed use would be subject to animal feed legislation, including safety controls and checks by local authorities. Some co-products from the production of biofuels might be classified as waste and in such cases controls applied by the Environment Agency would be relevant. The Committee suggested that the Animal Feed Law Enforcement Liaison Group (AFLELG) should be asked to consider whether there were any gaps in the controls on materials from the biofuel chain.

9. AFLELG considered the issue at its meeting on 16 September 2008 and agreed that there was adequate legislation in place to control the use of biofuel co-products used in animal feed. Existing legislation contains sufficient powers to allow enforcement officers to deal with situations where feed law requirements had not been met. However, the Group thought it was important that biofuel companies should be reminded of the legislation that applies to biofuel co-products when they are marketed for feed use, and of biofuel companies' responsibilities as feed business operators. The Group agreed that the Food Standards Agency should write to organisations representing the biofuels industry, explaining the requirements of animal feed legislation. A copy of the

letter was sent to local authorities, and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland, who are responsible for the enforcement of feed legislation, to remind them of the need to include biofuel companies, as appropriate, in their control programmes.

10. Moreover, AFLELG said that if enforcement agencies became aware that current legislative controls on animal feed were not adequate for dealing with the diversion of biofuels co-products, they should bring this to the attention of the Food Standards Agency.

11. The Committee's position paper on biofuels was published on the ACAF website at the end of April 2008. A copy of the paper can be viewed using the link below:

acaf.food.gov.uk/papers/biofuels

12. The Committee agreed that the paper should be an evolving document, which would be reviewed as new developments emerged.

The ACAF Secretary and Chairman confer

Regulating the Use of Coccidiostats and Histomonostats

13. In 2007 the Committee was invited by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) to give its view on a proposal to amend the legislation on the control of coccidiostats and histomonostats. Under EC Feed Additives Regulation 1831/2003 these substances are classified as feed additives. They are intended to kill or inhibit certain protozoa usually found in the gut of poultry. The Regulation required the Commission to provide a report to the European Parliament and the Council with a view to making a decision on phasing out the use of these substances as feed additives. An alternative method of controlling such products would be via approval under veterinary medicines legislation.

14. At the Committee's meeting, VMD reported that it had consulted stakeholders on the issue. The majority of responses indicated opposition to any change in the way these products were regulated. One of the main reasons against change was that, under EC veterinary legislation, costs of authorisation of products were greater compared to authorisation of products under EC Regulation 1831/2003; this could reduce the range of products available to combat coccidiosis. Industry was also concerned that the existing tight controls on the use of coccidiostats (there are currently no authorised histomonostat feed additives available in the EC) could not be replicated under veterinary medicinal product legislation. ACAF noted the new arguments put forward by the VMD and agreed to review its position once the European Commission had reported.

15. The Commission Report to the Council and European Parliament on the use of coccidiostats and histomonostats as feed additives was published on 5 May 2008.

16. In its report the Commission concluded that coccidiostats and histomonostats should be retained under the feed additive legislation. The main reasons for this decision was that it was considered that the use of coccidiostats as a preventative measure for the control of coccidiosis in modern poultry production is essential and protects animal health and welfare and the environment, while providing a fair framework within which operators can do business. It might be uneconomical to develop products if they were subject to veterinary legislation controls and EU consumers might be deprived of access to poultry, turkey and rabbit meat produced according to the high EU safety and welfare standards. The current system provides a high level of safety for consumers.

17. VMD carried out an informal consultation, and put the issue before the Veterinary Products Committee (VPC) for comment. Having been given assurances regarding the quality of the assessment of feed additives and the controls in place, the VPC supported the Commission's recommendations.

18. Following the informal consultation and advice from the VPC, the UK Government was minded to accept the Commission's recommendation.

19. The VMD asked ACAF to advise on whether they agreed with the Commission Report's conclusion that the status quo for coccidiostats and histomonostats should be maintained. The Committee agreed that the status quo should be maintained.

Proposed EC Regulation on Marketing and Use of Feed

20. During 2008, the Committee was kept up-to-date on negotiations on the proposed EC Regulation on Marketing and Use of Feed. The Food Standards Agency provided the Committee with a presentation on the main provisions of the proposal at its meeting in June 2008. Members were advised that the Commission had issued its proposal at the end of March 2008. This was a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers and therefore required the agreement of both those institutions. The proposal had been made under the Commission's simplification and modernisation programme which seeks to provide a more flexible approach to legislation where this is consistent with safety considerations.

21. The proposed Regulation replaces four existing Directives (on compound feeds, feed materials, bioproteins, and dietetic feeds). Many of the provisions of the proposed Regulation were not new and were reflected in the previous legislation. However, the proposed Regulation would introduce a number of new requirements. In particular, the Regulation will:

- contribute to a reduction of the administrative burdens on industry by removing unnecessary labelling requirements. In particular, it will repeal the existing requirement to declare the ingredients of compound feed by their percentage weight of inclusion, which the UK has always opposed;
- provide a clear demarcation between complementary feeds and premixtures. The proposal specifies that complementary feeds should not contain levels of additives more then 100 times the maximum permitted levels in complete feed;
- introduce new controls on the claims that can be made for feed products, requiring that manufacturers provide scientific substantiation for them when requested;
- introduce a Community Catalogue of Feed Materials and Codes of Practice for the Labelling of Feed. These will provide a similar degree of control as at present but without recourse to prescriptive legislation, and will therefore be more flexible and more open to amendment as and when required;
- specify a formal procedure, which is at present lacking, for the addition of new entries to the list of nutritional purposes for which dietetic feeds may be promoted. These are products for the management of certain chronic, often short-term, nutritional conditions; and
- introduce a new requirement for compound feed labelling to declare the presence of all additives subject to a maximum inclusion rate.

22. The Committee generally supported the aims of the proposal, in particular the repeal of percentage ingredient declarations. The Committee agreed that the Community Catalogue of Feed Materials should be voluntary. A list restricting the feed materials that could be marketed would be impractical and disproportionate. However, several members of the Committee expressed the view that nutritional supplements including boluses (slow release capsules) are an important tool for livestock farming especially in uplands and remote farming areas. Several members of the Committee expressed concern that on the demarcation between complementary feeds and premixtures might compromise the use of nutritional supplements, such as boluses, drenches, and pastes.

23. Reflecting these concerns, the proposal is likely to include an authorisation procedure for nutritional supplements, similar to the one that currently exists for dietetic feeds. This may involve the provision of dossiers for authorisation of products at the Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH).

Codes of Practice for the control of Salmonella in Animal Feeds

24. The Defra assessor provided information on a revision of the Codes of practice for the control of Salmonella in animal feeds in co-operation with industry. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) originally published the Codes in 1989 mainly in response to the Salmonella in Eggs crisis. The Codes were revised in 1995 to refer to Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) and later to refer to Defra rather than MAFF.

25. The Codes are intended to provide a greater understanding of the need to control Salmonella, and hence better compliance with targets set under the zoonoses legislation.

26. Members learnt that the existing codes were integral parts of the three Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) feed assurance schemes (UFAS[1], FEMAS[2], and TASCC[3]). It was also noted that code compliance is also a feature of many farm assurance schemes. The codes were also referred to in AIC and Grain and Feed Trade Association (GAFTA) trade contracts, and retailers often require membership of schemes.

27. The codes required updating for a number of reasons. Since the codes were last amended EC zoonoses legislation had been adopted (i.e. Directives 2003/99, 2160/2003). In addition, the EC Feed Hygiene

[1] UFAS – Universal Feed Assurance Scheme

[2] FEMAS – Feed Materials Assurance Scheme

[3] TASCC – Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops

Regulation 183/2003, had been implemented in the UK. This measure requires feed businesses to apply the principles of HACCP and observe standards applicable to facilities and equipment, storage and transport. The codes need to reflect the requirements of this legislation.

28. The codes were revised by a working group which included representatives from Defra, FSA and the feed industry. The revised codes would be the subject of a public consultation and ACAF would be a formal consultee. ACAF's comments on the codes would be requested and the Committee would be invited to endorse the codes, by permitting its logo to appear on the published code.

29. The Committee noted that there were numerous codes that the feed and farming industry were required to follow, and it was desirable to ensure that guidance provided was as user friendly as possible. With this in mind, it would be helpful if the codes could in due course cover advice on other bacterial types (e.g. Campylobacter). With respect to endorsement and badging (with the ACAF logo) of the Codes, it was agreed that a decision could not be made until the Committee had seen a pre-publication version of the document, which is likely to be available in the course of 2009.

Herbal Additives

30. Herbal additives were first raised as a topic for ACAF to consider at its meeting of 24 September 1999. ACAF had since discussed this subject area in subsequent meetings and this subject had been included in the Committee's forward work programmes for 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08.

31. There is an overlap in responsibility for herbal and homeopathic products between ACAF and the Veterinary Products Committee (VPC). This was discussed at the ACAF meeting held on 1 December 1999. At that meeting ACAF expressed concern about the potential for herbal additives to be marketed and used for their therapeutic or prophylactic effects.

32. At ACAF's meeting held on 4th May 2000 the Veterinary Medicines Directorate gave a presentation on the legislation controls affecting homeopathic and herbal products.

33. It was noted at ACAF's meeting of 8th February 2005 that a self-task group had been set up by EFSA to look at herbal additives in animal feed and EFSA has recently published recommendations for the assessment of herbal feed additives.

34. At its September 2008 meeting, a FSA official invited the Committee to consider the work recently carried out by EFSA. The work emphasised feed additive use. The EFSA document was authorised by the EFSA's Panel on Additives and Products or Substances used in Animal Feed (FEEDAP Panel), but was written by a seconded group of experts. The report is available on the EFSA website at:

efsa.europa.eu/cs/BlobServer/Scientific_Document/feedap_report_plantsherbs_en.pdf

35. The Committee was encouraged to learn that herbs could still be used in animal feed per se, providing that no medicinal claims were made. It was noted that if medicinal claims were made then these products would need to be approved as veterinary medicines. The Committee had mixed views about this subject and it was agreed that, before concluding its consideration, it would await the views of the FEEDAP Panel.

Presentations

36. During 2008 the Committee received several presentations from external experts to help facilitate their consideration of a wide range of animal feed issues. Summaries of some of these presentations are set out below.

The manipulation of animal feed to enhance the nutritional value of food - Lipgene Project

37. As part of the Committee's work plan, the Committee received presentations from two participants of an EU funded Project known as the 'Lipgene Project'. Lipgene is being conducted by 25 research centres across Europe encompassing fourteen countries. The full project title is 'Diet, genomics and the metabolic syndrome: an integrated nutrition, agro-food, social and economic analysis.' The project aims to look at the way that the diet and an individual's genes interact to produce risk factors (e.g. obesity) for cardiovascular disease, insulin resistance and high blood pressure.

38. At its March 2008 meeting Professor Johnathan Napier of Rothamsted Research provided the Committee with a presentation on work that he was undertaking as part of the Lipgene Project.

