

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD
INFORMATION PAPER

Update from other Scientific Advisory Committees

Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)

ACAF is scheduled to meet on 17 February and items on the agenda include:

- **Refuse Derived Fuels** - representatives from the Grain Feed Trade Association (GAFTA) and the Environment Agency, will seek the Committee's views on potential risks caused by refuse derived fuels;
- **Update on the Review of the Report on On-farm Feeding Practices** - Tim Riley ACAF's sub group Deputy Chairman will present the final conclusions on the review of the Committee's report on On-farm Feeding Practices. The Committee will then be asked to adopt the final report document;
- **British Society of Animal Science – Accreditation Register** - Members will receive an update from the British Society of Animal Science on the work this organisation is carrying out on the Accreditation of Animal Scientists and Animal Technologists; many of whom carry out research, teach, and advise on the feeding of farm animals.; and
- **Update on EU proposal on medicated feed** - a representative from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate will provide Members with information on European Commission proposals on revising the medicated feedingstuffs regulation.

Future meetings

Meetings of ACAF in 2016 are scheduled on:

- 17 June in Pilgrims House Aberdeen; and
- 27 October in Aviation House.

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

The next meeting of the ACNFP is scheduled to be held on 3 February. The Agenda has not been finalised.

The ACNFP is holding an open meeting on 4 February. Presentations are planned to be given on

- the new Novel Food Regulations and
- Novel food applications – what makes a good application.

This will be followed by smaller break out group discussions on

- Food and medicines continuum
- Alternative protein sources and
- Engineered nanotechnology with an emphasis on how they may contribute to a healthy diet

Recruitment of new members:

The ACNFP is recruiting 5 expert members:

- 2 experts in allergy 1 specialising in clinical allergy, and 1 in plant science,
- 1 expert in microbiology specialising in the gut,
- 1 expert in toxicology and
- 1 expert in molecular biology (GM).

Recruitment began during the week of 22 January and interviews are expected to be held in mid-March.

Committee on Toxicity (COT)

The COT will be meeting on 2 February and agenda items are as follows

- Potential future discussion items – horizon scanning
- Review of risks arising from the infant diet and the development of atopic and autoimmune disease: Systematic review C Part II – Dietary Exposures during Pregnancy, Lactation and/or Infancy for Reducing Risk of Allergic or Autoimmune Outcomes: a systematic review and meta-analysis. (Reserved Business)
- Enquiring About Tolerance (EAT) Study- A randomized trial of the early introduction of allergenic foods in breastfed infants. (Reserved Business)
- Third draft statement on the role of hydrolysed cow's milk formulae in influencing the development of atopic outcomes and autoimmune disease. (Reserved Business)
- Review of potential risks from arsenic in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years
- First draft addendum to the 2013 COT statement on potential risks from aluminium in the infant diet.

General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS)

GACS met on 1 October 2015.

This was the first meeting for Professor Alan Boobis as a GACS member. Professor Boobis attends the GACS meetings as Chair of the Committee on Toxicity of Chemical in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment.

Items discussed at the meeting included:

- the regular FSA Science Report to the Committee
- crosscutting issues in Science in the Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs), which included a presentation by the Chair of the Committee on Mutagenicity, Dr David Lovell, on the work of his committee
- an update on FSA Science, Evidence and Information (SEI) Strategy 2015-2020 and its Delivery Plan
- a presentation on the UK Agri-Tech Strategy Skills Analysis by Professor Robert Webb
- a presentation on the FSA work on Data Science by Robin Linacre and
- an update on the Review of the SACs by Susan Pryde

Details of the GACS 16 meeting, including the agenda and the meeting papers, can be found on the GACS website at:

<http://gacs.food.gov.uk/gacsmeets/gacs-meeting-1-october-2015>

Two new GACS Working Groups, on Risks and on Skills and Capabilities, held their first meetings in November 2015. Each will report back to the next GACS meeting.

The next GACS meeting will be held on 24 March 2016, details of which will be available on the GACS website.

Social Science Research Committee (SSRC)

16th biannual meeting, 28 September

The last Committee meeting of the SSRC was held on 28 September in Aviation House. At which, the following items were discussed:

- SACs Review
- SSRC horizon scanning outputs
- FSA SEI Strategy 2015-2020
- FSA Regulatory Strategy
- FSA Consumer Engagement
- FSA NI, FSA Wales and FSS update
- ACMSF update
- Sub-Groups, Working Groups and Advisory Groups updates

The papers for the meeting can be found here: <http://ssrc.food.gov.uk/meetings/ssrc-agenda-28-september-2015>

Horizon scanning workshop, 15 September

An SSRC horizon scanning workshop was held on 15 September 2015 in Aviation House. At this workshop, SSRC members were asked to respond to the following questions, which had been circulated to members in advance:

- Can you identify any emerging issues that might present a risk to the public?
- Is there any information that needs to be brought to the FSA's attention to help consumers make choices based upon current evidence?
- Are there any risks or opportunities associated with new food technologies?
- Are there any risks or opportunities arising for consumers as a result of the changing landscape of food production?
- Is there anything else to bring to the FSA's attention?

Outputs from the workshop are being prioritised and will be presented at the next Committee meeting.

Future:

- The next meeting of the SSRC will be on 15 April 2016.

**Secretariat
January 2016**