

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD**Update from Other Committees****Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)**

The ACAF met on 17 October. The main agenda items were as follows:

Refuse Derived Fuels (RDF) – an industry code of practice drawn up by the RDF Industry Group (for which ACAF had provided input) had been published on 16 October 2017 and included advice on good practice when RDF is stored at ports which also store animal feed or food. The Committee's recommendations, on raising awareness amongst enforcement bodies and encourage better liaison between local authorities and the Environment Agency in relation to RDF were also being progressed.

Feed Additives – The Committee has discussed on several occasions optimum ways to communicate with the feed industry to emphasise the importance of compliance with maximum permitted levels set for certain feed additives in feedstuffs. The Committee considered a scoping paper and agreed that a working group would be convened to undertake a further scoping exercise to assess the size and potential length of the task, agree terms of reference and decide whether membership should be extended to external organisations and individuals.

Biostimulants - Two ACAF Members provided a presentation on the subject. The Committee agreed that further information was required before it could confirm that work was required by ACAF on this subject.

The next meeting of ACAF will be on 15 February 2018.

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

The ACNFP is planning to hold an open meeting on 22 February.

The Novel Food Regulations (EU) 1215/2283 came into effect on 1 January. EFSA are now doing the risk assessments for novel food applications, Member States assess traditional foods which is a new category of application and there are no substantial equivalent applications as the authorisations are no longer for individual companies/organisations but are generic. This will affect the ACNFP but it is too early to say how. There is still a role in the process for the ACNFP as it is still required to assess traditional foods.

The Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT)

The COT met on 13 December 2017 when the following items were discussed:

- Review of potential risks from ochratoxin A (OTA) in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years

- Review of potential risks from manganese in the diets of infants aged 0-12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years
- First draft statement of T2-toxin (T2) and HT2-toxin (HT-2) in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years
- Discussion paper on the potential risks from copper in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years
- Potential toxicological risks from e-cigarettes. Paper 1: Characterisation of the aerosol droplet particle fraction
- Statement on maternal and infant dietary exposures and risk of development of atopic outcomes and autoimmune disease
- Third draft guidance for submission of papers to COT regarding irritant sprays and information required.

Advisory Committee for Social Sciences

This newly formed FSA committee is in the process of recruiting a Chair and up to 9 members. The closing date for applications is 26 January. [Further information](#) can be found on the FSA website.

FSA Science Council

- The FSA Science Council held its second open meeting on 13 December 2017.
- The meeting included reports and discussion on the three working groups of the Science Council on: science capability and assurance; risk and uncertainty; food systems risks and horizon scanning.
- The Council received an update on FSA Science from the FSA Chief Scientific Adviser Guy Poppy and a short update on the FSA's preparations for the UK exiting the European Union.
- The Council discussed its future work programme, and its engagement with the FSA's Scientific Advisory Committees. There is an action for the Council Chair and CSA to discuss further how the Council could engage with the SACs.
- The meeting papers are published on the Science Council website at <https://science-council.food.gov.uk/>. Draft minutes will be published in January 2018.

Key dates for the future:

The Science Council Chair, Professor Sandy Thomas, will present her annual report to the Board at the open meeting on 14 March 2018.

The next Science Council meeting is planned for June 2018 in London (provisional date 27 June).

The Science Council will publish an Annual Report for 2017/18 in April/May.

Secretariat
January 2018