Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs

Annual Report 2012

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ANNUAL REPORT 2012

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Foreword

I do hope that you find this report and the information it contains useful in finding out more about the work of the Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs.

The Committee had an extremely busy year in 2012, offering expert advice on many diverse and challenging issues which have potential impacts on the feed and food chain. Ensuring the safety of animal feed and ultimately the effects feed may contribute to animal and public health is the Committee's primary aim.

One of the main topics that Members continued to consider and discuss was potential gaps in feed safety controls. The Committee was asked to look at this topic in 2011 following the German dioxin incident, when large quantities of feed fats were contaminated by dioxins, and one of the aims of the review was to identify areas that may need addressing to help prevent a similar incident occurring in the UK. Members suggested three main work streams that required an in depth investigation: identification of feed businesses, awareness/competence of feed business operators; and feed imports. The conclusions from this review will be reported in 2013.

The Committee also considered the complex and politically sensitive matter of antimicrobial resistance. Members agreed that they wished to explore this topic at a future meeting, where they could consider if there were any issues in relation to animal feed.

I am extremely grateful to Members, for their assistance in providing comments on two other important topical work areas: namely the review of official controls on feed and the review of balance of competences. The latter is an audit of what the EU does and how it affects the UK; it is a UK-wide initiative.

The Committee also received a number of expert presentations. This was particularly helpful in assisting the Committee to provide balanced evidence-based advice whilst raising Members' technical and specific understanding on a number of key topical issues. Matters of note included; Assuring Food Safety in Northern Ireland, outcomes and recommendations of Food and Veterinary Office audits and Commission Regulation 225/2012 on the production, storage, transport, and dioxins testing of oils and fats.

I am extremely grateful to the many guest speakers for agreeing to provide presentations to the Committee. These were particularly informative and helped the Committee broaden its evidence-based knowledge in areas of uncertainty, thus facilitating discussion and allowing the Committee to provide properly informed and practical advice to the feed and farming community and related industries, the Food Standards Agency, and UK Ministers.

I would like to give particular thanks for the support, dedication and time the Members and the Assessors give to the work of ACAF. I was particularly sorry to lose the valuable input provided by two longstanding Members (Diana McCrea and Marcus Themans) whose terms of appointment ended during the course of the year. They provided excellent input during their considerable time on the Committee and I wish them well in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank the ACAF Secretariat for their continual support to the Committee in ensuring that the work programme is carried out in a timely and efficient manner. They have, as ever, ensured that members where always kept fully informed and up-to-date on emerging issues and expertly advised the Chairman on matters of urgency and administration.

Dr 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 Union 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 Chairman of 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 of the National Assembly of 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 2012

Feed Safety – potential gaps

7. As a result of the German dioxin incident (December 2010), the Committee was asked at its 1 June 2011 meeting, to consider potential safety gaps in the feed sector to prevent a similar incident occurring in the UK. Members suggested three main work areas: identification of feed businesses, awareness/competence of feed business operators; and imports. These areas would be explored with a view to providing advice.

8. At its March 2012 meeting, Mr Tim Franck (ACAF Assessor) introduced paper ACAF/12/02 on the awareness and competence of people providing advice to farmers on animal feed issues. The paper covered organisations that are actively providing education/qualifications and support, including the Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC), and the British Society of Animal Science (BSAS) [1]. The paper also included a section that outlined certain conclusions from the recent FVO audit of UK feed law enforcement attributable to shortcomings in the operating procedures of some feed businesses.

9. Mr Franck also informed Members that the Agency is notified (by the European Commission, local authorities, feed businesses and trade associations) of feed safety incidents, and Annex II of paper ACAF 12/02 contained a list of incidents that may have been attributed to the lack of competence of feed business operators.

10. Members of the Committee were concerned that some advisors providing guidance to farmers did not have any recognised qualifications, and that a register of suitably qualified advisors for the sector did not exist. However, they also agreed that care was required not to over burden the industry with additional obligations. Other sources of advice for farmers included the veterinary profession, ADAS and, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate. It was noted that none of the feed safety incidents identified in the paper appeared attributable to the poor advice from third parties. However, there was concern that ineffective/illegal products may be recommended to farmers by some individuals. Members agreed it would be useful if they could explore this issue further by inviting industry organisations such as the BSAS and AIC to provide presentations on work they are carrying out to help ensure the quality of advice provided to farmers.

11. At its September 2012 meeting, Mr Mike Steele (BSAS) - introduced paper ACAF/12/12 on work that his organisation is undertaking on the registration of those providing advice to farmers. Mr Steele explained that

[1] http://www.bsas.org.uk/

the BSAS aims to assist members registered under this initiative by improving and highlighting their competencies and also highlighting any deficiencies others not in the scheme but giving advice might have.

12. Mr Steele said that once registered, Members would have to demonstrate that they have maintained their Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training if they wish to remain in the scheme. Applications to join the BSAS scheme are assessed by an accreditation panel. The panel is made up of experts from a similar background as the applicant; Supporting Organisations may comprise up to half the panel membership. The panel considers a candidate's experience, qualifications and competencies in relation to the candidate's own stated description of; (a) designated professional activity, and (b) specialism(s). The latter appear upon the public Register. The standard of performance, governance and conduct of the scheme is the responsibility of the accreditation panel, which reports to BSAS Council. The setting and maintenance of standards is audited/endorsed by the Society of Biology as the internationally-recognised senior professional authority, who also facilitates the interests of the Science Council. The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons is apprised and supportive of the initiative by BSAS.

13. The scheme requires re-registration every three years, by which time members must have completed a minimum amount of CPD across a range of activities and they must have been completed to the satisfaction of the Accreditation Panel and the standards of the scheme.

14. The Committee commended the work being undertaken by BSAS and looked forward to receiving a presentation from a representative from the Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) at a future meeting on work that the organisation was undertaking in this area. A representative of the AIC provided Members with a presentation on work the organisation was taking forward in this area at the Committee's 16 January 2013 meeting.

Feed Incident Management in Northern Ireland from an Enforcement Perspective

15. At its June 2012 meeting, Mr Alan McCartney and Mr Stephen Nixon Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) invited the Committee to provide comments on a paper on feed incident management in Northern Ireland. Mr McCartney said that feed incident management was critically important for animal and public health, also from the perspective of the economic well-being of the feed sectors and wider Agri-food economy, which was worth over £3 billion per annum to the Northern Ireland economy.

16. Mr McCartney explained that to assist DARD, processes have been put in place such as documented enforcement procedures, appropriate records of inspection, investigation and sampling, and relevant training. DARD also has an established contingency plan for dealing with feed safety incidents.

17. Mr Nixon noted that successive feed crises have shown the potential for failures to occur at any stage of the feed chain. The complexities of feed production and the complexity of the feed distribution chain means that the withdrawal and recall of feed from the market can be a complicated process.

18. Referring to DARD's feeds contingency plan, Mr Nixon said that as part of incident handling for each major event an assessment of risk would be carried out, an incident management team is established, an investigation carried out by Agri-food Inspection Branch (AFIB) with detention and analysis of products as appropriate. Where breaches are determined, disposal and or recall action is undertaken and prosecution considered.

19. Mr Nixon said that official controls must be implemented and incidents managed even in the case of technical breaches (i.e. where there was little or no risk to consumers, animals or the environment). Mr Nixon stated that it was appropriate for enforcement authorities to act on technical breaches but that the resultant reputational and financial costs to the industry from technical breaches could, and in previously publicised instances, had resulted in damage running into hundreds of millions of pounds.

20. The ACAF Secretary supported by ACAF Members commented that the level of preparedness implemented by DARD appeared to be robust. However, the findings of the FVO audit undertaken in May 2012 would indicate whether this is correct.

Antimicrobial resistance (ACAF/12/11)

21. Following a request by the Committee at its June 2012 meeting, Miss Lesley Johnson (Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)) provided an overview of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) at the Committee's September 2012 meeting. She explained that AMR was the ability of a micro-organism to grow or survive in the presence of an antimicrobial substance at a concentration that is usually sufficient to inhibit or kill micro-organisms of the same species.

22. Miss Johnson explained that the VMD took over responsibility for the work on AMR from Defra in April 2011. The VMD's policies and activities are at UK, EU and at international level. In the UK all veterinary antimicrobials are categorised as prescription only medicines – veterinary (POM-V) and can only be supplied on veterinary prescription.