39. Professor Napier explained that this work looks at the production of long chain n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids (LCn-3PUFA) in transgenic plants. It might be possible to create crops containing LCn-3PUFA, which are normally found in oily fish, by the introduction of genes from marine algae. Fatty acids in fish oils are not exactly the same as those in vegetable oils; plant oils do not contain LCn-3PUFA. The original source of LCn-3PUFA in fish oils are the microalgae that are consumed by fish. Humans can only synthesise LCn-3PUFA, such as eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), at low rates. Therefore, the inclusion of these essential fatty acids may improve human health.

40. Fish oils are an unsustainable resource at this time, as wild fish stocks are in major decline. Professor Napier noted it is very costly and difficult to produce LCn-3PUFA via culture or fermentation of the microalgae.

41. Currently, the work involves the study of marine algae to identify the genes that are involved in the production of LCn-3PUFA, and their transfer into a host plant. It has taken 3-4 years to produce transgenic plants that can produce 'marine' fatty acids, such as EPA. However, further work is required to produce plants that can duplicate the fatty acid profile of the microalgae.

42. The Committee also invited ACAF Member Professor Ian Givens (University of Reading) to provide a presentation on the current intakes of the long chain n-3 fatty acids EPA and DHA and the potential of animal-derived foods to increase intake at its June 2008 meeting.

43. Professor Givens explained that the current recommended daily intakes of EPA and DHA for consumers in the UK, and in other countries were between 450 and 680 mg per day of EPA+DHA. The recommended intake of EPA+DHA in the UK at present is 450 mg per day, which can be achieved by consuming two portions of fish (one of which being oily fish) per week.

44. In the UK, adults (age range of 19-64) consume about 244 mg EPA+DHA per day on average, i.e. about half of the recommended amount. However, this average intake is not very meaningful as it is also known that 70% of adults do not consume oily fish which means that the majority of the population will only consume about 100 mg EPA+DHA per day. Some 50 mg of EPA+DHA intake comes from consumption of eggs and meat; the main source of the latter is poultry meat and probably results from the fact that birds reared for meat normally have some fishmeal (which contains some EPA/DHA) in their diet.

45. It was suggested that one approach for increasing intake of EPA/DHA was to encourage people to take fish oil capsules. Other approaches include enrichment of, milk, meat and eggs, but to be effective the following three conditions need to be satisfied:

- consumption by a large proportion of the population;
- enriched animal derived foods would need to be consumed in relatively large quantities; and
- the ability to enrich foods with EPA/DHA.

46. Professor Givens explained that current work being investigated by his department focuses on enrichment of poultry meat with fish oil. Poultry are very responsive to enrichment by EPA and DHA and these fatty acids can accumulate in membrane phospholipids meaning that EPA and DHA are relatively abundant in white meat. Professor Givens' team aim to enrich 200 g of meat with 300 mg of EPA+DHA. Professor Givens estimated that enrichment of foods had the potential to provide a daily intake of EPA+DHA of approximately 230 mg. However, Professor Givens noted there are concerns that the continued and increased use of fish oils in animal diets is not sustainable. Therefore, alternative approaches are being examined, such as work being carried out by Professor Napier on the genetic modification of plants that can synthesise long chain n3 polyunsaturated fatty acids from short chain precursors.

47. The Committee noted with interest the important work being carried out by Professor Napier and Professor Givens and their respective teams. The Committee stated that the possibilities of the work currently being carried out by Professor Givens were very exciting, but that public reaction to supplementation would need to be considered.

ACAF Review of Feed Law Enforcement

48. At its meeting in March 2008 the Committee received a progress report on the Action Plan aimed at addressing the recommendations set out in ACAF's Review of Feed Law Enforcement published in 2005. Members noted that the Action Plan published in October 2006 contained 22 action points. The FSA has been working with relevant stakeholders including enforcement authorities and was able to confirm at the March 2008 meeting that most of the actions had been completed.

49. It was emphasised that the completion of the Action Plan was work which involved all those agencies involved in feed law enforcement. Much of the Action Plan had been progressed through the Animal Feed Law Enforcement Liaison Group[4].

50. In addition to developing greater co-operation between enforcement agencies, the FSA had been encouraging the sharing of information between assurance scheme auditors and official control bodies.

51. It was noted that one of the ACAF recommendations was that a central database of feed businesses, including all relevant information held by assured schemes, should be available to all enforcement authorities. After discussions with relevant stakeholders it was agreed that the initial set up and maintenance costs would be disproportionate compared with the benefits and would not be pursued.

52. Commencing with the 2008/2009 financial year the FSA would be providing financial assistance to local authorities in England to assist with enforcement of the new feed hygiene requirements. Separate arrangements would be made by the devolved administrations with regards to funding.

53. It was confirmed that the auditing of local authorities in accordance with the Feed Law Enforcement Code of Practice (Great Britain) had commenced as part of the FSA's general audits of local authorities. A specific programme of audits looking at feed law enforcement was scheduled to begin during March 2008.

[4] The Animal Feed Law Enforcement Liaison Group (AFLELG) comprises representatives of UK enforcement bodies and government departments with an interest in animal feed law. It meets twice a year to discuss enforcement related issues, to identify common problems and agree to a consistent and co-ordinated approach to feed law enforcement. The ACAF Secretary is the Chairman of AFLELG and the FSA's Animal Feed Unit provides the Secretariat to the Group.

Work of the European Food Safety Authority and the FEEDAP Panel

54. As part of the Committee's commitment to develop links with other bodies, Members received a presentation at the Committee's June 2008 meeting from Dr Galobart i Cots on the work of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and its Panel on Additives and Products or Substances used in Animal Feed (FEEDAP).

55. The Committee was interested to hear about the changes to the approval process for additives used in animal feed since the implementation of EC Regulation 1831/2003. The Committee also noted that the FEEDAP Panel was independent and chaired by a former ACAF Member (Professor Andrew Chesson), and that the Panel carries out its work either in response to requests for scientific advice from risk managers or on its own initiative.

56. Most commonly, and following specific authorisation procedures, the European Commission asks EFSA to provide scientific advice on and to evaluate the safety and/or efficacy of a given substance, in relation to its authorisation for use in the European Union. Following Dr Galobart i Cots presentation, the Committee reiterated that a close relationship between EFSA and ACAF should be maintained.

Work and remit of the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC)

57. As part of the Committee's work plan to explore links other advisory bodies, Mr Simon Renn, Assistant Secretary to the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC), provided the Committee with a presentation on the work of this organisation at its September 2008 meeting. He explained that the FAWC was an independent advisory body established by the Government in 1979. The Council's terms of reference are to keep under review the welfare of farm animals on agricultural land, at market, in transit and at the place of slaughter; and to advise the Government of any legislative or other changes that may be necessary.

58. The full Council meets three times a year, with standing committees and working groups meeting more frequently. These groups undertake detailed analysis of the topics identified in FAWC's Strategic Plan for 2006-2010. The Council communicates its findings to Ministers via letters, opinions and long term reports. The FAWC also has links with other organisations within the UK and Europe, including EFSA. Prior to publication of a report, FAWC's investigations include an initial consultation, a literature and information search, practical visits (to farms, etc), collection of evidence and preparation of draft reports which are discussed with stakeholders prior to publication. The Government takes a final decision on the implementation of any recommendations, which can be incorporated into legislation and welfare codes.

59. During 2008 the FAWC reported on farm assurance schemes, labelling in respect of welfare provenance, stockmanship, the implications of castration and tail docking for the welfare of lambs. It will also be considering education and communication and how knowledge is transferred in relation to animal welfare. The FAWC's long term goals in farm welfare include putting an end to unnecessary mutilations, improved enforcement, national and international recognition of welfare issues, verification of assurance claims, due diligence by retailers and education and training of stockmen.

60. Further information on the work of FAWC can be found at:

fawc.org.uk

61. The Committee praised the work of FAWC as it enabled consumers to become better aware of animal welfare issues and thus make informed choices when buying meat and other animal products. The Committee also considered that animal welfare issues should be taught in schools enabling students from an early age to become familiar with issues such as free range and organic food. The Committee suggested that the reports produced by FAWC needed a higher profile.

The General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS)

62. At the invitation of the Committee the chairman of the General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS), Professor Colin Blakemore gave a presentation on the remit of GACS at ACAF's December 2008 meeting.

63. GACS's remit is to provide independent challenge and support to the Food Standards Agency in its use of science. Membership of the Committee includes the chairmen of the nine scientific advisory committees (SACs) that advise the Agency, four independent expert members, two lay members, with Professor Blakemore as the chairman. The Committee was informed that GACS aims to identify and develop good practice for all the SACs in advising the Agency. It will also provide advice on whether the Agency's science and research is in line with the Agency's overall scientific and strategic aims, including provision of advice on the Agency's science prioritisation. GACS will also evaluate the assessment of how the Agency uses evidence to develop its policy as well as encouraging the building of links with others to identify, develop and share good practice.

64. Professor Blakemore explained the outcome of GACS's first two meetings held in March and October 2008, and also future work of the committee. Future work will include consideration of issues raised by a report of the GO-Science Review of the Agency's science, the Agency's response to the Review and the development of the Agency's Science Strategy. Other future work will include consideration of the

relationship between risk assessment and risk management and facilitating interaction between the SACs through an annual conference. GACS also intends to create an interface with the whole research community by setting up a college of experts. It has already set up a web-based tool for members to communicate with each other and intends to extend this system to a wider audience.

65. Further information on the work of GACS including minutes of meetings and membership can be found using the link below:

food.gov.uk/science/ouradvisors/gacs/

66. The ACAF Chairman on behalf of the Committee expressed a keen interest in playing an active role in GACS including any proposed workshops.

Update on TSE and Bonemeal issues

67. As part of its 2008/09 work plan, the Committee invited Mr Patrick Burke a veterinary advisor at Defra to provide an update on TSE and bonemeal issues at its December 2008 meeting.

68. Mr Burke referred to the various feed bans in Great Britain since 1988 to reduce the incidence of BSE. The prevalence of BSE in the UK had declined considerably since 1996 when the UK banned the feeding of mammalian meat and bone meal (MMBM) to farmed animals. By 2005, with the decline in the epidemic, scientific/technical developments allowed for the consideration of more appropriate BSE controls without compromising consumer health or animal health. The 2005 European Commission's TSE Roadmap suggested amending TSE controls to include a tolerance for bone fragments in soil adhering to beet pulp, a relaxation on the ban of feeding fishmeal to ruminants and the feeding of non-ruminant protein to non-ruminants of a different species.

69. The Committee noted that the Microscopic Analysis Test (MAT) performs reliably in detecting low levels of animal protein in feed and in differentiating MMBM from fishmeal. However, if the MAT detects the presence of animal protein in feed, it cannot quantify the level of inclusion reliably. This means that it is not yet possible to agree maximum inclusion (tolerance) levels for the presence of fishmeal in feed for adult ruminants. The feeding of fishmeal to adult ruminants is prohibited in the EU.

70. In 2007 EFSA concluded that the risk of TSE in fish was remote, and that any risk would be due to contamination of fishmeal with meat and bone meal. EFSA also assessed the risk of the transmission of BSE to pigs via poultry feed and vice versa and was of the opinion that the risk was negligible. It came to the conclusion that small quantities of animal

protein in ruminant feed could result in a small number of BSE infections but would not sustain an epidemic.

