

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD
INFORMATION PAPER

Update from other Scientific Advisory Committees

Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingsuffs (ACAF)

ACAF met at Queen's University, Belfast on 19 June 2015. The agenda for the meeting included:

- **Assuring Food Safety in Northern Ireland**

Robin Irvine (Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Grain Trade Association) provided Members with an update on work to assuring food safety in Northern Ireland.

- **Update on the Review of the Report on On-farm feeding practices**

Angela Booth ACAF sub-group Chairman provided an update on progress made to review the Committee's report on On-farm Feeding Practices.

- **Food Innovation through Advanced Animal Nutrition**

A representative of Devenish Nutrition provided a presentation that highlighted some areas where the feed industry can have a real impact throughout the food chain.

The Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

The last meeting of the ACNFP was held on 29 April. Items discussed included novel food applications on:

- Chia Seeds to extend the use to fruit juice and fruit juice blends and to increase the number of companies who are authorised to market it.
- Oligonol – to be used in a range of foods as an alternative source of polyphenols.
- Synthetic-hydroxytyrosol - to be added to fats and oils, to be consumed uncooked and also to fruit and vegetable juices.
- Alginate-konjac-xanthan polysaccharide (PGX) - to be added as a source of dietary fibre in dietary supplements as well as in a range of foods and beverages.
- Synthetic L-ergathionine - authorisation was being sought to include the novel ingredient in food supplements, food for specific groups (PARNUTS foods)

and a number of commonly consumed foods including non-alcoholic drinks, milk, cereal bars, ultra-fresh dairy products(yogurts, fresh cream and cottage cheese) and chocolate.

The next meeting of the ACNFP is scheduled to be held on 2 July.

The Committee on Toxicity (COT)

The COT held an out of town meeting on 17 March 2015 in Birmingham and the following agenda was discussed:

- Submissions for the reformulation of nonivamide (PAVA) and 2-chlorobenzylidene malononitrile (CS) as incapacitant sprays
- Second Draft Statement on potassium-based replacements for sodium chloride and sodium-based additives
- Soya phytoestrogens and thyroid
- Paper for information: Response to EFSA caffeine consultation

There was also a COT Symposium on Potential implications of obesity on the kinetics of persistent organic pollutants and possible ramifications for the risk assessment process on the 18 March in Birmingham.

General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS)

GACS met on 31 March 2015. This was the first meeting attended by the FSA's new Director of Science, Evidence and Research, Dr Penny Bramwell. Items discussed at the meeting included:

- Report on FSA Science
- Scientific staffing, skills and professions in the FSA
- Science in the Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs)
- an update on FSA Science, Evidence and Information Strategy
- future work on the Joint GACS-SSRC working group on the use of evidence and
- FSA evidence portfolio

The next GACS meeting will be held on 1 October 2015, details of which will be available on the GACS website.

Social Science Research Committee (SSRC)

The SSRC had its fifteenth meeting on 11 March 2015. Agenda items discussed included:

- Update on the FSA Strategy and Science, Evidence and Information Strategy by Professor Guy Poppy

- Discussion about future horizon scanning
- Fourth report from the ESRC Sub-Group
- Fourth Report from the Strategy Sub-Group
- Update on the SSRC Economics Working Group
- Presentation on Food and You secondary analysis: work so far
- Research priorities update - vulnerable groups

The next meeting of SSRC is on 28 September 2015.

Papers will be published on the SSRC webpages two weeks prior to this date.

<http://ssrc.food.gov.uk/meetings>

**Secretariat
June 2015**