23. Miss Johnson, explained that current issues involving AMR included:

- *Methicillin (Multi) Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)* – this is one of the most prevalent health-care associated infections. MRSA strain 398 is livestock-associated on continental farms (principally in pigs) with those in direct contact with the animals (such as stockmen) also becoming colonised. Miss Johnson said that although not detected in samples from the UK pig farms, the bacteria may still be present. UK pig farmers have been advised only to buy stock with a minimal risk of introducing this organism to their stock. Although some human cases in UK had been detected, none of these had contact with farmed animals. Two cases involving horses in the UK (one of which had been imported) have been documented.
- *Salmonella* – Reporting of salmonella is a requirement of the zoonoses Order 1989. It was unclear why resistant strains appear and decline over time. The Health Protection Agency works with the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency and the Food Standards Agency on this issue. Although transmission of veterinary strains of *Salmonella* through the food chain was low, the impact to consumers is high should transmission occur.
- *E.Coli* and Extended Spectrum Beta-Lactamases (ESBLs) – ESBLs carried on plasmids[2] can grow in the absence of an antimicrobial. Data from the Health Protection Agency show some differences in human and veterinary isolates across Europe. ESBLs are highly prevalent in human medicine and are often associated with urinary tract infections. However, human infection is often associated with travel outside the European Union. In the Netherlands 10% of human infection was attributed to chicken products, the isolates being the same as those found in chickens. Miss Johnson said that the appearance of ESBLs was associated with 3rd/4th generation cephalosporin[3] use in farmed animals. Miss Johnson said it was expected that in 2013 the surveillance of veterinary isolates of E.coli will become statutory.

24. Miss Johnson provided examples of work being carried out by the VMD in the UK, EU and internationally on AMR. In the UK, VMD work included involvement in:

- Defra Antimicrobial Resistance Co-ordination Group, and the MRSA and ESBL sub groups.

- collection and collation of sales data which is published in the annual antimicrobial sales data report[4.]

[2] a segment of DNA which is separate from the bacterial DNA and is capable of transferring antibiotic resistance from one bacteria to another. It is capable of replication
[3] broad-spectrum antibiotic used to treat bacterial infections.
[4] http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/pdf/salesanti10.pdf

- Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and Health Care Associated Infections and Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture.

25. In the EU there are three fundamental documents namely: European Commission Action Plan; (which includes 5 actions specifically aimed at veterinary medicine); European Council conclusions on AMR; and MEPs resolutions from Parliament. Miss Johnson explained that all three documents are to be considered when the Veterinary Medicines Directive is being reviewed. Other EU activities being carried out by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate included:

- involvement with the Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use (CVMP) strategy on antimicrobials;
- contributing to the European Sales Data project (ESVAC) – led by the European Medicines Agency;
- attendance at the Chief Veterinary Officer's meetings;
- close involvement with the Heads of Medicines Agencies (veterinary) AMR Task Force strategy and action plan. (The VMD proposed its formation, the VMD's Chief Executive chairs the meetings and the VMD provides the Secretariat); and
- revision of the Veterinary Medicines Directive.

26. On the international front, the VMD is involved in activities with the Codex Alimentarius; Trans-Atlantic Task Force for Antimicrobial Resistance; and work involving World Health Organisation (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

27. Miss Johnson said that feedingstuffs are not thought to be a major contributor to AMR transfer. However, it cannot be said that transfer never happens or will never happen in feed. Feed issues are considered by Defra Antimicrobial Resistance Coordination Group (DARC) but issues about feed as a vector for the transfer of AMR have not been raised as a potential problem. However, should an issue be raised by either DARC or another body, these would be referred to ACAF for advice.

28. Miss Johnson said that ACAF received regular updates on the review of the Medicated Feedingstuffs Directive. The Commission is considering the issue of AMR in relation to medicated feedingstuffs. The draft proposal is scheduled to be introduced in mid to late 2013. Miss Johnson said that one of the Commission's concerns is: will 'carry over' from feed containing antimicrobials to subsequent unmedicated batches cause AMR? The European Commission is also proposing the setting of acceptable carry-over levels. The oral route (via feed and water) is the most important route of administration of antimicrobials. In most Member States, including the UK, approximately three quarters of all authorised premixes are antimicrobials.

29. Miss Johnson explained that UK policy to ensure 'healthy food from healthy animals' was the promotion of the responsible use of veterinary antimicrobials:

    - to protect public health;
    - to ensure the continuing availability of veterinary medicines; and
    - to protect animal health and welfare.

    In addition:
    - the UK does not support the blanket reduction of antimicrobials in feed without scientific evidence; and
    - any rules regarding the use of antimicrobials in feed should be based on science.

30. The Committee agreed that the issue of AMR was a complex and emotional issue. It said it wished to explore this topic at a future meeting, where it could discuss the available evidence to support whether AMR was a current issue for animal feed.

Presentations

31. During 2012, the Committee received several presentations from internal and external experts to help facilitate their consideration of animal feed issues. It was generally agreed that the presentations were also useful in providing opportunities to shape the Committee's agenda and possible outcomes.

Emerging Risks

32. At its 7 March 2012 meeting, Mr Philip Randles of the Agency's Chemical Safety Division, provided a presentation to the Committee on the Agency's work to help identify emerging food safety risks.

33. During his presentation, Mr Randles confirmed that methodologies for the detection of new and re-emerging risks have been developed by the FSA and are now operational. He described how incident data are being routinely compared to statistically defined baselines to identify unusual trends and events that might require intervention. Global chain[5] analysis is being used to identify weaknesses which may lead to potential food safety

[5] **Global Chain Analysis (GCA) -** GCA involves assessing and mapping the potential risks associated with particular processes used to manufacture food products. By understanding the features and attributes of each stage of the chain, weaknesses which might give rise to future food safety risks can be identified and mitigated.

issues, and root cause analysis[6] is being conducted to improve the Agency's understanding of how and why incidents occur.

34. In addition, mechanisms for identifying issues relating to emerging food safety issues have been established. Mr Randles said that work to develop the IT functionality of the Agency's emerging risks programme further had been initiated and would be completed by the end of March 2012. This complementary approach provides the Agency with the potential to identify and respond more quickly to food safety issues, thereby creating "Safer Food for the Nation".

35. Members were interested in the work that the Agency in performing in this area and agreed to provide the Secretariat with information on issues concerning animal feed that the Agency should consider as part of its work on emerging risks.

Feedback from the Food and Veterinary Office audit

36. At its 14 December 2011 meeting, Members were given an oral presentation from Mr Ron Cheesman, of the Agency's Enforcement and Local Delivery Division, on the initial findings of the Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) audit of the United Kingdom in November 2011 to evaluate the implementation of official controls on feed. Members were informed that the audit was a follow-up visit to one made in 2009 and examined progress made on addressing the recommendations from that previous audit.

37. At its meeting in March 2012, the Committee received an update on the findings and the work to address the recommendations of the FVO November 2011 audit of the United Kingdom that evaluated the implementation of official controls on feed. The European Commission had, since ACAF's December 2011 meeting, published its report of the audit together with the UK comments and its action plan.

http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/rep_details_en.cfm?rep_id=2826

38. Mr Cheesman outlined a number of initiatives being taken forward by the UK to address the recommendations made by the FVO audit team. These included holding meetings with relevant stakeholders to discuss how the recommendations can be addressed and initiating training sessions for enforcement officers. Mrs Janis McDonald also advised Members of the

[6] **Root Cause Analysis (RCA) -** RCA identifies a step or series of steps in a chain of events where action can be taken which will change procedure or behaviour that would otherwise potentially lead to a food safety incident. The method provides a straightforward and systematic approach to accurately define the problem encountered, identifying why it happened and what can be done to prevent reoccurrence.

Committee of work also being carried out by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate to address the recommendations. This includes the provision of guidance to stakeholders on the export of to third countries of products not authorised in the EU. In addition, the VMD is developing a system designed to identify banned antibiotic growth promoters in feed and is working to introduce sampling arrangements using the system within the next 12 months.

Initial Feedback from the Food and Veterinary Office audit to Northern Ireland

39. At its 15 June 2012 meeting Mr Gerard Smyth (FSA in Northern Ireland) provided the Committee with an oral presentation on the initial findings of the European Commission's Food and Veterinary Office audit in Northern Ireland that took place from 21 to 30 May 2012 to evaluate the implementation of requirements for organic fertilisers and soil improvers and for feed, including the feed ban.