71. In Defra discussions during 2008 on the future TSE policy options, consumer representatives expressed some concerns about relaxation of feed controls. In October 2008, the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) published a statement[5] on the future policy options with three main conclusions:

- tests were not yet sufficiently robust to support tolerance levels for processed animal protein (PAP) in feed;
- the risk of new BSE infections from fishmeal inclusion in animal feed was very low but there were some areas of uncertainty and safe sourcing was important; and
- the use of non-ruminant PAP in non-ruminant feed could give risk to cross-contamination. However, the BSE risks would be very low if controls were applied. Therefore, it was unlikely to generate a self-sustaining epidemic.

72. The Committee was informed that due to issues with analytical testing and potential cross contamination, there had been only two changes to the EC TSE Regulations since 2005. These are:

- the risk-based tolerance of insignificant contamination of root crops with bone fragments; and
- the use of fishmeal in liquid milk replacer for young ruminants.

73. The Committee noted that the European Commission was considering extending the risk assessment based tolerance of insignificant environmental contamination with bone fragments to all crops[6] and was looking at developing validated quantitative and species-specific tests for animal proteins in feeds.

74. The Committee was interested to hear of the developments in this area. However, the Chairman voiced his disappointment about the lack of progress regarding measures to permit the feeding of fishmeal to all ruminants

[5] http://seac/statements/feedban-oct08.pdf.

[6] This came into effect in March 2009

Genetically Modified (GM) Issues

Unauthorised Bt63 rice from China

75. At its meeting held on 5 March 2008, the ACAF Secretary reported that emergency measures had been put in place by the European Commission regarding imports of rice products from China, to ensure that such products do not contain unauthorised genetically modified rice Bt 63. He also pointed out that the GM variety in question was not approved in China and was not grown there commercially.

Approval of GM lines

76. During the year the Committee was advised that votes had been taken on the following GM lines:

- Bayer's GM soyabean Liberty Link (A2704-12) was approved for use for animal feed and human food, but not for cultivation.
- Inconclusive votes (i.e. failure to obtain a qualified majority) on the authorisation of two GM lines - soya A2704-12 and cotton LL25. Therefore, the issues were passed to the Council of Ministers for consideration. Following a similar failure to obtain a qualified majority at the Council of Ministers in July 2008, the dossiers were passed to the European Commission, who approved the authorisations on 8 September 2008 (A2704-12 soya) and 29 October 2008 (LL25 cotton).
- GM soya MON-89788-1, also known as 'Roundup Ready 2' failed to obtain a qualified majority in favour at a meeting of the Agriculture Council on 19 November 2008. The Commission authorised this GM soya variety for use in food and animal feed (but not for cultivation) on 4 December 2008.
- The Commission granted formal authorisation for the import, processing and use in the EU of three GM maize varieties and one GM sugar beet variety following inconclusive votes in the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH) and European Council. A further three GM varieties of maize (MON863xNK603, MON863xMON810, MON863xMON810xNK603) and one GM variety of potato (EH92-527-1) failed to gain qualified majority votes in favour of authorisation in SCoFCAH, and were referred for consideration by the Council of Ministers.

The votes on 18-19 February 2008 were inconclusive and the dossiers were therefore passed back to the Commission. In May 2008 the Commission sought additional advice from EFSA on these dossiers.

Asynchronous Approval of GM Lines

77. The Committee noted and raised concerns about the asynchronous approval process, as outside the European Community approval of GM varieties took on average less than nine months. However, in the European Community approvals took up to two years. There was a shortage of protein in the European Union and this was any area that the Commission needed to consider. This was leading to potential feed shortages.

Technical Solution

78. At the Committee's September meeting, the ACAF Secretary drew Member's attention to the European Commission's plans for a 'technical solution' in respect of the low level presence of non-authorised GMOs. Currently, there is a zero tolerance policy within the EU.

79. A further update on developments of the plans was provided at the Committee's December meeting. Members learnt that the Commission had set up a high level group (known as the Sherpa group) to help agree a 'technical solution' linked to analytical limits of detection.

Cabinet Offices' 'Food Matters' Report

80. In response to a request from the Cabinet Office's Strategy Unit, Members were informed, that the Agency intended to publish an analysis of the extent to which changes in the market are putting a strain on the regulatory system for GM products (including animal feed) and the implications for UK consumers. The Agency liaised with Defra on this task and held a series of stakeholder meetings throughout October 2008. The Committee was updated at its December 2008 meeting and were told that seven meetings with relevant stakeholders (including consumer groups, caterers, animal feed industry/farming organisations, food retailers, food manufacturers, enforcement authorities and non-government organisations) had been held. An 'omnibus' meeting with all stakeholder groups had been held in November 2008 and the views expressed in all the meetings were being captured in a report, which was to be forwarded to the Cabinet Office. It was noted that in response to the Cabinet Office request Defra was looking at the parallel implications for UK livestock. A copy of the final report would be circulated to the Committee following its publication.

ACAF GM Sub-group

81. The Sub-group is accountable to the full Committee via the former's chairman who provides a report at each ACAF meeting. As a further accountability measure, the Committee's Chairman is an ex-officio member of the Sub-group. Membership of the Sub-group is set out in Annex II.

82. Although the Sub-group did not meet in 2008, they were asked to provide comments on various documents. This work was carried out through electronic communication.

83. At ACAF's September 2008 meeting, the GM Sub-group chairman reported that the Sub-group had considered two issues. The first issue was the provision of comments on EFSA's updated guidance document for the risk assessment of genetically modified plants and derived food and feed. The Sub-group was unable to provide a comprehensive and exhaustive review due to the size and scope of the document. However, it was able to provide comments on some aspects of the document. It was noted at the Committee's December 2008 meeting that the Sub-group's comments were included in the Agency's formal response to EFSA.

84. The second issue the Sub-group was asked to make comments on was a second post-market monitoring report for GM 1507 maize for the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE). This GMO is approved for import and use as animal feed in the EU under Directive 2001/18/EC. In 2003, the Sub-group assessed the application to market 1507 maize in the EU. The post-market monitoring plan was a component of this application. At the time, the Sub-group did not raise any concerns about the approach proposed for monitoring. Following a request from ACRE's Secretariat to review the second annual report, the Sub-group noted there had not been any reports of adverse effects on human health or the environment.

85. It was the view of the Sub-group that the procedures used represent the most rigorous practical monitoring that can be employed hence the Sub-group did not have any recommendations for any change to the procedures. The Sub-group also commented that unless findings of a positive, or potentially positive nature, emerged from the surveillance it did not require to see all future reports, and were content to see the final report for information when it is published. This position assumed that the procedure for surveillance remains unchanged.

EC Developments

86. In addition to EC issues already mentioned, the Committee received reports on the following wide range of EC policies and legislation throughout 2008.

Annual report on implementation of the National Control Plan

87. In 2007, the Committee was informed about the development of a single, integrated National Control Plan (NCP) for the UK covering the period January 2007 to March 2011. The Plan describes the regulatory landscape in the UK in the feed and food sectors (as well as animal health, animal welfare and plant health sectors). It gives details of the roles and responsibilities of the different authorities and associated bodies that are involved and provides an overview of how they work together to safeguard public, animal and plant health and to protect consumer interests. The strategic objectives of the Plan and the planned official control activities during the duration of the Plan are also set out. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the devolved administrations in the UK undertook a second review of the Plan in 2008. No substantive amendments were made as a result of the review but the Plan was updated to reflect organisational and legislative changes. The revised Plan was published in mid February 2008, and appears on the FSA website at:

food.gov.uk/foodindustry/regulation/europeleg/feedandfood/ncpuk

88. Member States are required to report annually on the implementation of their national control plans. The Committee was informed of work to progress and publish the first UK report. At its December 2008 meeting, the Committee was told that the report on progress made during 2007 towards implementation of the plan, had been finalised and was submitted to the Commission, and published on the Agency's website in November 2008. The link to the 2007 UK report can be found below:

food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/ncp2007annualrep.pdf

Implementing rules for import controls for 'high-risk' feed and food of non-animal origin

89. Discussions in Brussels continued throughout 2008 on implementing rules for import controls for high risk feed and food of non-animal origin. In October 2008, a new draft of the proposed Regulation was discussed at a Commission Working Group meeting. It was the Commission's intention to present the text to the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH) in November or December 2008. However, this was postponed until early 2009. Stakeholders are being kept up-to-date with developments via the Rapidly Developing Policy page on the Agency's website. The latest update is at:

food.gov.uk/foodindustry/regulation/europeleg/euupdates

Article 27 – Review of fees and charges for official controls

90. Article 27 of Regulation (EC) 882/2004 permits Member States to collect fees or charges to cover the costs incurred from carrying out official controls. The Commission has initiated a study of existing arrangements in Member States and was expected to report its findings and conclusions at the end of 2008.

The Feed (Specified Undesirable Substances) Regulations 2006

91. Members were advised throughout the year of the outcome of several Commission Standing Committee meetings on the setting of tolerances for residues of coccidiostats in feed for 'non-target' animals. The European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) Panel on contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM) is advising Member States and the Commission on this issue.

92. Discussions have also taken place regarding Ambrosia. The pollen of this plant is highly allergenic and persistent in the environment and it is thought that the spread of this plant throughout Northern Europe is being aided by the occurrence of its seeds in wild bird feed. There is currently no EC legislation setting maximum levels in feedingstuffs for Ambrosia and the majority view of Member States is that an opinion should be sought from EFSA with a view to setting specific controls.

Feed incidents

93. The Committee was made aware of and discussed a number of feed incidents during 2008.

Imports of Guar Gum from India

94. In 2007 the Agency was informed, via the European Commission's rapid alert system, about possible dioxin and pentachlorophenol contamination of an edible thickening agent guar gum (E412) used in a variety of pre-prepared foods. As a precaution, the Commission requested that Member States identify, hold and test all batches of guar gum imported from an Indian supplier. Testing was also stepped up for other imports of guar gum from India. The Agency working with trade organisations undertook an investigation to discover the distribution of the contaminated guar gum in the UK. These investigations did not identify any contaminated guar gum entering the feed chain.

95. Commission Decision 2008/352/EC was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 1 May 2008, and came into force on 5 May, imposing special conditions on guar gum originating in or consigned from India due to the risk of contamination by pentachlorophenol (PCP) and dioxins. The Decision requires consignments of guar gum originating in or consigned from India, or compound feedingstuffs and foodstuffs which contain at least 10% guar gum originating in or consigned from India, to be prohibited from being placed on the market unless they are accompanied by an original certificate of analysis stating that the consignment does not contain more than 0.01 mg/kg of PCP. The analytical report must be issued by a laboratory accredited according to EN ISO/IEC 17025 for the analysis of PCP in food and feed or by a laboratory pursuing the necessary accreditation procedures, endorsed by a representative of the competent authority from the country where the laboratory is based.

96. Commission Decision 2008/352/EC can be downloaded from the Commission's website at:

eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:117:0042:0044:EN:PDF.

