

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD**Information Paper****Update from the Scientific Advisory Committees****Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)****ACAF meeting 17 February 2016**

Representatives from Grain and Feed Trade Association and Environment Agency provided Members with information on the potential associated feed safety risks of refuse derived fuels stored at ports prior to export to other Member States for recycling into energy. Members agreed that the issues raised were central to the work of the Committee and that a further discussion would take place at ACAF's June 2016 meeting, with a view to the Committee providing recommendations and potential resolution of the problems highlighted during the presentations.

The Deputy Chairman of ACAF's 'On-farm Feeding' sub-group provided an update on the review of the Committee's 2003 report into On-farm Feeding Practices. Members of the Committee agreed to provide final comments to the ACAF Secretariat, prior to the document being sent to stakeholders for comment, with a view to the document being published prior to the Committee's June 2016 meeting.

Professor Colin Whittemore (University of Edinburgh) provided an update on the British Society of Animal Science's Register of animal scientists and technologists since the Register's launch in 2012. The Register is an international network assuring the competence, knowledge and career development of Members.

An official from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) provided members with an update on negotiations of the European Commission's proposal on medicated feeds. Members were informed that a third revision of the proposal of the medicated feed regulations had been produced.

The Committee was also provided with details of a European Commission Food and Veterinary Office (now renamed as DG SANTE's Directorate F – Health and Food Audits and Analysis) fact finding study visit to the UK that took place in January 2016. The visit was not an audit and was organised to examine the interaction between private certification schemes and official controls in the UK feed sector.

The next ACAF meeting is scheduled to take place in the offices of Food Standards Scotland in Pilgrim House, Aberdeen on 17 June 2016. The following items are on the agenda:

- Professor Derek Stewart (Leader of Enhanced Crop Productivity and Utilization Theme) from the James Hutton Institute will provide details on research being

undertaken on the use of home grown rapeseed meal and distiller's dried grains with solubles in diets for pigs and poultry in the UK

- Jacqui Angus (Food Standards Scotland) will provide an update on the progress made on earned recognition and on the animal feed review in Scotland.
- Members will receive a presentation from Professor Brett Glencross (University of Stirling) on an on-going project that the University of Stirling is undertaking with industry across the UK looking at the management of the use of avian protein products for use in the salmon feed industry.
- Angela Booth ACAF's sub group Chairman will present the final conclusions on the review of the Committee's report on On-farm Feeding Practices which was published prior to the meeting.
- Alexander Döring (General Secretary) FEFAC will provide a presentation on FEFAC's views on the recent EU Commission Communication on the Circular Economy and its potential impact on and implications for feed safety management along the feed supply chain.

Committee on Toxicity (COT)

COT had a meeting on 8th April. The following items were discussed:

- Follow-up paper on the submission for a reformulation of PAVA irritant spray – (Reserved business)
- Review of risks arising from the infant diet and the development of atopic and autoimmune disease: Systematic review B – Timing of introduction of allergenic foods to the infant diet: a systematic review and meta-analysis – (Reserved business)
- Review of potential risks from acrylamide in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years
- First draft statement on potential risks from arsenic in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years
- Second draft addendum to the 2013 COT statement on potential risks from lead in the infant diet
- First draft addendum to the 2013 COT statement on potential risks from aluminium in the infant diet

General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS)

A GACS meeting was held on 24 March 2016. The agenda, papers and final minutes are published¹.

Agenda items included:

- Report on Science in the FSA
- Triennial Review of the SACs - update and discussion on implementation of the recommendations
- Report on FSA evidence portfolio and future priorities
- Report from the working group on science skills and capabilities
- Report from the working group on risk
- Update on the new cross-SAC working group on the framework for foods that present an increased risk per serving

The Committee and its working groups will continue to operate within their current remit until such time as they hand over to a new FSA Science Council which will be set up in response to Recommendation 3 of the FSA's Triennial Review of its SACs March 2016².

The GACS Chair attended the FSA Board on 18 May at the invitation of the FSA Chair, to relay directly to the Board the concerns which GACS had raised with regard to the Triennial Review of the SACs at its meeting on 24 March.

Social Science Research Committee (SSRC)

The 17th biannual meeting of SSRC was held on 15 April in Aviation House.

Agenda items included:

- Update on the FSA programme on vulnerable groups and SSRC workshop
- Our Food Future – an update and next steps
- SSRC/ ACMSF joint working – foodborne viruses report
- Sixth report from the Strategy Sub-Group
- Triennial review – report and recommendations
- Update on Sub-Groups, Working Groups and Advisory Groups
- Science in the Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs)

[Papers](#) for the meeting can be found on the SSRC website.

**Secretariat
June 2016**

¹ <http://gacs.food.gov.uk/gacsmeets/>

² <http://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/triennial-review-sac.pdf>