40. Mr Smyth said that in relation to the audit on animal feed, the auditors had focused on HACCP, co-products, undesirable substances, feed additives and registered and approved lists of feed business operators (FBOs). The auditors indicated they were happy with progress that had been made; however, a number of issues were identified. These included the completeness of lists of approved and registered premises, the auditing carried out by DARD on feed businesses' HACCP plans and the carry-over of coccidiostats in feeds for non-target animals.

41. Mr Smyth said that the Agency would prepare an action plan to address the recommendations and would keep stakeholders fully informed. The final report of the audit was expected towards the end of August or early September 2012 and would be publicly available. Mr Smyth thanked the feed industry for its help and co-operation during the audit.[7]

42. It was confirmed that the Agency's Animal Feed and Animal By-products Branch will work closely with colleagues in DARD and FSA in Northern Ireland to implement the recommendations made by the FVO. The Committee was also advised that a general audit of the UK was planned towards the end of 2012, where the FVO audit team will be seeking an update on progress to implement the recommendations from the 2011 GB audit and that of the 2012 Northern Ireland audit.

43. The Committee was keen to assist the FSA and DARD in providing advice on implementing the recommendations.

[7] http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/rep_details_en.cfm?rep_id=2954

Assuring Food Safety in Northern Ireland – Report and Recommendations of the Industry Feed Assurance Group

44. Mr Declan Billington (Managing Director of John Thompson and Sons Ltd) provided the Committee with a presentation at its June 2012 meeting, on the work that the Northern Ireland Grade Trade Association (NIGTA) was taking forward in assuring food safety in Northern Ireland following the publication of the report and recommendations of the Industry Feed Assurance Group (IFAG).

45. IFAG was established to 'de-risk' the agri-food supply chain and help avoid major feed incidents such as the dioxin contamination that occurred in Ireland in 2008. The group had engaged Professor Patrick Wall of the University College Dublin to oversee the work. Membership of the Group consists of a number of industry associations including the AIC who had provided technical support.

46. Key recommendations agreed by IFAG include sourcing of livestock and livestock products from quality assured farms; all feed suppliers should participate in the Universal Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS) or an equivalent recognised scheme; the feed sector should combine its resources and move to strategic risk-based sampling; and the industry and regulators should collaborate to share results of analysis, and identify businesses with enhanced controls so effort can be redeployed to areas of greater risk. IFAG agreed that it was important to have a practical, workable and affordable risk-based approach to ensure feed safety.

47. Mr Billington explained that NIGTA is committed to develop a risk-based scheme open to all within the feed trade in Northern Ireland. NIGTA would also work with its counterpart in the Republic of Ireland to extend the scheme to manage risk further back in the supply chain to the port of entry, building on the existing UFAS and Feed Materials Assurance Scheme (FEMAS) platform. NIGTA wishes, in conjunction with the Irish Grain and Feed Association (IGFA) and Queen's University, to avoid incidents such as the 2008 Irish dioxin incident. He outlined proposals to implement structured sampling plans at ports in order to ensure, as far as possible, that results of tests are made available before feed actually reaches the farm and to increase the number of samples of materials which historically or by their nature are known to be at risk of contamination. Mr Billington also gave an explanation about work being undertaken by Queen's University to be presented to IFAG.

48. The proposed scheme will require additional finance by industry and there was an increased risk of detection of technical breaches, giving rise to reputational and product recall risks (with associated recall and disposal costs). However, corrective action and sanctions by regulators should be

undertaken in such a way as not to undermine consumer confidence or disrupt the food chain more than is necessary to protect animal and human health.

49. The Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) is carrying dioxin sampling in Great Britain, which NIGTA intends to build upon. Mr Billington envisaged dioxin testing will be implemented shortly, with the majority of other tests expected to commence in the New Year.

50. The ACAF Secretary commented that the initiative was not just an issue relevant to Northern Ireland but was also a British Isles issue. The Committee requested that once further progress had been made should it receive an update presentation. In addition, the ACAF Secretary agreed that Agency colleagues would work with all interested parties including those in the Republic of Ireland and the industry on this initiative.

Commission Regulation 225/2012 (production, storing, transportation and dioxins testing of oils and fats)

51. The FSA Assessor Mr Tim Franck provided the Committee with an oral presentation at its September 2012 meeting, on work the Food Standards Agency was carrying out on implementation of Commission Regulation 225/2012. Mr Franck reminded Members that the Committee had received a paper on the German dioxin incident in March 2011, with subsequent updates in information papers.

52. Mr Franck explained that the feed contamination incident in Germany (December 2010-January 2011) was a significant event involving fats of technical origin entering the feed chain. Following the Irish dioxin incident of 2008 the European Commission had decided that existing EU feed law was sufficient to protect the feed chain. However, following the German dioxin incident, the German authorities lobbied for further controls to be introduced and suggested the introduction of a ten point plan which contained a number of proposed controls including:

    - a positive list of all feed materials;
    - financial guarantees such as insurance to be held by feed businesses to cover the cost of feed recalls; and
    - the mandatory testing of all oils and fats.

53. As a result of lengthy negotiations in Brussels, Commission Regulation 225/2012 was published in March 2012. The Regulations require that feed business establishments engaged in the processing and blending of fats and oils for use in feed to be approved rather than registered by the enforcement authorities. Registration involves premises being placed on a list and being

subject to risk-based follow-up inspections, while approval requires a prior inspection of facilities, etc.

54. Regulation 225/2012 will also require feed business operators engaged in the processing and blending of fats and oils considered of a higher risk to carry out mandatory testing for dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls. However, this requirement is waived where feed business operators can demonstrate that material received by them had previously been subject to analysis. Mr Franck explained that a new feature of Regulation 225/2012 in relation to mandatory testing is that when feed business operators send materials to laboratories for testing they must instruct such laboratories to report results of non-compliance to the competent authorities.

55. Mr Franck informed the Committee that the Agency had been working with the compound feed industry and fats and oils industry to clarify the requirements of the legislation and develop guidance. Additionally, national legislation (an amendment to the Feed (Hygiene and Enforcement) Regulations) will need to be made to introduce offences and penalties and fee levels that must be levied by enforcement authorities for the approval of feed establishments. The Agency intends to carry out a 12 week public consultation on the amendment of national legislation which includes the impact assessment which shows the costs and benefits of the new legislation. The Committee will be included as a consultee.

56. The ACAF Secretary stated that the European Commission had agreed to carry out a review of Regulation 225/2012 two years after it came into force.

Genetically Modified (GM) Issues related to animal feeds

Approval of GM lines

57. During the year, the Committee was informed of progress with authorisation of various GM crops that had been evaluated by the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) under EU Regulation 1829/2003 on GM Food and Feed. During 2012, one authorisation was issued by the European Commission for the import, processing and use of (but not cultivation) of new GM maize variety (MIR162) within the EU; five authorisations were issued by the European Commission for the import, processing and use (but not cultivation) of new GM soybean varieties (MON40-3-2, MON87701, 356043 A5547-127 and MON89788) within the EU. A full list of GM approved materials is maintained on the European Commission's website:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/dyna/gm_register/index_en.cfm

ACAF GM Sub-group

58. 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.

59. The Sub-group did not meet or report any activity during 2012.

EU Developments

60. In addition to those already mentioned, the Committee received reports on a wide range of EU policies and legislation throughout 2012. Relevant papers are listed in Annex III.

Official feed and food controls – Review of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004

61. EC Regulation 882/2004 sets out the general approach that must be taken, and the principles that must be adopted, by the competent authorities in EU Member States that have responsibility for monitoring and enforcing feed and food law and animal health and animal welfare rules. It also provides the legal basis for the European Commission to assess the effectiveness of national enforcement arrangements. The aim is to create a more comprehensive and integrated, risk-based, EU-wide, 'farm to fork' approach to official controls. The objective is to improve the consistency and effectiveness of controls across the EU and as a consequence, raise standards of food safety and consumer protection and provide a more level playing field for businesses. Most of the provisions applied from 1 January 2006, with others, primarily those on the financing of official controls, applied from 1 January 2007.

62. At its 15 June meeting the Committee was informed that the European Commission is undertaking a recast of Regulation (EC) 882/2004 following a 2009 evaluation study of its implementation. The study findings suggested that some improvements were necessary in a number of areas to clarify the official controls framework. These included: controls on residues of veterinary medicines; EU border controls on live animals and products of animal origin; and the rules governing the financing of official controls. The study also indicated that, in order to streamline and eliminate redundant control requirements, Regulation (EC) 882/2004 should also cover controls to verify compliance with plant health and seeds and propagating material law.