It has been implemented by administrative Declarations made under Regulation 33 of the Official Feed and Food Controls Regulations 2007 and Regulation 61 of the Products of Animal Origin (Third Country

Imports) Regulations 2006. Further information about the scope of the Decision and the requirements it imposes on feed business operators and enforcement authorities can be found in a letter to feed enforcement authorities published on the Agency's website at:

food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/enforcement/enfe08032.pdf

97. In July 2008 the Commission updated its list of approved testing laboratories. This can be found at:

ec.europa.eu/food/food/chemicalsafety/contaminants/new_measures_guar_gum_india.pdf

98. Decision 2008/352/EC requests quarterly reports of analytical results, and the Agency has written to enforcement agencies in the UK requesting the required data. A copy of the letter sent to local authorities can be found at:

food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/enforcement/enfe08049.pdf

99. It is anticipated that very few consignments of guar gum from India intended for use in animal feed are now entering the United Kingdom.

Wheat Feed Incident (April 2008)

100. In April 2008 the Committee was informed of potential feed contamination involving the presence of material of animal origin in wheat feed intended for ruminant rations. The potential contamination was detected following routine sampling undertaken as part of Defra's National Feed Audit, which gave positive results for the presence of muscle fibre, terrestrial animal bone and fish bone in stocks of wheat feed from Sweden in stores at Tilbury Dock. As the incident concerned possible breaches of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy and animal by-products legislation for which Defra is responsible, the investigation was undertaken by Defra's Animal Health (formerly the State Veterinary Service). The FSA was kept informed of developments during Defra's investigation.

101. Animal Health concluded its initial investigation at the end of May 2008, investigation of possible offences by feed operators were still on-going at the end of 2008. The investigation involved an extensive tracing exercise to establish the distribution of the feed material. Temporary movement restrictions were imposed on cattle and sheep on farms that had received the material or feed products containing it. Feed in which animal protein was detected was detained and not allowed back into feed for farmed livestock. Animal Health carried out detailed investigations to determine the source. A risk assessment established

that the material present was at very low levels and was a very low risk to animal and human health. A total of 815 feed samples were collected and tested, of which 13 proved positive for low level contamination. The FSA also carried out tests which showed that levels of other contaminants were within statutory limits.

Possible occurrence of Deoxynivalenol (DON) in the 2008 UK harvest

102. At the September 2008 meeting of the Committee, a Member raised the issue of possible occurrence of Deoxynivalenol (DON) in the 2008 UK harvest. The Member noted that cereal grains that were harvested in wet conditions could be contaminated by mycotoxins. There could also be the possibilty that if the grains were not contaminated during harvesting, they could be contaminated during subsequent storage.

103. An Agency official reported that the Agency had been working with the food and feed trade on this issue and had been proactive in providing advice on how levels of mycotoxins could be minimised. The Agency official explained where levels of DON were found to be above the 1.25 mg/kg maximum permitted level in wheat flour, these were rejected at mills and sometimes diverted for animal feed. The Agency official stated that there are no statutory maximum limits for DON in wheat feed. However, there is a guidance value of up to 8 mg/kg for cereals and cereal products. For compound feeds the guidance value is generally 5 mg/kg (0.9 mg/kg for pigs, 2 mg/kg for kids, lambs and calves).

Presence of antimicrobial substances in by-products from the bioethanol industry destined for animal feeding

104. At the Committee's meeting in September 2008, the FSA reported on notifications from the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed on the low level presence of monensin (an authorised coccidiostat) in spent yeasts and similar products from bioethanol production from Brazil that had been imported for use in animal feeding. In general, the levels found were in the region of 1-5 mg/kg. In a few cases other levels above 5 mg/kg had been found. The issue had been discussed at the September 2008 meeting of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (Animal Nutrition section). It was agreed (on the basis of recent EFSA Opinions) that very low residues of monensin in these feed materials represent no significant risk. However, to protect the feed chain it is likely to be advised that maximum permitted levels will be introduced; these would be similar to the levels likely for carry-over of coccidiostats in non-target feed.

Melamine contamination of feed (October 2008)

105. The Committee was advised at its December 2008 meeting that in October 2008 the European Commission had introduced import controls on milk products and soya products for food and feed use from China which require the testing of composite food and feed products containing such milk (EC Decisions 2008/921 and 2008/798). These controls had become necessary following the reported deaths of 6 infants and serious illness of 300,000 children in China from consuming milk contaminated with melamine. The Decisions also require Member States to carry out sampling and analysis of other high protein feed and food products from China. Any food or feed products from China that are found to contain more than 2.5 mg/kg of melamine are required to be withdrawn from the market and destroyed. The Committee was informed that the Agency had asked enforcement authorities to increase surveillance and report results to the Agency.

106. The Committee was also informed that the Agency had been notified of a consignment of organic soya expeller from China containing significant levels of melamine. Investigations determined that the contaminated organic soya expeller had been traced to a consignment which entered the country during the first week of November 2008. The consignment, together with other shipments imported by the same importer, was detained and further testing for melamine and related compounds was being undertaken. Investigations had identified the distribution chain and customers were asked to keep the material out of the feed chain.

107. The Agency kept stakeholders informed of the background to this incident and suggested actions to be taken on receipt of organic soya expeller. The Agency had obtained samples of milk from the bulk tanks of farms where cattle had consumed feed containing the contaminated soya expeller and arranged for the samples to be analysed for melamine and related compounds. The melamine content was found to be substantially below the permitted 2.5 mg/kg limit.

108. The Committee was also advised of that the Agency was aware of three other incidents in other Member States related to the presence of melamine in soya intended for animal feed.

109. The Committee noted that organic soya was expensive and therefore unlikely to be used by most milk producers. It was also noted that the majority of organic baby milk originated from Switzerland or Austria.

ACAF Visit to Belfast

110. ACAF held its 42nd meeting in Belfast on 3 June 2008. As part of its 2007/2008 work plan entry on aquaculture, the Committee visited Movanagher Fish Farm, Ballymoney, Antrim on the previous day in order to get a better insight into the feeding regimes for the farming of fresh water fish (in this case trout).

111. The fish farm is located on an island between Movanagher Canal and the Lower River Bann, near Kilrea. The farm produces brown and rainbow trout to supply the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure's Angling Estate. The farm also supplies small quantities of fish to private angling clubs and fisheries.

112. During the tour, the Committee observed the various feeding practices employed and the different types of feed used. They were also shown the hatchery and the ponds used in the various development stages of the fish. The Committee learnt that ova are produced annually from brood fish, which are specially selected for the purpose. When the young are suitably developed – usually one or two years old – they are transported in oxygenated tanks and stocked into various fisheries which make up part of the Public Angling Estate in Northern Ireland.

113. The Committee found the visit extremely informative and expressed their appreciation to their hosts.

Fish feeding at Movanagher fish farm

Trout from Movanagher fish farm

114. The Committee is committed to holding one of its meetings each year outside London. This enables the Committee to be more accessible and to aid its consideration of regional issues. The Committee is also keen to continue to make relevant industry visits to enable it to see at first hand the issues it considers. The Committee will have an opportunity to build on its external contacts when it meets in Wales in June 2009.

Induction Training

115. On the 23 October 2008, as part of their induction training, new members of the Committee: Dr Ian Brown (Chairman), Mr Barrie Fleming (Veterinary Science), Professor Ian Givens (Animal Nutrition) and Edwin Snow (Feed Industry) visited two sites that produce poultry feed, eggs and egg products.

116. The sites in North Scarle, Lincolnshire and Bilsthorpe in Nottinghamshire are part of Noble Foods, a major supplier of eggs and egg products in the UK. The company's business includes all areas of egg production, including everything from the milling of feed to the manufacture of egg products and the processing of end-of-lay hens. The group was given a tour of the company's egg packing plant, a caged and woodland poultry farm and a feed mill.

117. Visits like this help educate the Committee's membership about how feed businesses operate and about new technical developments. On this occasion the group learnt about the company's shell egg division where a large number of the supplied eggs come from the company's own farms, which are supplied with feed from the company's own milling operation. They saw how eggs are delivered, categorised, sized and checked at the egg packing centre and how raw materials are received, tested and processed into feed before being stored, transported and fed. Members were extremely grateful to Noble Foods for their time during the visit which they found both enjoyable and instructive allowing members to properly appreciate the complex food chain issues from feeding to animal husbandry to egg production.

New members at an egg packing centre in Lincolnshire – October 2008

Feed materials being unloaded and sampled in Nottinghamshire – October 2008

Forward Work Programme and Horizon Scanning

118. At its September 2008 meeting the Committee carried out a combined exercise that included consideration of its Forward Work Programme and items suggested for horizon scanning. The Committee decided the following new items should be added:

- the use of pre- and probiotics in animal feed;
- categorisation of non-feed additives; and
- TSE controls/meat and bone meal.

A copy of the Committee's Forward Work Programme is set out in Annex III.

Food Standards Agency – Governance of Science

119. During 2006 the Committee was actively involved in helping to develop Good Practice Guidelines for scientific advisory committees that advise the Food Standards Agency. This came on the back of a drive to strengthen systems and processes used for science governance within the Food Standards Agency and making them more transparent.

120. Since its foundation in April 2000 the Food Standards Agency has based its policy decisions on scientific evidence. The network of independent scientific advisory committees that provide external scientific expertise and advice are fundamental to the Food Standards Agency's work and reputation. The Dean Review[7] showed that there was overwhelming support for the Food Standards Agency's policy of basing decisions on scientific evidence, and that this policy should be maintained and developed further. In response, the Food Standards Agency made proposals for strengthening the systems and processes used for science governance and making them more transparent, the development of the Good Practice Guidelines being one of them.

121. The Guidelines set out in Annex IV list the basic principles which are followed by scientific advisory committees when assembling and using scientific advice.

[7] An independent review of the Food Standards Agency conducted by The Rt Hon Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde in 2005.

Membership

Meet the Members

122. ACAF currently consists of a Chairman and 13 members from wide-ranging backgrounds including consumer affairs, farming, the feed industry and science. Members are appointed in accordance with the Nolan Principles and guidance issued by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA), which aim to ensure fairness and transparency in appointments to public bodies. ACAF members and their main areas of expertise are listed below.

Dr Brown (Chairman) is a medically qualified registered specialist in occupational medicine and toxicology. He is also a graduate in agricultural biochemistry and nutrition and has a wide range of knowledge and experience covering occupational health, toxicology, agriculture and food safety. Dr Brown was formally Consultant Physician in Occupational Medicine and Toxicology at Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust and is now Director of the Occupational Health Service at the University of Oxford. He is also Chair of the Pesticide Residues Committee and a member of the Advisory Committee on Toxic Substances of the Health and Safety Commission. From 1999 to 2005 Dr Brown was a member of ACAF, and from May 2001 until May 2002 served as the Acting Chair, following the unexpected resignation of the Chair, at that time.

