

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD**Information Paper****Update from other Scientific Advisory Committees****ACAF**

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs will be held in the FSA Scotland offices in Aberdeen on 28 September 2011.

Items for discussion include: Medicated feed issues; Animal By-products; Biofuels; and *Salmonella*.

Interviews for three vacancies on the Committee (toxicologist, animal nutritionist and feed manufacturer) took place on 3 June 2011. Jeff Rooker, Chair of the Food Standards Agency, has announced the appointment of Angela Booth, David Peers and Christine McAlinden as members of the Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF). Ms Booth's term of office will run from 1 September 2011 until 31 August 2014. The terms of office of Dr Peers and Mrs McAlinden will run from 1 December 2011 until 30 November 2014.

Background information on the new appointees can be found at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/board/acafmembios0811.pdf>

14th December 2011 - Provisional agenda items

Flame retardants;
Feed safety – potential gaps;
Forward work programme; and
Codex Task Force on Animal Feed.

COT

The Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment met on 13th September 2011, agenda items included:

- Use of toxicogenomics data in risk assessment
- Draft statement on a systematic review of the epidemiological literature on para-occupational exposure to pesticides and health outcomes other than cancer
- Draft statement on the FSA-funded T05 research programme on phytoestrogens
- WRAP risk assessment on anaerobic digestates and two papers for information
- FSA Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs) update
- Update on regulatory and biomonitoring activities with regard to phthalate esters

GACS

The General Advisory Committee on Science published its Annual Report for 2010-11 on 12 July, coinciding with the annual report in person by the GACS Chair to the FSA Board at the open Board meeting on 12 July.

- The GACS report is available at: <http://gacs.food.gov.uk/gacsreports/>
- Board meeting papers, agendas and audio/video recordings of discussions are available at: <http://www.food.gov.uk/aboutus/ourboard/boardmeetings/>

GACS holds its next, open meeting on 9 November 2011. The agenda is being finalised but discussions are expected to include:

- Report from the FSA Chief Scientist
- Science in the SACS (including a presentation from the ACMSF Chair, Professor Sarah O'Brien, on the work of the ACMSF)
- Responses to the reviews of the COT and the ACMSF
- Report from the Working Group on Strategic Evidence
- Responses to the consultation on the GACS framework for sharing data and funding with industry and NGO partners
- Update on science governance

SSRC

Members of the Social Science Research Committee have been advising the FSA, via advisory groups, on new research projects:

- social science evidence to support the review of Meat Controls
- Food Hygiene Rating Scheme/Food Hygiene Information Scheme evaluation
- a study to explore Kitchen practices and impact on food safety; and
- further work to improve our understanding of culture in regulatory bodies and food businesses.

The SSRC has also been working on its annual report for 2010/11 which it hopes to publish by the end of August.

The next meeting of the SSRC will be held on the 4th November, we welcome members of other SACs to attend as observers.

Secretariat
September 2011