63. A subsequent update was provided to the Committee at its September 2012 meeting. Members were informed that in order to achieve improvements the Commission has been working on a package of four measures: the recast of Regulation (EC) 882/2004 and three sector specific legislative reviews on Animal Health, Plant Health and Plant Reproductive Material. Given the complexity of this task, the Commission's original timescale for presenting the draft proposal for EC 882/2004 had slipped to the end of 2012.

64. A major component of the recast will be changes to the existing rules that Member States must follow for the financing of official controls. The Commission, to ensure the long term sustainability of official controls, is considering a number of options to amend the current fees system, including a possible extension of mandatory charges for controls carried out in food and feed establishments approved and/or registered under EU food/feed hygiene law. Measures may be provided to reduce the impact on micro businesses[8].

Sampling Analysis for the official control of feed - Regulation (EC) No 152/2009

65. The European Commission held a working group meeting on 11 April 2012 to discuss a draft version of proposed amendments to Regulation (EU) 152/2009 on sampling and methods of analysis on feed. The Commission's intention is to bring the sampling requirements more into line with those for food, and to address the issue of sampling from bulk consignments to produce a workable solution to this problem.

66. The meeting was attended by national experts from most Member States, the UK being represented by the FSA. It is expected that further meetings will be held by the Commission to finalise the proposals ahead of further consultation with stakeholders.

Report on the Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding

67. At the Committee's March 2012 meeting Miss Jumnoodoo provided an oral report on the outcomes of the 6th session of the Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding held in Bern, Switzerland from 20 to 24 February 2012. She said that the 6th session had been chaired by Dr Eva Reinhard, Assistant Director of the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture, Switzerland. The Plenary Session was attended by over 139 delegates representing 43

[8] Those businesses employing less than 10 persons and whose annual turnover and/or balance sheet does not exceed 2 million euros.

member countries, 1 member organisation (EU) and 11 international organisations, including Food and Agriculture Organisation, World Health Organisation and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

The Task Force had two mandates:

(a) to develop guidelines, intended for governments on how to apply the existing Codex risk assessment methodologies to the various types of hazards related to contaminants/residues in feed ingredients, including feed additives used in feedingstuffs for food producing animals; and

(b) to develop a prioritised list of hazards in feed ingredients and feed additives for governmental use. The list should contain hazards of international relevance that are reasonably likely to occur, and are thus likely to warrant future attention.

68. Miss Jumnoodoo confirmed that the Task Force had worked well and made many improvements to the texts of the two draft documents, copies of which are available on the Codex Alimentarius website:

http://www.codexalientarius.org/eetings-reports/en/

69. Members were informed that the Task Force had a two year life-span, with the possibility of extension for a further year. The Task Force makes recommendations to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC). The CAC is the decision making body and works on a consensus basis. It aims to protect the health of consumers, ensure fair trade practices in food trade, and promote the co-ordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organisations. Although standards produced by CAC have no legal basis they can be used to help settle trade disputes between countries.

70. The recommendations of the Task Force will be considered, and subject to approval, by the CAC at its meeting in July 2013.

ACAF Out of London Meeting

71. As part of its commitment to accessibility, each year the Committee holds one of its meetings outside London. 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's June 2012 meeting, was held in the Council Chamber of Queen's University, Belfast. Topics discussed included:

- 'Assuring Food Safety in Northern Ireland' – Report and Recommendations of the Industry Feed Assurance Group;

- feed incident management in Northern Ireland from an Enforcement perspective; and
- initial feedback from the Food and Veterinary Office audit (21 -30 May 2012).

72. Information on these issues is set out in more detail in other sections of this report.

Keith Millar (ACAF Secretary), Ian Brown (ACAF Chairman) and Gerry McCurdy (FSA in Northern Ireland Director

73. Mr Gerry McCurdy (FSA in Northern Ireland Director) in welcoming ACAF and stakeholders to the Belfast meeting, noted that ACAF operates in a similar way to that of the FSA Board, working in open session and allowing local stakeholders to attend meetings. He hoped that all relevant parties could work together in ensuring feed safety especially in light of the presentations from NIGTA and officials from DARD. In addition, he said work being carried out by Professor Patrick Wall of University College Dublin and industry has helped to enhance feed safety. This is especially important in relation to local agriculture and feed industries in Northern Ireland. Mr McCurdy went on to say feed and food safety is a priority for all concerned.

Owen Brennan, Declan Billington, Professor Pat Wall and, Professor Chris Elliott attending ACAF's meeting at Queen's University.

74. The Committee would like to thank Queen's University, Belfast for hosting the meeting.

Induction Training

75. On the 7 September, as part of their induction training, new Members of the Committee: Ms Ann Davison (consumer representative) and Mr Peter Francis (Farmer) visited sites in the Forest of Dean that produce poultry feed, eggs and egg products.

76. The sites visited in Gloucestershire are part of Noble Foods, a major supplier of eggs and egg products in the UK. The scope of the company's business covers the milling of feed to the manufacture of egg products and the processing of end-of-lay hens.

77. Visits like this help inform the Committee's membership about how feed businesses operate and about new technical developments. During the visit on 7 September, the group visited both a rearing and free range farm as well as a feed mill. The Group was interested to learn about the stages of rearing poultry.

78. Members were extremely grateful to Noble Foods for their time during the visits 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.

Marcus Themans (departing Farmer), Peter Francis (Farmer) and Ann Davison (Consumer representative)

Marcus Themans, Keith Millar (ACAF Secretary), Edwin Snow (Animal Nutrition Member), Peter Francis, Mandy Jumnoodoo (ACAF Secretariat) and Ann Davison.

Members discuss poultry feed

Free Range Poultry

Forward Work Programme and Horizon Scanning

79. At its September 2012 meeting the Committee conducted an exercise that combined consideration of its Forward Work Programme and other items suggested for horizon scanning. The Committee agree a final forward work plan, which included the following new items:

- emphasis on reduction in food waste; and
- antimicrobial resistance.

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

Food Standards Agency – Governance of Science

81. During 2006 the Committee was actively involved in helping to develop good practice guidelines for scientific advisory committees (SACs) 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.

82. 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[9] 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.

83. At its March 2012 meeting, the General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS) discussed a paper that presented the conclusions of the review of science governance in the FSA, led by the FSA Chief Scientist. The aim of the review was to take stock of key issues, developments and discussions since the last review (in 2006/7) including the Science Review of the FSA and discussions by the GACS, to identify any revisions needed to policy, tools or procedures.

84. The Guidelines revised and updated in July 2012, set out in Annex V list the basic principles which are followed by scientific advisory committees such as ACAF when assembling and using scientific advice.

Framework for iteration and dialogue between FSA and the SACs

85. In July 2012 the Food Standards Agency published a framework for iteration and dialogue between FSA and the SACs. The framework set out in Annex VI lists the objectives and boundaries for iteration and dialogue between the FSA and the SACs. It aims to ensure that this dialogue is effective, transparent, and respects the different roles and responsibilities of risk assessment and risk management. The SACs provide independent expert advice on risk assessment and other scientific issues that inform risk management decisions. FSA is responsible for policy and decision making.

[9] 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

86. 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 Ian 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 a Consultant Physician in Occupational Medicine and Toxicology at Southampton Universities NHS Trust and is now Director of the Occupational Health Service at the University of Oxford and is also an honorary consultant physician in occupational medicine to the Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust division of public health medicine. 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 and a member of the Food Standards Agency's General Advisory Committee on Science. 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 Dozie Azubike (lay person/consumer) is an Inspector with the Health and Safety Executive. He has a wide range of experience in the voluntary sector and is a member of the Board of the Thames Valley Charitable Housing Association and a lay Magistrate. He is also a member of the General Optical Council Fitness to Practice Committee and an adjudicator for the Solicitors Regulatory Authority.

Ms Angela Booth (feed manufacturer) is a Commercial Services Director for ABN (part of the AB Agri group) a leading British manufacturer of pig and poultry compound feed. She has worked in the UK animal feed industry for over 30 years. She has a BSc in Animal Nutrition from Edinburgh University. Her current role includes responsibility for nutrition, purchasing, marketing, quality assurance, feed safety and legislation. Ms Booth also has responsibility for feed safety across the whole of AB Agri, which comprises a diverse range of animal nutrition businesses selling compound feed, co-products, premix, feed materials and feed additives to more than 40 countries.