Dr Chitra Bharucha (Chairman) left the Committee in March 2008 - is a registered specialist in haematology. She is Vice-Chairman of the BBC Trust, an Associate Member of the General Medical Council (GMC) and a member of Council of the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA). Until 2000, she was Deputy Director of the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service

and Consultant Haematologist in Belfast City Hospital. She was a Member of the Independent Television Commission (ITC) and has held professional appointments in the World Health Organisation (WHO) and on a number of national and international councils, committees, and panels including the GM Science Review Panel.

Dr Dozie Azubike (lay person/consumer) is a part-time Inspector with the Health and Safety Executive. He has a wide range of experience in the voluntary sector and is a Magistrate, a Member of the Board of the Thames Valley Housing Association and a non-executive Director of a friendly society. He is also a Member of the General Optical Council Fitness to Practice Committee.

Dr Paul Brantom (toxicology) is an independent consultant in toxicological risk assessment and was previously Head of the Toxicology and Information Department of BIBRA International Ltd (an independent contract research organisation specialising in research in toxicology and chemical safety). He is currently a member of the Veterinary Products Committee, Veterinary Residues Committee, the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes and the EFSA Panel on additives and products or substances used in animal feed (FEEDAP).

Tim Brigstocke (feed materials) is an independent farm livestock consultant who specialises in animal feeds. He is currently Executive Chairman of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust and Policy Director for the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers and Executive Director for Cattle Health Certification Standards. Tim serves on a large number of bodies including the Board of RUMA and the Institute of Agricultural Management and is Chairman of the Institute of Biology's Science Policy Board. He is a member of the Veterinary Residues Committee.

Professor Andrew Chesson (animal nutrition) left the Committee in May 2008 - was Head of Biological Chemistry at the Rowett Research Institute until July 2003 and is now based at the University of Aberdeen. He acted as vice chair of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Task Force on the Safety of Novel Foods and the European Commission's Scientific Committee on Animal Nutrition (SCAN) until its responsibilities were transferred to EFSA in 2003. He now chairs the EFSA panel on additives and products or substances used in animal feed (FEEDAP) and is a member of the overarching EFSA Scientific Committee.

Dr Bruce Cottrill (animal nutrition) is a senior research scientist at ADAS. He has over 25 years experience of a wide range of farming and livestock practices and in advising government departments (MAFF/Defra and the Food Standards Agency) on feed-related issues. He has served on a number of expert national and European Community committees, and the CONTAM Panel of EFSA.

Dr Gilbert Domingue (microbiology) is the R&D Projects Manager with GALVmed, a veterinary charity working to improve access to animal health medicines for poor livestock keepers. He is also a HACCP/Hygiene consultant and a state-registered clinical scientist with membership of several professional societies. Dr Domingue has broad experience derived from public, academic and private sector posts. This experience includes audits and research into various food chain pathogens from feed mills through to household situations. He takes a great interest in various food chain-related activities in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

Barrie Fleming (veterinary science) is a partner in St David's Poultry Team. Mr Fleming had nine years experience in general practice before moving into the pharmaceutical and animal additive specialism in 2002. He remained there until he became a partner in one of the UK's largest poultry only veterinary practices in December 2008. He has broad veterinary experience and a member of several relevant industry committees.

Professor Ian Givens (animal nutrition) is Professor of Animal Science and Director of the Nutritional Sciences Research Unit and the Centre of Dairy Research at the University of Reading, School of Agriculture, Policy and Development. Within the University he has responsibilities for managing a large research group. In addition to research on animal nutrition, the research includes the impact of animal derived foods on chronic disease in humans and the potential for their composition to be improved together with aspects of environmental nutrition. He is a Member of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the British Nutrition Foundation.

Professor Nigel Halford (novel technology) is a Principal Investigator leading a research group at Rothamsted Research, the UK's largest crop and agricultural research institute. He has been involved in research using the genetic modification of plants for more than 20 years. Professor Halford has considerable experience of assessing the risks of GM technology and also has the practical experience of running a field trial on GM wheat. He is the author of more than 90 refereed scientific papers, many relating to plant biotechnology, has written and edited books on GM crops and produced numerous articles on the subject.

Mrs Heather Headley (feed manufacturer) is Managing Director of her own independent feed material supply company. She has 24 years experience in the animal feed supply industry holding various posts since graduating in Animal Nutrition and Biochemistry. She has a working knowledge of practical farming to complement other skills.

Diane McCrea (consumer) is a consultant in food and consumer affairs and is also the Chair of the Consumer Council for Water Wales Committee. She has considerable experience of consumer representation and committee work, having been a member of several advisory committees and boards, including the Meat and Livestock Commission and the Food Standards Agency's Advisory Committee on Research. Ms McCrea has also represented Consumers International for more than 10 years at international food standards committees of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (including the Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding). She is also a member of the Board of Assured Food Standards (Red Tractor).

Richard Scales (local authority enforcement) is Principal Trading Standards Officer at Hampshire County Council with up to 20 years experience of Trading Standards work, including feed law enforcement. He currently specialises in agricultural aspects of enforcement and is a member of the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) Feeds and Fertilisers Panel. Mr Scales also chairs the Trading Standards South East Authorities Feeds Sub-Group.

Edwin Snow (feed industry) is the Technical Manager – Milling Division at Noble Foods (the UK's leading egg producer). He is responsible for the development and maintenance of quality systems and ensuring compliance with feedingstuffs, medicines and hygiene regulations as well as industry codes of practice. In addition, he is a member of the Agricultural Industries Confederation Legal Affairs and Scientific Committee and Organic Farming Working Group. He is also a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry and advises the British Egg Industry Council on all matters relating to feedingstuffs.

Dr Nigel Shepperson (feed industry) left the Committee in June 2008 – is an animal nutritionist who has worked in the animal feed industry for 25 years. He has experience in the feed industry, feed additive and veterinary medicines and animal healthcare industries. Dr Shepperson has represented the industry on committees of the Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) and the British Association of Feed Supplement Additive Manufacturers (BAFSAM).

Marcus Themans (farmer) runs a 150 acre mixed unit in South Shropshire, producing bacon pigs and lambs, most of which are processed in the on-farm licensed butchers' shop and sold pre-packed, retail and wholesale under the Wenlock Edge Farm brand. He is a member of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Agriculture Advisory Committee. He is also a member of Meadow Quality Livestock (co-operative marketing group) Heart of England Fine Foods and is Vice Chairman of the Shropshire Rural Hub.

Current Terms of Office of ACAF Members

123. To ensure continuity, re-appointments to ACAF (usually for periods of three years) are staggered so that only a proportion of the membership falls vacant each year. The terms of office of ACAF members are as follows:

Until 31 August 2009

- Ms Diane McCrea (Consumer)
- Mr Marcus Themans (Farmer)

Until 30 June 2010

- Dr Dozie Azubike (Lay person)
- Professor Nigel Halford (Novel technology)
- Mr Richard Scales (Local authority enforcement)

Until 8th May 2011

- Dr Ian Brown* (Chairman)
- Mr Barrie Fleming* (Veterinary Science)

Until 31 May 2011

- Professor Ian Givens* (Animal Nutrition)

Until 30 June 2011

- Mr Tim Brigstocke (Feed materials)
- Mrs Heather Headley (Feed manufacturer)
- Mr Edwin Snow* (Feed Industry)

Until 30 September 2011

- Dr Paul Brantom (Toxicology)
- Dr Bruce Cottrill (Animal Nutrition)
- Dr Gil Domingue (Microbiology)

* first term of office

Appointments 2008

124. Dr Ian Brown (Chairman) was appointed to the Committee in May 2008. Other new appointments made in 2008 were Mr Barrie Fleming (Veterinary Science – May 2008), Professor Ian Givens (Animal Nutrition – June 2008) and Edwin Snow (Feed Industry – July 2008).

Re-appointments 2008

125. The period of appointment for two members – Mr Tim Brigstocke, and Mrs Heather Headley – was extended to a second three year term lasting until the end of June 2011. The period of appointment for Drs Paul Brantom and Bruce Cottrill was extended to a third three year term lasting until the end of September 2011. Finally the appointment for Dr Gilbert Domingue was extended for a second three year term lasting until the end of September 2011.

126. The Committee said goodbye to Dr Chitra Bharucha (Chairman), Drs Andrew Chesson (animal nutritionist) and Nigel Shepperson (feed industry). The Committee, the Food Standards Agency and the devolved administrations were extremely grateful for these Members' commitment and input to the work of ACAF and wished them every success in the future.

ACAF Secretariat

127. The Committee's Secretariat is staffed by officials from the Food Standards Agency's Animal Feed Unit.

From left to right – Raj Pal, Keith Millar and Mandy Jumnoodoo.

The Committee's Commitment to Openness

128. ACAF is committed to a policy of openness and engagement with stakeholders. Copies of agendas, papers, advice, reports and minutes of meetings can be found on the Committee's website at:

acaf.food.gov.uk

129. Paper copies of these documents can be obtained by contacting the ACAF Secretariat at the address shown at paragraph 6.

130. The nature of the expertise and experience required for ACAF membership means that some members have links with the feed industry, farming and other relevant sectors. Details of Members' interests can be found in the Register of Members' Interests at Annex V. These details are regularly updated in the on-line version of the Register on the website. ACAF Members are required to declare all relevant interests in writing when they are appointed and are reminded to update as necessary at the beginning of each meeting. Members are also required to declare any direct commercial interests, or those of close family members, in matters under discussion at each meeting. This declaration is recorded in the minutes of meetings, which are freely available to Members of the public.

131. The Committee held all four of its meetings in 2008 in open session, one of which was in Belfast. These meetings were attended by observers from a range of stakeholders. Observers were not allowed to contribute to discussions, but were able to ask questions at the end of the meeting. ACAF is committed to continue to hold open meetings. Following each open meeting observers are canvassed for their views on the subject matter and conduct of the meeting.

Annex I: Request for Information on ACAF

Information on ACAF can be found on its website. If you do not have internet access and you would like to receive further information about the work of the Committee ***free of charge*** please complete and return the form below:

Name: .....

Address: .....

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.....

.....

Company/Organisation: .....

.....

Please send me the following ACAF papers as they become available:
(tick as appropriate)

Minutes of meetings	☐	Annual & other reports	☐
News Releases	☐	Consultation documents	☐
ACAF recruitment exercises	☐	Other information (please specify)	☐

Please return your completed form to:

The Food Standards Agency
ACAF Secretariat
Room 3C
Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London WC2B 6NH
Tel: 020 7276 8083
Fax: 020 7276 8910
Email: acaf@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

PLEASE CUT HERE

Annex II: Membership of ACAF sub-groups

The Committee had one sub-group operating in 2008.

GM Sub-group

Dr Paul Brantom (Chairman)
Dr Ian Brown (*ex-officio*)
Dr Bruce Cottrill
Prof Nigel Halford

Annex III: ACAF Forward Work Programme

Topic	Progress
The manipulation of animal feed to enhance the nutritional value of food.	At its meeting on 30 November 2004 the Committee received a presentation from Dr Minihane of Reading University on manipulating feed to affect the 'fat' content of animal products for human consumption. The Committee also discussed the issue at its meetings in February and April 2005. Plans to hold an exploratory workshop in conjunction with the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) were deferred. However, the General Advisory Committee on Science is now intending to arrange a workshop covering this subject in 2009.
Non-feed use of additives (boluses, additives in water, etc.).	In November 2006 the Committee received a presentation from James McCulloch of Agrimin Ltd on non-feed use of nutritional supplements. Members requested additional information on the range and types of products available and this was provided in June 2007. The Committee felt these additional means of providing additives should be brought within the scope of EC Feed legislation. The European Commission is currently considering this issue.

