

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD
INFORMATION PAPER

Update from other Scientific Advisory Committees

Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)

The 67th Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs open meeting took place at Queen's University, Belfast, on 19 June 2015.

The Committee received an update presentation on the Food Fortress initiative being carried out by the Northern Ireland Grain Trade Association (NIGTA) in assuring food safety in Northern Ireland following the publication of the report and recommendations of the Industry Feed Assurance Group in 2011. The Committee was interested in the work being taken forward by NIGTA and its future plans. It requested that when further progress had been made an update would be welcomed.

Dr Jean Kennedy (Devenish Nutrition) gave a presentation on the potential for feed to influence the quality of food of animal origin. The presentation highlighted some areas where the feed industry can have a real impact throughout the food chain. The Committee agreed that it would revisit this issue at its October 2015 meeting, where two members will provide a discussion paper on the relationship between feed and the composition of animal diets for human health benefit.

The Chairman of ACAF's sub-group currently reviewing the Committee's 2003 report into on-farm feeding practices provided an update on the sub-group's work. During the presentation the sub-group Chair explained what changes and additional text had been made to the original report and the rationale for these. Additionally, the sub-group Chair sought the Committee's views on any gaps in the document.

The next ACAF meeting is scheduled to take place at Aviation House, London on 28th October 2015. Provisional agenda items include:

- Soy production sustainability;
- Issue of feed additives and manipulation of animal diets;
- Antimicrobial resistance – presentation on the work of the Joint Antimicrobial Consumption and Resistance Analysis (JIACRA).

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

The last meeting of the ACNFP was on 16 September. Items discussed were novel food applications on:

1-Methylnicotinamide Chloride (1-MNA)
Oligonol
Cycloastragenol

Chia Seeds
Anatabine
Di-Magnesium Malate (DMM)
Hoodia parviflora

The agenda for an open event being planned for 4 February was also discussed.

The next meeting of the ACNFP is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 18 November 2015.

Committee on Toxicity (COT)

The COT will be meeting on 8 September and agenda is as follows:

- Review of risks arising from the infant diet and the development of atopic and autoimmune disease: Systematic review C – part I – Hydrolysed formula and Risk of Allergic or Autoimmune Outcomes: a systematic review and meta-analysis
- Review of risks arising from the infant diet and the development of atopic and autoimmune disease: Systematic review C Part II – avoidance or exposure to specific dietary patterns, food groups or nutrients during infancy, pregnancy and lactation and the risk of developing atopic or autoimmune disease (intervention studies)
- Final report of the Lead Ammunition Group
- Further submission for a reformulation of PAVA irritant spray
- EFSA consultation on draft guidance document on uncertainty in scientific assessment

Social Science Research Committee (SSRC)

The SSRC had their fifteenth meeting on 11 March 2015. Agenda Items discussed were:

- Update on the FSA Strategy and Science, Evidence and Information Strategy by Guy Poppy
- Discussion about future horizon scanning
- Fourth report from the ESRC Sub-Group
- Update on the SSRC Economics Working Group
- Presentation on Food and You secondary analysis: work so far
- Research priorities update - vulnerable groups

Minutes are available on our website: <http://ssrc.food.gov.uk/>

Since the last meeting, the SSRC has appointed two new members, Dr Hannah Lambie-Mumford and Professor Dan Rigby and has also reappointed its Chair, Professor Peter Jackson until March 2018 and four expert members, Ms Joy Dobbs, Professor Richard Tiffin, Professor Stephen Hinchliffe, and Professor Lynn Frewer.

The sixteenth SSRC meeting will take place on the 28 September 2015 in Aviation House, London. The agenda will be published on our website when finalised.

Secretariat
October 2015