Tim Brigstocke (feed materials) is an independent farm livestock consultant who specialises in animal feeds. He is currently Policy Director for the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers, Executive Director for Cattle Health Certification Standards (CHeCS) and Chairman of both the Institute of Agricultural Management and the industry wide Cattle Health and Welfare Group. He was until late 2011 Executive Chairman of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. Tim serves on a large number of industry bodies including the board of RUMA, and chairs the Society of Biology's College of Elected

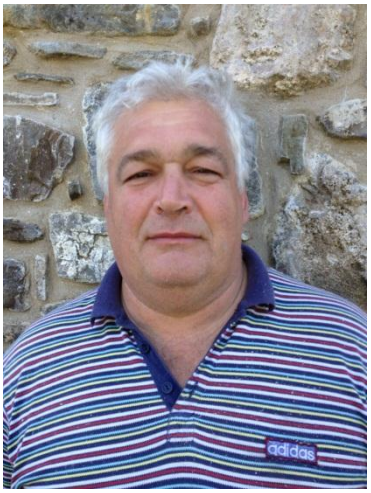
Members. He is a member of the Veterinary Residues Committee.

Ann Davison (consumer) is an expert on customer focus and clear communication. She was Defra's consumer advisor, is a member of Defra's Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF) and chairs the PRiF's communications sub-committee. Ms Davison is also a member of the British Standards Institute's Consumer and Public Interest Strategic Advisory Committee and of the Fairtrade Foundation's Certification Committee; a member of the National Consumers Federation and the National Council of Women.

Barrie Fleming (veterinary science) is a partner in a poultry-only practice, St David's Poultry Team. Mr Fleming had nine years experience in general practice before moving into the pharmaceutical and animal feed additive specialism in 2002, where he remained until 2008 when he joined the St David's Poultry Team. He has broad veterinary experience involving all domestic species and is a member of several relevant industry committees.

Professor Stephen Forsythe (microbiology) is a Professor of Microbiology at Nottingham Trent University. His main research area is primarily on foodborne infections. He has been an invited participant and speaker at three FAO/WHO risk assessments on the microbiological safety of powdered infant formula. Professor Forsythe has also been a member of the European Food Standards Authority: Additives and Food Contacts Materials Panel, and an ad hoc member on the Qualified Presumption of Safety and Biohaz

Panels.



Peter Francis (farmer) is a mixed arable and livestock farmer and a former dairy producer based in West Wales. He has held many positions within the National Farmers Union, including the county Chairman, dairy committee delegate, rural affairs delegate and is currently the Carmarthenshire delegate on the England and Wales Council. Mr Francis sits on the Welsh Assembly Government Appeals Panel for the Single Farm Payment.

Professor Ian Givens (animal nutrition) is a nutritional scientist and Professor of Animal Science and Director of the Food Production and Quality Research Division at the University of Reading, School of Agriculture, Policy and Development. He is also leader of the Lipids in the Food Chain research theme within the University's Centre for Food Security.

Within the University he has responsibilities for managing a large research division the work of which focuses on foods produced by animals. His research focuses on 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 and a member of the External Advisory Committee of the University College Dublin Institute of Food and Health. He is also currently Deputy Chairman of ACAF.

Professor Nigel Halford (novel technology) is a Research Leader 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 28 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 100 refereed scientific papers, many relating to plant biotechnology, and has written and edited books and numerous articles on GM crops.

Mrs Christine McAlinden (toxicology) is Associate Director with toXcel International Ltd and is a toxicologist with 20 years experience; she provides scientific and regulatory advice to the chemical, biotech and pharmaceutical industries. She has a BSc (Honours) in Applied Biology from Nottingham Trent University and obtained certification as a Diplomate American Board of Toxicology. Mrs McAlinden has been on the UK and European Register of Toxicologists since 2001. Between 2003 and 2008, she served on the Education Sub-committee of the British Toxicology Society. She has been a member of the panel for the UK Register of Toxicologists since 2009.

Diane McCrea who left on 31 August 2012 (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 Assured Food Standards, 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).

Dr David Peers (animal nutrition) is a Senior Livestock Adviser for ADAS. He has a BSc (Honours) from the University College of Wales, Bangor and has obtained a PhD (Doctorate in Animal Nutrition Research). Dr Peers has wide experience over 40 years of farm livestock consultancy across all species specialising in livestock nutrition and forage production. He has carried out research and development work in livestock nutrition and production, forage production and evaluation and has had 16 papers published in scientific journals. Dr Peers acts an expert in litigation cases. He has also organised and delivered courses on animal nutrition and has provided lectures at local level to farmers, industry and consultancy groups on animal nutrition. Dr Peers has represented ADAS at national and international conferences.

Richard Scales (local authority enforcement) is Principal Trading Standards Officer at Hampshire County Council with up to 22 years experience of Trading Standards work, including feed law enforcement. He currently specialises in agricultural aspects of enforcement and is a member of the Agriculture Focus Group of the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS). Mr Scales also chairs the Trading Standards South East Authorities Feeds Sub- Group.

Edwin Snow (feed industry**)** was for seventeen years employed as the Technical Manager – Milling Division at Noble Foods (the UK's leading egg producer). From the 1st April 2011 he became an independent consultant advising feed and related businesses on quality assurance, hygiene and feed legislation. He is a Member of the Agriculture Industries Confederation's Legal Affairs and Scientific Committee. He is also a Member of the Royal Society of Chemistry and advises the British Egg Industry Council on all matters relating to feedingstuffs.

Marcus Themans who left on 31 August 2012 (farmer) owns a mixed farm 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.

Marcus is a member of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Agriculture Advisory Committee, Chairman of the Shropshire Rural Hub, A Champion for the Strategy for Sustainable Food and Farming and sits on West Midlands Rural Development Programme steering groups.

He is a member of Meadow Quality Livestock (co-operative marketing group) and Heart of England Fine Foods.

Current Terms of Office of ACAF Members

87. 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 2012

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

Until 30 June 2013

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

Until 31 August 2013

Professor Stephen Forsythe* (microbiology)

Until 8 May 2014

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

Until 31 May 2014

Professor Ian Givens (Animal Nutrition)

Until 30 June 2014

Mr Tim Brigstocke (Feed materials)
Mr Edwin Snow (Feed Industry)

Until 31 August 2014

Ms Angela Booth (Feed manufacturer)*

Until 30 November 2014

Dr David Peers (Animal Nutrition)*
Mrs Christine McAlinden (Toxicology)*

Until 31 August 2015
Ms Ann Davison*
Mr Peter Francis*
* first term of office

Appointments 2012

88. Ms Ann Davison was appointed as the Committee's consumer representative, and Mr Peter Francis was appointed as the Committee's farmer. The terms of appointment for Ms Davison and Mr Francis run from 1 September 2012 until 31 August 2015.

End of appointments 2012

89. The Committee said goodbye to Ms Diane McCrea (consumer), and Mr Marcus Themans (farmer). The Committee, the Food Standards Agency and the devolved countries were extremely grateful for these Members' commitment and input to the work of ACAF and wished them every success in the future.

ACAF Secretariat

90. The Committee's secretariat is staffed by officials from the Food Standards Agency.

From left to right – Raj Pal, Ray Smith, Keith Millar (ACAF Secretary), Mandy Jumnoodoo, Abrar Jaffer, and Saleha Khatun.

The Committee's Commitment to Openness

91. 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:

http://acaf.food.gov.uk

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

93. 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 VII. 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.

94. The Committee held all three of its meetings in 2012 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 would like to receive further information about the work of the Committee *free of charge* please complete and return the form below:

Name: ----------

Address: ----------

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 7 276 8083
Fax: 020 7 276 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 2012.