Topic	Progress
Aquaculture.	The Committee considered aquaculture at its meeting on 25th June 2003. The Committee also visited a fish farm in Scotland. Prior to its meeting on 3 June 2008, the Committee visited a fish farm in Northern Ireland. EFSA has issued an opinion on astaxanthin and intends to issue opinions on other colours in fish feed. No firm timescale currently available. More recently the Committee decided to examine the expanding range of aquaculture species and the consequences for sources of fish protein in feeds and the extent to which alternatives are used. The Committee received a presentation from Ralph Bickerdike of BioMar on aquaculture at its meeting on 5 June 2007. Mr Bickerdike gave some background to the UK's aquaculture industry and outlined specific issues the industry was currently facing. The Committee were particularly interested in hearing how changes in the composition of fish feed were improving the sustainability of farmed fish for human consumption. The Committee will retain an on-going interest in this subject.
EC proposal on the Marketing and Use of Feed.	The Committee had an initial discussion on the forthcoming EC proposals on feed labelling at its meeting in April 2006. The Committee received a presentation from the FSA assessor on the proposed EC Regulation on marketing and use of feed at its

Topic	Progress
EC proposal on the Marketing and Use of Feed *(continued).*	June 2008 meeting. The presentation covered the main changes to existing legislation. The FSA assessor provided a further update at the Committee's meetings in September and December 2008. He agreed to provide further updates as the negotiations progress.
EC Feed Hygiene Regulation (183/2005) and related issues.	The Committee discussed the microbiological criteria provision in the Feed Hygiene Regulation at its meetings in April 2005 and November 2005. The Committee will be kept informed of progress via regular EC development information papers and discussion papers.
Herbal additives.	At its meeting on 8 February 2005 the Committee had a brief discussion on the use of herbal additives. EFSA are currently undertaking a self-tasking study on the assessment of herbs, essential oils and other plant products as "additives" for use in animal nutrition. EFSA published a report on this study in August 2007. The Committee received a presentation at its September 2008 meeting. The Committee agreed to await the views of the FEEDAP panel.
The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition's (SACN) Vitamin A Report.	Specifically the recommendation[8] on animal feed – was discussed at the July 2005 meeting. The Agency's Animal Feed Unit is pursuing this matter with the European Commission and EFSA.

[8] A reduction in retinol content of poultry and livestock feed as part of a strategy to reduce the retinol intake of regular consumers of liver should be explored further. The implications of lower levels of retinol supplementation for the welfare and productivity of poultry and livestock would need to be determined should such a strategy be considered.

Topic	Progress
Whenever possible to forge closer links with other advisory committees and to tackle issues of common interest.	Ongoing.
To be aware of animal welfare implications arising out of the use of certain feeds or feed management.	Yet to be considered in isolation, but regularly arises during discussions.
Feed issues relating to organic production.	Yet to be considered.
Nanoscience.	The Committee discussed nanotechnology and the impact on animal feed at its meeting in February 2006 and concluded that there were no immediate issues to address. Nevertheless, it agreed to put the subject on its forward work programme.
Potential carry-over of allergens from animal feed into derived animal products.	The Committee discussed this issue at its November 2006 meeting. Members agreed some relevant research would be useful. It would be helpful to determine the pattern of use of peanuts in animal feed in the UK. At the Committee's 3 December 2008 meeting it was noted that questions had been sent to Dr Bruce Cottrill as part of an initial scoping study to identify the prevalence of peanuts in animal feed.
EC's intention requirement to phase out coccidiostats and histomonostats as feed additives by 31 December 2011.	At its meeting on 6 March 2007 the Committee discussed the European Commission's intention to phase out the use of coccidiostats and histomonostats as feed additives by 31 December 2011. Their use would only be available on prescription after this date. Further updates on developments relating to this

Topic	Progress
EC's intention requirement to phase out coccidiostats and histomonostats as feed additives by 31 December 2011. *continued*	subject were provided to the Committee at its September 2007 and June 2008 meetings. Following advice from relevant stakeholders, the Commission considered that these products should continue to remain subject to the controls in the EC's Feed Additives Regulation. All Members agreed that the *status quo* should be maintained.
Biofuels: • possible impact of the demand on the availability and cost of selected feedstuffs widely used in animal feeding; and • the use of feed co-products from the production of biofuels.	The Committee received a presentation from Julian Bell of the Scottish Agricultural College on the impact on the animal feed market from the increased production of biofuels at its meeting on 5 June 2007. Members noted that biofuel production was beginning to have a significant impact on world food and feed markets. At its meeting in December 2007 the Committee discussed the impact of biofuel production on Feeds for livestock. Members were provided with three presentations, from delegates from the Agricultural Industries Confederation, Monsanto UK Ltd and Associated British Agriculture. At its March 2008 meeting, the Committee considered a draft position paper to include a glossary of terms. The Committee agreed that the paper is an evolving document, which would be reviewed by the Committee on a periodic basis in response to new developments in this area. The Paper was placed on the ACAF website on 30 April 2008.

Topic	Progress
Future developments in biotechnology (e.g. use of second generation GMOs) and possible links with GM nutritional work.	Yet to be considered.
Developments in analytical techniques for forage analysis.	Yet to be considered.
Developments in pig and poultry feeding systems.	Yet to be considered.
Explore links with Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC).	A presentation by Simon Renn was given to the Committee at its 24 September 2008 meeting.
Establish if there are any feed implications from the research work carried out to assess the potential for multiple residues of pesticides and veterinary medicines in food to produce effects on human health.	Yet to be considered.
EC review of feed additives under EC Regulation 1831/2005.	Information paper prepared by Secretariat for March 2008 meeting.
The use of pre-and pro-biotics in animal feed and the effect on animal health and in particular the use of probiotics as a potential strategy against coccidiosis and histomoniasis.	Yet to be considered.
Categorisation of non-feed additives.	Yet to be considered.
Review of TSE controls and consideration of future risks to animal feed - recent EU reports mention removing some of the TSE controls to improve animal feed supply. Meat and bone meal - the feed/food safety implications on the EFSA suggestion of a possible controlled lifting of the ban in rations for monogastrics.	Presentation was provided by Mr Patrick Burke veterinary advisor to Defra's Food and Farming Group that updated Members on BSE-related feed controls at its 3 December 2008 meeting.

Topic	Progress
Commission proposals to establish maximum limits for coccidiostats in non target feed. To review the limits, consider impact on food and the consumer as well as current residue testing programmes for home produced and imported foods.	Yet to be considered.

Continuous work

Topic	Progress
GM issues.	The Committee receives a report from the GM Sub-group Chairman at every meeting and has agreed to consider GM topics in some depth at least twice a year. This includes future developments in biotechnology and the possible links GM has with nutritional work. 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 as a developing situation.
Horizon scanning.	The Committee regularly horizon scans for topics of future consideration.

Topic	Progress
European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) work in relation to animal feed.	The Committee received a paper on the work of EFSA at its meeting on 21 September 2004 and the ACAF Secretariat met with EFSA representatives at their offices on 12 January 2005. An EFSA representative attended ACAF's meeting in September 2005 to give a presentation on the work EFSA do in relation to animal nutrition. Contact will be maintained with EFSA's FEEDAP Panel and Secretariat. The Committee received a presentation from Dr Galobart i Cots a senior scientific officer in EFSA's FEEDAP Unit on the work of EFSA and FEEDAP at its meeting on 3 June 2008.
Discussions on future EFSA Opinions on additives and contaminants in animal feed.	The Committee will discuss EFSA opinions on additives and contaminants in animal feed when appropriate.
To make proposals for R&D and surveillance projects as the need is identified.	The Committee makes suggestions for R&D and surveillance work when appropriate.
The Committee to receive regular updates on EU developments as they affect animal feedingstuffs and to advise/comment on the UK negotiating line.	The Committee receives updates on relevant feed items at every meeting.

Annex IV: Good Practice Guidelines for Independent Scientific Advisory Committees

Preamble

Guidelines 2000: Scientific Advice and Policy Making[9] set out the basic principles which government departments should follow in assembling and using scientific advice, thus:

- think ahead, identifying the issues where scientific advice is needed at an early stage;
- get a wide range of advice from the best sources, particularly where there is scientific uncertainty; and
- publish the scientific advice they receive and all the relevant papers.

The *Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees*[10] (revised in December 2007) provided more detailed guidance specifically focused on the operation of scientific advisory committees (SACs). The Agency subsequently commissioned a *Report on the Review of Scientific Committees*[11] to ensure that the operation of its various advisory committees was consistent with the remit and values of the Agency, as well as the Code of Practice.

The Food Standards Agency's Board has adopted a **Science Checklist** (Board paper: FSA 06/02/07) to make explicit the points to be considered in the preparation of papers dealing with science-based issues which are either assembled by the Executive or which draw on advice from the Scientific Advisory Committees.

The Board welcomed a proposal from the Chairs of the independent SACs to draw up **Good Practice Guidelines** based on, and complementing, the **Science Checklist**. The Agency will review the **Science Checklist** periodically, in light of experience with its use in practice and of developments in guidance and good practice in the Agency, across Government, and elsewhere. The first such review is expected to be completed in 2009.

[9] Guidelines on Scientific Analysis in Policy Making, OST, October 2005. Guidelines 2000: Scientific advice and policy-making. OST July 2000

[10] Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees, OST December 2001

[11] Report on the Review of Scientific Committees, FSA, March 2002

The Good Practice Guidelines

These Guidelines have been developed by 9 advisory committees:

Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs [12]
Advisory Committee on Microbiological Safety of Foods
Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes
Advisory Committee on Research
Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment [13]
Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment [14]
Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment [15]
Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition [16]
Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee [17]

These committees share important characteristics. They:

- are independent;
- work in an open and transparent way; and
- are concerned with risk assessment not risk management.

The Guidelines relate primarily to the risk assessment process since this is the committees' purpose. However, the Agency may wish on occasion to ask the independent scientific advisory committees whether a particular risk management option is consistent with their risk assessment.

Twenty seven principles of good practice have been developed. However, the different committees have different duties and discharge those duties in different ways. Therefore, not all of the principles set out below will be applicable to all of the committees, all of the time.

[12] FSA Secretariat
[13] Joint FSA/HPA Secretariat, HPA lead
[14] Joint FSA/HPA Secretariat, HPA lead
[15] Joint FSA/HPA, FSA lead
[16] Joint FSA/DH Secretariat
[17] Joint Defra/FSA/DH Secretariat

This list of principles will be reconsidered by each committee annually as part of the preparation of its Annual report, and will be attached as an Annex to it.