GM Sub-group

Dr Ian Brown (ex officio)
Prof. Nigel Halford

Annex III

Papers Considered by ACAF in 2012

NO. OF PAPER	NAME OF PAPER	MEETING NUMBER	DATE OF MEETING
ACAF/12/01	Emerging Risks	57th	7 March 2012
ACAF/12/02	Feed safety – potential gaps	57th	7 March 2012
ACAF/12/03	EU Developments	57th	7 March 2012
ACAF/12/04	Update on the work of other Advisory Committees	57th	7 March 2012
ACAF/12/05	FVO Audit Recommendations	57th	7 March 2012
ACAF/12/06	Report Of The Sixth Session Of The Ad-Hoc Intergovernmental Codex Task Force On Animal Feeding	57th	7 March 2012
ACAF/12/07	Assuring Food Safety in Northern Ireland – Report and Recommendations of the Industry Feed Assurance Group	58th	15 June 2012
ACAF/12/08	Handling Feed incidents	58th	15 June 2012
ACAF/12/09	EU Developments	58th	15 June 2012
ACAF/12/10	Update on the work of other Advisory Committees	58th	15 June 2012
ACAF/12/11	Antimicrobial Resistance	59th	19 September 2012
ACAF/12/12	Feed Safety –potential gaps	59th	19 September 2012
ACAF/12/13	Forward Work Plan	59th	19 September 2012
ACAF/12/14	EU Developments	59th	19 September 2012
ACAF/12/15	Update on the work of other advisory committees	59th	19 September 2012

Annex IV

ACAF Forward Work Programme

High Priority - position of ACAF to be considered proactively

Item no.	Topic	Progress
1	Feed Safety – Potential Gaps	At its 1 June 2011 meeting, the Committee was asked to consider potential safety gaps in the feed sector. It agreed to consider in further detail the following: • identification of feed businesses; • awareness/competence of feed business operators (FeBOs); and • imports . The Committee discussed identification of feed businesses at its December 2011 meeting. The awareness and competence of FeBOs was discussed at the Committee's March 2012 meeting. Members agreed that further consideration of this topic was required, including a presentation from industry organisations (e.g., the Agricultural Industries Confederation, British Society of Animal Science (BSAS)) on work they are carrying out in this area. The Committee received a presentation from the BSAS on initiatives on the registration of feed advisors at its September 2012 meeting.
2	GM issues including future developments in biotechnology (e.g. use of second generation GMOs) and possible links with GM nutritional work.	The Committee receives regular update reports from the Secretary on EU developments; these include future developments in biotechnology and the possible links that GM has with animal and human nutrition. The issue of asynchronous approvals of GM varieties and its future impact on the security of feed supply has been brought to the attention of the Committee and is being monitored by the Secretariat.
3	Feed Incidents and related issues.	At its June 2012 meeting the Committee received a presentation from officials of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on Feed Incident Management

		in Northern Ireland from an enforcement perspective. The presentation outlined the level of preparedness in Northern Ireland for the handling of feed related incidents, including contingency planning, and risk assessment activities. The Committee was encouraged by the arrangements in place.
4	Recommendations from Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) audit to UK on feed law enforcement.	The Committee was informed at its December 2011, March, June and September 2012 meetings of the recommendations of FVO audits on the enforcement of feed legislation and work the Agency was carrying out to address the recommendations.
5	Emphasis on reduction in food waste	Yet to be considered.
6	Antimicrobial Resistance	The Committee received a presentation on this issue at its September 2012 meeting. It agreed this topic was complex and it wished to explore the issues at a future meeting, where it could discuss the available evidence to support whether antimicrobial resistance was a significant issue for animal feed.

Medium Priority - position of ACAF responsive to developments and considered regularly:

7	EU developments – including providing advice on UK negotiating lines.	The Committee receives EU development updates at every meeting and provides input to the UK delegation on a range of issues. During 2008, the Committee provided inputs to the UK negotiating line on the eventual EU Regulation on the Marketing and Use of Feed. The Regulation was adopted in June 2009 and came into effect on 1 September 2010. The Annexes to the Regulation are subject to amendment, and an extended Catalogue of Feed Materials and a Code of Practice on Pet Food Labelling has been drawn up. The Committee's views have also been sought on these issues. At its September 2011 meeting the Committee received an update on

		negotiations on the review of Directive 90/167 on the preparation, supply and use of medicated feedingstuffs. Members were informed that European Commission proposals following the review were expected in 2012. The Committee confirmed it would be willing to provide any advice as required during the future negotiations. At its September 2012 meeting, the Committee received an update on work the Agency is carrying out to implement Commission Regulation 225/2012 which was adopted following the German dioxin incident 2010/11. The Committee agreed to provide comments on a public consultation that the Agency intends carrying out on implementing measures.
8	New Developments in feed for livestock species including aquaculture	The Committee will continue to be updated on developments and will be asked for advice as required.
9	Work of EFSA, including opinions on additives and contaminants relating to animal feed.	The Secretariat will continue to draw relevant EFSA Opinions and documents to the attention of ACAF for discussion.
10	The manipulation of animal diets to enhance the nutritional value of food (milk, meat, eggs, fish). Examples include: - enhancing the selenium content of livestock produce; - enriching foods with polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) including long chain n-3 PUFA; - developing foods with reduced concentrations of saturated fatty acids; -	The Committee first considered this issue in 2004-2005. A horizon scanning workshop organised by the GACS took place on 24 June 2009 and was attended by a number of ACAF Members. ACAF was requested to take forward the ideas discussed. At ACAF's September 2009 meeting Prof. Ian Givens agreed to carry out a literature review of research being carried out in this area. The report of the review was circulated to Members on 27 November 2009 and the key areas of research summarised. At its September 2012 meeting, Members were informed of developments on iodine and vitamin D. Prof Ian Givens agreed to provide details of these developments to Members, which was circulated on 11 October 2012.

		This subject area will be revisited from time to time.
11	Feed additive developments and issues.	An information paper was prepared by the Secretariat for ACAF's March 2008 meeting. The Committee considered this topic again at its June 2011 meeting. It noted that the assessment of applications for the re-authorisation of feed additives according to Article 10 of Regulation 1831/2003 had started. The Secretariat will keep the Committee informed of developments. An EFSA opinion on the re-assessment of vitamin A is still awaited (an issue of particular interest to ACAF).
12	Forge closer links with other Advisory Committees and tackle issues of common interest.	ACAF will continue to take opportunities to develop links with other SACs in respect of cross-cutting issues.
13	Microbiological issues	At its September 2011 meeting the Committee was asked to consider whether the policy adopted by the Food Standards Agency in relation to Salmonella in feed was appropriate. The Committee endorsed the line taken by UK officials in negotiations where a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)-type approach, as considered by the European Food Safety Authority and as set out in the UK Code of Practice, would be preferable to amendment of the Feed Hygiene Regulation.
14	Updates on BSE and TSE developments.	An update on TSE and Meat and Bone meal issues was provided by Mr Patrick Burke (Defra) at the Committee's December 2008 and June 2011 meetings. At the meeting in June 2011, the Committee agreed with proposals aimed at partial relaxation of certain existing controls. At its September 2011 meeting the Committee was informed that Defra officials would be seeking an agreed UK position from Ministers. The Committee also received a presentation from Mr Neil Leach (Defra) on an update of

		EU Animal By-Product Controls at its meetings in December 2009 and September 2011. Members were provided with an oral update at its September 2012 meeting. Members agreed that this item should remain on its work plan and be periodically reviewed.
15	Brominated flame retardants (BFRs)	The Committee received a presentation on this issue at its 14 December 2011 meeting. It recommended that, with respect to further work the Agency proposes to undertake on this subject, specific areas should be considered, including investigating where the entry points of contamination might be for foods that were found to contain high levels of BFRs during food surveys, notably farmed fish and dairy products. The Committee also suggested that the Agency should extend any relevant investigations to cover feed.

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

16	Feed issues relating to organic production.	The Committee received an update on UK negotiations on organic farming at its December 2011 meeting. The Committee agreed that this was an important issue and requested it be kept informed of developments.
17	Biofuels: • possible impact on the availability and cost of widely used selected feeds ; and • the safety and use of feed co-products from the production of biofuels.	The Committee has considered this subject area in depth and its position paper was published on 30 April 2008. At its 3 March and 3 June 2010 meetings the Committee received update presentations on biofuels and agreed that its position paper should be revised and adapted to take account of quantifiable data and new developments. The Committee discussed updating its position paper on biofuels at its September

		2011 meeting and agreed to publish a revised document, which is available at: http://acaf.food.gov.uk/papers/biofuels
18	Food/feed security: a) climate change and the impact on feed production; b) animal production including feeding systems and the effect on the environment; and c) global demand for animal derived foods and prices for primary production.	During 2010, the Committee received presentations from Professor Tim Wheeler (University of Reading/Deputy Chief Scientific advisor to the Department for International Development) and Professor Chris Reynolds (University of Reading) on items (a) and (b), respectively. The Committee agreed to keep these items on its workplan. Item (c) stems from a GACS horizon scanning workshop held on 24 June 2009. The Committee agreed it would like to explore this area further at a future meeting. It was agreed that the Secretariat should arrange for presentations to cover: (a) the UK position; (b) the European position; and (c) the worldwide position. The Committee envisages that the proposed presentations will help it to determine its formal stance on these issues.

Annex V

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR THE INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTTEES

PREAMBLE

The Government Chief Scientific Adviser's *Guidelines on the Use of Scientific and Engineering Advice in Policy Making*[10] set out the basic principles which government departments should follow in assembling and using scientific advice. The key elements are to:

- **identify early** the issues which need scientific and engineering advice and where **public engagement** is appropriate;
- draw on a **wide range of expert advice** sources, particularly when there is uncertainty;
- adopt an **open and transparent approach** to the scientific advisory process and publish the evidence and analysis as soon as possible;
- **explain publicly the reasons for policy decisions**, particularly when the decision appears to be inconsistent with scientific advice; and
- **work collectively** to ensure a joined-up approach throughout government to integrating scientific and engineering evidence and advice into policy making.

The *Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees*[11] and the Principles of Scientific Advice to Government[12] provide more detailed guidance on the operation of scientific advisory committees (SACs) and their relationship with their sponsor Departments.

The Food Standards Agency's Board adopted a **Science Checklist** in 2006 (updated in 2012) that makes explicit the points to be considered in the preparation of policy papers and proposals dealing with science-based issues, including those which draw on advice from the SACs.

These **Good Practice Guidelines** were drawn up in 2006 by the Chairs of the independent SACs that advise the FSA based on, and complementing, the Science Checklist. They were updated in 2012 in consultation with the General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS).

[10] http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/bispartners/goscience/docs/g/10-669-gcsa-guidelines-scientific-engineering-advice-policy-making.pdf
[11] http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/BISPartners/GoScience/Docs/C/11-1382-code-of-practice-scientific-advisory-committees.pdf
[12] http://www.bis.gov.uk/go-science/principles-of-scientific-advice-to-government

The Guidelines apply to the SACs that advise the FSA and for which the FSA is sole or lead sponsor Department:

- Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs
- Advisory Committee on Microbiological Safety of Foods
- Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes
- 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[11]
- Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment[14]
- Social Science Research Committee
- General Advisory Committee on Science

For the SACs with a shared sponsorship the Guidelines apply formally to their advice to the FSA; they may opt to follow them also in advising other sponsor Departments.

All these committees share important characteristics. They:

- are independent;
- work in an open and transparent way; and
- are concerned with risk assessment and/or science governance, not with decisions about risk management.

The Guidelines relate primarily to the risk assessment process since this is the main purpose of most of the SACs. However, the SACs may, where appropriate, comment on risks associated with different risk management options, highlight any wider issues raised by their assessment that they feel should be considered (distinguishing clearly between issues on which the SAC has an expert capability and remit, and any other issues), or any evidence gaps and/or needs for research or analysis.

In addition, GACS and SSRC may advise the FSA on aspects of the governance of risk management, or on research that relates to risk management.

Twenty nine 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.

The SACs have agreed to review their application of the principles annually and report this in their Annual Reports. Compliance with the Guidelines will

[13] Joint FSA/HPA Secretariat, HPA lead
[14] Joint FSA/HPA, FSA lead

also be covered in the annual self assessments by Members and annual feedback meetings between each SAC Chair and the FSA Chief Scientist.

PRINCIPLES

Defining the problem and the approach

1. The FSA will ensure that issues it asks an SAC to address are clearly defined and take account of stakeholder expectations in discussion with the SAC Secretariat and where necessary the SAC Chair. The SAC Chair will refer back to the FSA if discussion suggests that further iteration and discussion of the task is necessary. Where an SAC proposes to initiate a piece of work the SAC Chair and Secretariat will discuss this with FSA to ensure the definition and rationale for the work its expected use by the FSA are clear.

Seeking input

2. The Secretariat will ensure that stakeholders are consulted at appropriate points in the SAC's considerations. It will consider with the FSA whether and how stakeholder views need to be taken into account in helping to identify the issue and frame the question for the committee.
3. Wherever possible, SAC discussions should be held in public.
4. The scope of literature searches made on behalf of the SAC will be clearly set out.
5. 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.
6. Data from stakeholders will be considered and weighted according to quality by the SAC.
7. Consideration by the Secretariat and the Chair (and where appropriate the whole SAC) will be given to whether expertise in other disciplines will be needed.
8. Consideration will be given by the Secretariat or by the SAC, in discussion with the FSA, as to whether other SACs need to be consulted.

Validation

9. Study design, methods of measurement and the way that analysis of data has been carried out will be assessed by the SAC.
10. Data will be assessed by the committee in accordance with the relevant principles of good practice, e.g. qualitative social science data will be assessed with reference to guidance from the Government's Chief Social Researcher[15].

[15] Quality in Qualitative Evaluation: A Framework for assessing research evidence http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/a_quality_framework_tcm6-7314.pdf; The Magenta book http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/magenta_book_combined.pdf

11. Formal statistical analyses will be included wherever appropriate. To support this, each SAC will have access to advice on quantitative analysis and modelling as needed.
12. 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.
13. The list of references will make it clear which references have been subject to external peer review, and which have been peer reviewed through evaluation by the Committee, and if relevant, any that have not been peer reviewed.

Uncertainty

14. When reporting outcomes, SACs 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.
15. Any assumptions made by the SAC will be clearly spelled out, and, in reviews, previous assumptions will be challenged.
16. Data gaps will be identified and their impact on uncertainty assessed by the SAC.
17. An indication will be given by the SAC about whether the evidence base is changing or static, and if appropriate, how developments in the evidence base might affect key assumptions and conclusions.

Drawing conclusions

18. The SAC will be broad-minded, acknowledging where conflicting views exist and considering whether alternative interpretations fit the same evidence.
19. Where both risks and benefits have been considered, the committee will address each with the same rigour, as far as possible; it will make clear the degree of rigour and uncertainty, and any important constraints, in reporting its conclusions.
20. SAC 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. If it is not possible to reach a consensus, a minority report may be appended to the main report, setting out the differences in interpretation and conclusions, and the reasons for these, and the names of those supporting the minority report.
21. The SAC'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.

22. SACs will make recommendations about general issues that may have relevance for other committees.

Communicating SACs' conclusions

23. Conclusions will be expressed by the SAC in clear, simple terms and use the minimum caveats consistent with accuracy.
24. It will be made clear by the SAC where assessments have been based on the work of other bodies and where the SAC has started afresh, and there will be a clear statement of how the current conclusions compare with previous assessments.
25. The conclusions will be supported by a statement about their robustness and the extent to which judgement has had to be used.
26. As standard practice, the SAC secretariat will publish a full set of references (including the data used as the basis for risk assessment and other SAC 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.
27. The amount of material withheld by the SAC 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.
28. Where proposals or papers being considered by the FSA Board rest on scientific evidence produced by a SAC, the Chair of the SAC (or a nominated expert member) will be invited to the table at the Open Board meetings at which the paper is discussed. To maintain appropriate separation of risk assessment and risk management processes, the role of the Chairs will be limited to providing an independent view and assurance on how their committee's advice has been reflected in the relevant policy proposals, and to answer Board Members' questions on the science. 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.
29. The SAC will seek (and FSA will provide) timely feedback on actions taken (or not taken) in response to the SAC's advice, and the rationale for these

Annex VI

Framework for iteration and dialogue between FSA and the SACs

The objectives and boundaries for iteration and dialogue between FSA and SACs are:

At the start of a task, to:

- ensure that SACs are aware of the context of requests put to them by the FSA (including whether the SAC advice will feed directly into a Board decision or update an assessment that underpinned a previous decision)
- where the SAC is initiating a task itself, to ensure that FSA and the SAC are clear on the rationale and the expected use of the outcome by FSA
- to ensure that the question to be considered by the SAC(s) is clear and appropriate (in turn helping to ensure that outputs of SACs will be useful for the FSA)
- to ensure that the approach proposed is appropriate and proportionate to the issue and the intended use of the SAC's advice
- to ensure that SACs are not asked, and do not attempt, to address issues that are not part of their remit, for example decisions on risk management
- to help FSA to identify at the outset the factors it will need to consider in weighing up options for risk management, and to select appropriate means to address these: issues for risk assessment by the appropriate risk assessors (if more than one is relevant, the respective tasks can be planned in a co-ordinated way); other factors to be addressed through other processes, and as far as possible by other types of evidence-based analysis.