Principles

Defining the issue

1. The FSA will ensure that the issue to be addressed is clearly defined and takes account of stakeholder expectations. The committee Chair will refer back to the Agency if discussion suggests that a re-definition is necessary.

Seeking input

2. The Secretariat will ensure that stakeholders are consulted at appropriate points in the committee's considerations and, wherever possible, SAC discussions should be held in public.

3. The scope of literature searches made on behalf of the committee will be clearly set out.

4. Steps will be taken to ensure that all available and relevant scientific evidence is rigorously considered by the committee, including consulting external/additional scientific experts who may know of relevant unpublished or pre-publication data.

5. Data from stakeholders will be considered and weighted according to quality by the committee.

6. Consideration by the secretariat and the Chair will be given to whether expertise in other disciplines will be needed.

7. Consideration will be given by the Secretariat or by the committee to whether other scientific advisory committees need to be consulted.

Validation

8. Study design, methods of measurement and the way that analysis of data has been carried out will be assessed by the committee.

9. If qualitative data have been used, they will be assessed by the committee in accordance with the principles of good practice, e.g. set out in guidance from the Government's Chief Social Researcher[18].

[18] There is of guidance issued under the auspices of the Government's Social Research Unit and the Chief Social Researcher's Office (Quality in Qualitative Evaluation: A Framework for assessing research evidence. August 2003. www.strategy.gov.uk/downloads/su/qual/downloads/qqe-rep.pdf and The Magenta Book. www.gsr.gov.uk/professional_guidance/magenta_book/guidance.asp).

10. Formal statistical analyses will be included wherever possible. To support this, each committee will have access to advice on quantitative analysis and modelling as needed.

11. When considering what evidence needs to be collected for assessment, the following points will be considered:

- the potential for the need for different data for different parts of the UK or the relevance to the UK situation for any data originating outside the UK; and
- whether stakeholders can provide unpublished data.

12. The list of references will make it clear which references have either not been subject to peer review or where evaluation by the committee itself has conducted the peer review.

Uncertainty

13. When reporting outcomes, committees will make explicit the level and type of uncertainty (both limitations on the quality of the available data and lack of knowledge) associated with their advice.

14. Any assumptions made by the committee will be clearly spelled out, and, in reviews, previous assumptions will be challenged.

15. Data gaps will be identified and their impact on uncertainty assessed by the committee.

16. An indication will be given by the committee about whether the database is changing or static.

Drawing conclusions

17. The committee will be broad-minded, acknowledging where conflicting views exist and considering whether alternative hypotheses fit the same evidence.

18. Where both risks and benefits have been considered, the committee will address each with the same rigour.

19. Committee decisions will include an explanation of where differences of opinion have arisen during discussions, specifically where there are unresolved issues and why conclusions have been reached.

20. The committee's interpretation of results, recommended actions or advice will be consistent with the quantitative and/or qualitative evidence and the degree of uncertainty associated with it.

21. Committees will make recommendations about general issues that may have relevance for other committees.

Communicating committees' conclusions

22. Conclusions will be expressed by the committee in clear, simple terms and use the minimum caveats consistent with accuracy.

23. It will be made clear by the committee where assessments have been based on the work of other bodies and where the committee has started afresh, and there will be a clear statement of how the current conclusions compare with previous assessments.

24. The conclusions will be supported by a statement about their robustness and the extent to which judgement has had to be used.

25. As standard practice, the committee secretariat will publish a full set of references (including the data used as the basis for risk assessment and other committee opinions) at as early a stage as possible to support openness and transparency of decision-making. Where this is not possible, reasons will be clearly set out, explained and a commitment made to future publication wherever possible.

26. The amount of material withheld by the committee or FSA as being confidential will be kept to a minimum. Where it is not possible to release material, the reasons will be clearly set out, explained and a commitment made to future publication wherever possible.

27. Where proposals or papers being considered by the Board rest on scientific evidence, the Chair of the relevant scientific advisory committee (or a nominated expert member) will be invited to the table at Open Board meetings to provide this assurance and to answer Members' questions on the science. To maintain appropriate separation of risk assessment and risk management processes, the role of the Chairs will be limited to providing an independent view on how their committee's advice has been reflected in the relevant policy proposals. The Chairs may also, where appropriate, be invited to provide factual briefing to Board members about particular issues within their committees' remits, in advance of discussion at open Board meetings.

Annex V: Register of Members' interests

PERSONAL			NON-PERSONAL	
MEMBER	COMPANY/ ORGANISATION	NATURE OF INTEREST	COMPANY/ ORGANISATION	NATURE OF INTEREST
Dr D Azubike	Defra, Agricultural Dwelling House Advisory Committee (ADHAC) for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Oxfordshire.	Independent Member	None	None
Dr I Brown	Pesticide Residues Committee	Chairman	None	None
	Advisory Committee on Toxic Substances of the Health & Safety Commission	Member		
	General Advisory Committee on Science	Ex-officio Member		
	Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture	Member		
Dr P Brantom	Veterinary Residues Committee	Member	None	None
	Veterinary Products Committee	Member		
	EFSA FEEDAP Panel and other EFSA Working Groups	Member		
	Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes	Member		
	Elanco Animal Health	Consultancy		
Mr T Brigstocke	Tim Brigstocke Associates	Managing Partner	Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers	Policy Director
	Cattle Health Certification Standards (UK)	Exec. Director	Rare Breeds Survival Trust	Trustee
	Cogent Breeding Ltd	Non Exec. Director	National Cattle Association (Dairy)	Executive Secretary
	Institute of Biology	Chair, Science Policy Board	Silcock, Fellowship for Livestock Research	Trustee
	Defra England Implementation Group for Animal Health and Welfare Strategy	Member	RUMA Alliance	Hon Treasurer
	Veterinary Residues Committee	Member	Lantra, the Sector Skills Council for the land based sector	Trustee

PERSONAL			NON-PERSONAL	
MEMBER	COMPANY/ ORGANISATION	NATURE OF INTEREST	COMPANY/ ORGANISATION	NATURE OF INTEREST
Dr B Cottrill	None	None	A range of companies from the agricultural and food industries. Government departments including the Food Standards Agency	Senior Research Consultant with ADAS
Dr G Domingue	GALVmed	R&D Project Manager	IFR Norwich	Project Advisor
	Various scientific societies	Member		
	Health Professions Council	Clinical Scientist		
	Slow Food Movement	Member		
Mr B Fleming	Elanco Animal Health*	Employee	Agricultural Industries Confederation	Legal and Scientific Affairs Committee Member
			British Veterinary Poultry	Honorary Secretary and Awards Co-ordinator
			National Office of Animal Health	Milk related topics Group Member
Prof D I Givens	University of Reading	Employee	European Commission	Research funder
			Various Companies	Research funders
Prof N G Halford	Prospect	Member	Advanced Technologies Cambridge	Research
	Society of Experimental Biology	Member	Defra	Research
	Home Grown Cereals Authority	Research	Reading University	Research
	Association of Applied Biologists	Governor; Convenor of Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement Committee	Kettle Foods	Research
	Scottish Crop Research Institute	Research	Food Standards Agency	Research
	Higgins Agriculture	Research	Shanghai Academy of Agricultural Sciences	Honorary chair
	Potato Processors Association	Research	United Biscuits	Research
	European Snacks Association	Research	Potato Council Ltd	Research

* in December 2008, Mr Fleming left Elanco Animal Health and became a partner in the Rose Partnership.

	PERSONAL		NON-PERSONAL	
MEMBER	**COMPANY/ ORGANISATION**	**NATURE OF INTEREST**	**COMPANY/ ORGANISATION**	**NATURE OF INTEREST**
Mrs H Headley	Withernay Ltd	Shareholder, Managing Director	None	None
Ms D McCrea	Various consumer Non Governmental Organisation groups, EU funded research projects and the Food Standards Agency	Consultancy work – project based	None	None
	Consumer Council for Water	Board member and Chair of Wales Committee		
	Assured Food Standards	Board member		
	Defra England Implementation Group for Animal Health and Welfare Strategy	Member		
	SEAC	Member		
Mr R Scales	Agriculture Focus Group of the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services	Member	None	None
	Trading Standards South East Feeds Subgroup	Chairman		
	Trading Standards Institute - Provision of material for e-learning course			
	TSSE Training Ltd	Training provider		
Mr E Snow	Noble Foods	Employee	Representative of Noble Foods/egg & poultry industry on AIC Legal Affairs & Scientific Committee and Organic Farming Working Group	Member
	Tate & Lyle	Shareholder	British Egg Industry Council - feed related matters	Member
			Elanco – consultant advising on residue controls mainly in Nordic countries	Member
			Working group reviewing the controls on laying feeds to prevent Salmonella	Member
Mr M Themans	E M Themans Company. Also Trading as: Wenlock Edge Farm	Farming Licenced Butchers	National Farmers Union	COPA feedingstuffs representative

Annex VI: Abbreviations

ACRE	Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment
AFLELG	Animal Feed Law Enforcement Liaison Group
AIC	Agricultural Industries Confederation
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CONTAM	EFSA Scientific Panel on contaminants in the food chain
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DHA	Docosahexaenoic acid
EC	European Community
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EPA	Eicosapentaenoic acid
EU	European Union
FAWC	Farm Animal Welfare Council
FEEDAP	EFSA Scientific Panel on additives and products or substances used in animal feed
FEMAS	Feed Materials Assurance Scheme
FSA	Food Standards Agency
GACS	General Advisory Committee on Science
GAFTA	The Grain & Feed Trade Association
GM	Genetically modified
GMO	Genetically modified organism
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
HPA	Health Protection Agency
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
MMBM	Mammalian meat and bone meal
NCP	National Control Plan
OCPA	Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments
PAP	Processed Animal Protein
PCP	Pentachlorophenol
RUMA	Responsible Use of Medicine in Agriculture
SAC	Scientific Advisory Committee
SACN	Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition
SCoFCAH	Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health
SEAC	Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee
TASCC	Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops
TSE	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy
UFAS	Universal Feed Assurance Scheme
UK	United Kingdom
VMD	Veterinary Medicines Directorate
VPC	Veterinary Products Committee