At handover of an SAC opinion to FSA:

- for SACs to give indications of the certainty of scientific evidence and to address any variation in that evidence and the basis of 'unorthodox' opinion among experts (so that risk managers are aware of the confidence attached to the SACs' assessments and advice)
- for SACs to help to identify and assess risks associated with different risk management options (if not identified at the start, for example if options arise or develop after the original task for risk assessment is defined, or if new or unintended consequences of different risk management options emerge)
- for the SAC to highlight any wider issues raised by their assessment that they feel should be considered (distinguishing clearly between issues on which the SAC has an expert capability and remit, and any other issues)
- for SACs to highlight any evidence gaps, minority scientific opinions and/or needs for research or analysis and give an indication of their priority; to help to develop detailed research requirements; and to contribute to interpretation and evaluation of research results

- to help ensure that the risk assessment is understood by the risk managers, and used accurately in weighing and communicating risk management decisions

In feedback and review, to:

- to ensure SACs are informed in a timely manner on how their advice and recommendations (including on risk assessment or research needs) have been acted on, or not, and the reasons behind this, and that SACs can comment on this, especially when the action deviates from any explicit advice provided by SACs
- to provide feedback for both sides to help to improve procedures and practices

Annex VII

Register of Members' Interests

MEMBER	COMPANY/ ORGANISATION	NATURE OF INTEREST	COMPANY/ ORGANISATION	NATURE OF INTEREST
Dr D Azubike	None	Independent Member	None	None
Ms Angela Booth	AB Agri	Divisional Director	Agricultural Industries Confederation Feed Executive Committee	Member
	20ha grass farm	Partner	FEFAC Council	Member
			FEMAS Steering Group	Chairman
			Assured Food Standards Pigs Technical Committee	Member
Dr I Brown	Oxford University Martin School on the 'Future of Food'	Member	None	None
	Advisory Committee on Toxic Substances of the Health & Safety Commission	Member		
	Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture	Member		
	General Advisory Committee on Science	Ex officio Member		
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	Executive Chairman/Trustee
	Veterinary Residues Committee	Member	National Cattle Association (Dairy)	Executive Secretary
	Society for the	Director/Trustee	Silcock Fellowship for	Trustee

	Environment		Livestock Research	
	Cattle Health & Welfare Group	Chairman	RUMA Alliance	Director/Hon Treasurer
	BBSRC Sustainable Agriculture Panel	Member	Lantra, the Sector Skills Council for the land based sector;	Trustee;
Ms Ann Davison	National Consumer Federation	Member	None	None
	National Council of Women	Member		
Mr B Fleming	St David's Poultry Team	Partner	British Veterinary Poultry	Honorary Secretary and Awards Co-ordinator
Professor S J Forsythe	School of Science and Technology, Nottingham Trent University	Employee	None	None
	Mead Johnson	expert witness		
Mr P Francis	National Farmers Union	County Delegate and Member of Management Board	None	None
	Welsh Assembly Government - Appeals Panel for agriculture	Member		
	Young Farmers Club	Club Leader		
Professor D I Givens	University of Reading	Employee	European Commission	Research funder
	European Food Safety Authority Working Group	Ad hoc expert</< td>	Various Companies	Research funders
	British Nutrition Foundation Scientific Advisory Committee	Member		

	University College Dublin Institute of Food and Health, Scientific Advisory Panel	Member		
	Estonian Biocompetance Centre of Healthy Dairy Products Scientific Panel	Expert assessor		
	Nutrition Society	Member		
	British Society of Animal Science	Member		
	Society of Biology	Member		
Dr N G Halford	Association of Applied Biologists	Trustee, council member, convenor	Advanced Technologies Cambridge	Research partners
	American Chemical Society	Member	Kettle Foods	Research partners
	Imperial College Press;	Publisher;	Higgins Agriculture	Research partners
			Potato Processors Association	Research partners
			United Biscuits	Research partners
			European Snacks Association/SNACMA	Research partners
			The Potato Council	Research partners
			TESCO stores	Research partners
			ConAgra	Research partners
			University of Reading	Research partners
			Scottish Crop Research Institute	Research partners

			Jordans/Ryvita	Research partners
			DEFRA LINK	Research partners
			Home Grown Cereals Authority	Studentship
			Royal Society of Chemistry	Publishers
			Shanghai Academy of Agricultural Sciences	Honorary chair
			University of Nottingham;	Special professorship;
Mrs C McAlinden	Toxcel International Ltd	Employee	None	None
	British Toxicology Society	Member		
	UK Register of Toxicologist	Panel Member		
Ms D McCrea	Various consumer Non Governmental Organisation groups, EU funded research projects and the Food Standards Agency	Consultancy work – project based	None	
	Consumer Council for Water	Board Member and Chair of Wales Committee		
	Assured Food Standards	Board Member		
	Soil Association Certification Limited Certification Scrutiny Committee	Chairman		
Dr D G Peers	ADAS UK Ltd	Various consultancy contracts	None	

	Various Farm Businesses	Nutrition Consultancy		
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		
	Diploma in Consumer Affairs and Trading Standards Agriculture paper within TSSE region	Lecturer		
Mr E Snow	Independent Consultant to feed industry	Self Employed	Elanco - advising Elanco customers on residue controls during feed production	Member
	Tate & Lyle	Shareholder		
	Noble Foods	Consultant		
	British Egg Industry Council - feed related matters	Consultant		
Mr M Themans	E M Themans Company. Also Trading as: Wenlock Edge Farm	Farming Licenced Butchers	National Farmers Union	COPA feedingstuffs representative
	Health and Safety Executive Agriculture Advisory Committee	Member	West Midlands Rural Development Programme Steering Group	Member
	Shropshire Rural Hub	Chairman	Meadow Quality Livestock	Member
	A Champion for the Strategy for Sustainable Food and Farming Group	Member	Heart of England Fine Foods	Member

Annex VIII

Abbreviations

ACAF	Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs
ADHAC	Agricultural Dwelling House Advisory Committee
AFIB	Agri-Food Inspection Branch
AIC	Agricultural Industries Confederation
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
BBSRC	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
BFR	Brominated Flame Retardant
BIOHAZ	EFSA Panel on Biological Hazards
BSAS	British Society of Animal Diseases
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
CHeCS	Cattle Health Certification Standards
COPA	Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
CVMP	Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use
DARC	Defra Antimicrobial Resistance Coordination Group
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DFID	Department for International Development
EC	European Community
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
ESBL	Extended Spectrum Beta-Lactamases
ESVAC	European Sales Data project
FEFAC	European Feed Manufacturers' Federation
FEMAS	Feed Materials Assurance Scheme
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
FSA	Food Standards Agency
GACS	General Advisory Committee on Science
GB	Great Britain
GM	Genetically modified
GMO	Genetically modified organism
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
IFAG	Industry Feed Assurance Group
IGFA	Irish Grain and Feed Association
LACORS	Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services
MRSA	Methicillin (Multi) Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus
NIGTA	Northern Ireland Grain Trade Association
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
PCB	Poly chlorinated biphenyl
PRiF	Defra Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food

PUFAs	Polyunsaturated fatty acids
RUMA	Responsible Use of Medicine in Agriculture
SAC	Scientific Advisory Committee
SCoFCAH	Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health
SSRC	Social Science Research Committee
TSE	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy
UFAS	Universal Feed Assurance Scheme
UK	United Kingdom
VMD	Veterinary Medicines Directorate
WHO	World Health Organisation

Annex IX

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 for Northern Ireland, Scottish Executive 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.

Conditions of appointment and termination of appointment

4. Committee appointments can be terminated early by either party, by giving 3 months notice, in writing.

5. Should the Committee be disbanded before the end of the period of appointment, appointments will terminate on dissolution.

6. In the event that a member is found guilty of grave misconduct their appointment will be terminated immediately

7. Appointments are held subject to compliance with the Public Standards Committee Seven Principles of Public Life.

8. Members are expected to attend meetings regularly. The appointment may be terminated, without notice, if attendance becomes so erratic as to interfere with the good running of the Committee.

Role of Committee members

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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

12. 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

13. 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.

<u>Declaration of interests to the Secretariat</u>

14. 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

15. 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

16. 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.

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

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

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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