Annex VII: Papers Considered by ACAF in 2008

ACAF INDEX FOR PAPERS – 2008

NO. OF PAPER	NAME OF PAPER	MEETING INFORMATION	
		NUMBER	DATE
ACAF/08/01	Lipgene Project - the production of long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids in transgenic plants	41st	5 March 2008
ACAF/08/02	Biofuels - Position Paper	41st	5 March 2008
ACAF/08/03	ACAF Review of Feed Law Enforcement	41st	5 March 2008
ACAF/08/04	EC Developments	41st	5 March 2008
ACAF/08/05	EC Review of Feed Additives Under EC Regulation 1831/2003	41st	5 March 2008
ACAF/08/06	Lipgene Project – Current intakes of EPA and DHA and Potential of Animal Derived Products to increase intake	42nd	3 June 2008
ACAF/08/07	FEEDAP	42nd	3 June 2008
ACAF/08/08	EC Regulation on Marketing and Use of Feed	42nd	3 June 2008
ACAF/08/09	EC Developments	42nd	3 June 2008
ACAF/08/10	General Advisory Committee on Science	42nd	3 June 2008
ACAF/08/11	Report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the Use of Coccidiostats and histomonostats as feed additives	42nd	3 June 2008
ACAF/08/12	Presentation from Stephen Wyllie – Defra Assessor on the Codes of Practice for the control of Salmonella in animal feeds	43rd	24 September 2008
ACAF/08/13	Presentation from Simon Renn – FAWC Secretariat on the work and remit of the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC)	43rd	24 September 2008
ACAF/08/14	Forward Work Programme Review (incl. Horizon Scanning)	43rd	24 September 2008
ACAF/08/15	EC Developments	43rd	24 September 2008
ACAF/08/16	Presentation from Dr Ray Smith – FSA – on recommendations by EFSA on herbal additives	43rd	24 September 2008
ACAF/08/17	Question on potential of materials destined for biofuels being diverted for animal feed use	43rd	24 September 2008
ACAF/08/18	Presence of anti-microbial substances in by-products from bioethanal industry destined for animal feeding	43rd	24 September 2008
ACAF/08/19	Work of GACS – Presentation from Professor Colin Blakemore (General Advisory Committee on Science-Chairman)	44th	3 December 2008
ACAF/08/20	Update on TSE and Meat and Bonemeal Issues – Presentation from Patrick Burke (Defra)	44th	3 December 2008
ACAF/08/21	EC Developments	44th	3 December 2008
ACAF/08/22	Melamine Contamination of Feed	44th	3 December 2008
ACAF/08/23	Reducing the Incidence and levels of Nicarbazin residues in British chicken	44th	3 December 2008
ACAF/08/24	Horizon Scanning Workshop – Future Food Production for healthier eating – opportunities and challenges	44th	3 December 2008

Annex VIII: Code of Practice for Members of the Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs

Public service values

1. Members of the Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs must at all times:

- observe the highest standards of **impartiality, integrity** and **objectivity** in relation to the advice they provide and the management of this Committee;
- be **accountable** through Ministers, to Parliament and the public for its activities and the standard of advice it provides; and
- in accordance with the Government policy on **openness**, comply fully with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

2. The Ministers of the sponsoring departments (the Food Standards Agency, Defra, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland, Scottish Government and National Assembly for Wales) are answerable to their respective Parliaments for the policies and performance of this Committee, including the policy framework within which it operates.

Standards in Public Life

3. All Committee members must:

- follow the Seven Principles of Public Life set out by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (see Appendix I);
- comply with this code, and ensure they understand their duties, rights and responsibilities, and that they are familiar with the function and role of the Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs and any relevant statements of Government policy. New Committee members should consider the need for relevant training;
- not misuse the information gained in the course of their public service for personal gain or political purpose, nor seek to use the opportunity of public service to their private interests or those of connected persons, firms' businesses or other organisations;

- not misuse the influence gained in the course of their public service for personal gain, political purpose or promoting personal views; and
- not hold any paid or high-profile unpaid posts in a political party, and not engage in specific political activities on matters directly affecting the work of this Committee. When engaging in other political activities, Committee members should be conscious of their public role and exercise proper discretion. These restrictions do not apply to local Councillors.

Role of Committee Members

4. Members of the Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs have collective responsibility for the operation of the Committee. They must:

- engage fully in collective consideration of the issues, taking account of all relevant factors, including any guidance issued by the sponsor departments or the responsible Ministers;
- ensure that the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information is adhered to;
- agree an Annual Report and, where appropriate, provide suitable opportunities to open up the work of the Committee to public scrutiny;
- not divulge any information that is provided to the Committee in confidence;
- respond appropriately to complaints, if necessary with reference to the sponsor departments; and
- ensure that the Committee does not exceed its powers or functions.

5. Communication between the Committee and Ministers will generally be through the Chair, except where the Committee has agreed that an individual member should act on its behalf. Nevertheless, any Committee member has the right of access to Ministers on any matter, which he or she believes raises important issues relating to his or her duties as a Committee member. In such cases the agreement of the rest of the Committee should normally be sought.

6. Individual members can normally be removed from office by Ministers if they fail to perform the duties required of them in line with the standards expected in public office.

Role of the Chair

7. The Chair has particular responsibility for providing effective leadership on the issues above. In addition the Chair is responsible for:

- ensuring that the Committee meets at appropriate intervals, and that the minutes of meetings and any reports to Ministers accurately record the decisions taken and, where appropriate, the views of individual members;
- representing the views of the Committee to the general public; and
- ensuring that new Committee members are briefed on appointment (and their training needs considered), and providing an assessment of their performance, on request, when members are considered for re-appointment to the Committee or for appointment to the Committee of some other public body.

Handling conflicts of interests

8. The purpose of these provisions is to avoid any danger of Committee members being influenced, or appearing to be influenced, by their private interests in the exercise of their public duties. All Committee members should therefore declare any personal or business interests which may, or may be *perceived* (by a reasonable member of the public) to influence their judgement. Members' interests will be recorded in a register of interests which should be kept up to date and open to the public. A guide to the types of interest which should be declared and how to declare them is at Appendix II.

Declaration of interests to the Secretariat

9. Members of the Committee should inform the Secretariat in writing of their current personal and non-personal interests, when they are appointed, including the principal position(s) held. Only the name of the company and the nature of the interest is required, the amount of any salary etc. need not be disclosed. Members are asked to inform the Secretariat of any change in their personal interests at the time the change occurs. Members will also be invited to complete an annual declaration of interests form. Where Members are uncertain as to whether an interest should be declared they should seek guidance from the Secretariat. If Members have interests that are not specified in Appendix II, but which they believe could be regarded as influencing their advice, they should declare them. However, neither the Members nor the Secretariat are under any obligation to seek out links of which they might *reasonably* not be aware. For example not being aware of all

the interests of family members or not being aware of links between one company and another. Failure to declare interests could lead to dismissal from the Committee.

Declaration of interests and participation at meetings

10. Committee Members are required to declare any direct commercial interests, or those of close family members, in matters under discussion at each meeting. Having fully explained the nature of their interests, the Chair may, having consulted with other members present, decide whether and to what extent the Member should participate in the discussion and determination of the issue. If it is decided that the Member should leave the meeting, the Chair may first allow them to make a statement on the item under discussion. Where Members are uncertain as to whether an interest should be declared they should seek guidance from the Chair.

Personal liability of Committee Members

11. Legal proceedings by a third party against individual Committee Members of advisory bodies are very exceptional. A Committee Member may be personally liable if:

- he or she makes a fraudulent or negligent statement which results in a loss to a third party;
- he or she commits a breach of confidence under common law or a criminal offence under insider dealing legislation, by misusing information gained through their position.

12. However, the Government has indicated that individual Members who have acted honestly and in good faith will not have to meet out of their own personal resources any personal civil liability which is incurred in the execution or purported execution of their Committee functions, save where the person has acted recklessly.

Openness and Confidentiality

13. The Government is committed to increasing the openness and transparency with which advisory committees and other public bodies operate. To further this aim, the agendas of ACAF meetings will be made available to the public and will be publicised by means of news releases. A news release will be issued after each meeting and minutes will also be available to the public. As a general rule, individual papers for information or discussion at meetings will also be available to the public on request. An annual report will also be published, summarising the Committee's activities and advice over the year.

14. However there will be some exceptions to this general principle of openness, for example:

- where individual papers contain commercially sensitive information such as product formulations/specifications, methods of manufacture, company evaluations and safety assessments, the general principle of the common law duty of confidentiality will apply, except in cases where the information was provided under legislation which deals specifically with disclosure and non-disclosure. Papers, which are deemed to be confidential, will be marked "For Members' use only" by the Secretariat and their contents should not be disclosed outside of the Committee.
- draft papers or reports which are due to be published at a later date but are not yet in the public domain should not be disclosed outside of the Committee.

15. Questions or approaches from the media should normally be directed to either the Chair who will act as official ACAF spokesman or the Food Standards Agency press office. Although Members are encouraged to promote the role of the Committee in general terms, if asked for views on subjects that have been or are being considered by ACAF, Members should always give the line agreed by the Committee.

Appendix I

The Seven Principles of Public Life

Selflessness

Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

Integrity

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Objectivity

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Openness

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Honesty

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interests.

Leadership

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

Appendix II

Types of Interest and their Notification

The following is intended as a guide to the kinds of interest that should be declared and indicates how they should be declared.

1. Personal interests – involve the Member personally, e.g.

	Type of interest	Notification
Consultancies:	any consultancy, directorship, position in or work for the industry, or other relevant bodies, which attracts regular or occasional payments in cash or kind.	To be notified to the Secretariat in writing on appointment to the Committee and at the time of any change to these interests. To be confirmed annually on the declaration of interests form.
Fee-paid work:	any work commissioned by industry or other relevant bodies for which the Member is paid in cash or kind.	As above.
Shareholdings:	any shareholding or other beneficial interest in shares of industry. This does not include shareholdings through unit trusts.	As above.
Membership or affiliation:	to clubs or organisations with interests relevant to the work of the Committee.	As above.

Definition of "industry"

For the purposes of the Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs, "industry" means:

- companies, partnerships or individuals who are involved in the production, manufacture, packaging, advertising, supply, sale or use of animal feedingstuffs. This definition includes those involved in the supply of animal feed raw materials and any other substance incorporated or otherwise used in the production of feedingstuffs. It also includes the users of animal feedingstuffs such as farmers;
- trade associations representing companies involved in such products;
- companies, partnerships or individuals who are directly concerned with research, development or marketing of an animal feedingstuff which is being considered by the Committee.

Definition of "other relevant bodies"

Organisations (not included in the definition of "industry") with interests relevant to the work of the Committee. This could include charitable organisations and lobby groups.

2. Non-personal interests – involves payment which benefits a department for which a Member is responsible, but is not received by the Member personally, e.g.

Type of interest		Notification	
		£1000 or more from a particular company in the previous twelve months	*less than £1000 from a particular company in the previous twelve months*
Fellowships:	the holding of a fellowship endowed by industry and other relevant bodies.	To be notified to the Secretariat in writing on appointment to the Committee. Any changes over the year should be declared on the annual declaration form and does not need to be notified at the time of change.	Does not need to be notified.
Support by industry and other relevant bodies*: e.g.	• a grant from a company for the running of a unit or department for which the Member is responsible. • the grant of a fellowship or other payment to sponsor a post or member of staff in the unit for which the Member is responsible. • the commissioning of research or other work by, or advice from, staff who work in a unit for which the Member is responsible.	As above.	As above.
Trusteeships:**	any investment in industry held by a charity for which the Member is a trustee.	As above.	As above.

* Members are under no obligation to seek out knowledge of work done for, or on behalf of, industry and other relevant bodies by departments/units for which they are responsible, if they would not normally expect to be informed. Where Members are responsible for organisations which receive funds from a very large number of companies in the industry and from other relevant bodies, they can agree with the Secretariat a summary of non-personal interests rather than draw up a detailed portfolio.

** Where a Member is a trustee of a charity with investments in the industry, they can agree with the Secretariat a general declaration to cover this interest rather than draw up a detailed portfolio.

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