

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD**  
**INFORMATION PAPER**

Update from other Scientific Advisory Committees

**Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)**

ACAF 8 May 2013 meeting

- A Member of the Committee provided an account of discussions held by the Advisory Committee on Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF) at its meeting on 31 January 2013 on antimicrobial resistance. The Member, who had been co-opted onto the ACMSF subgroup on this subject, asked the Committee for assistance in highlighting areas in relation to feed and antimicrobial resistance which could be raised at the ACMSF meeting.
- An official from the Food Standards Agency gave an update presentation on the implementation of the five work streams that have been developed following the outcome of the review of official feed controls which aims to deliver improvements to the current system. Members were encouraged that progress had been made to implement the work streams by April 2014. One of the work streams includes revision of the draft Code of Practice on Feed Law and Members agreed to provide the Secretariat with their comments on the proposed draft of the document. The Committee agreed that work to improve the delivery of official feed controls was an important area and therefore wished to receive regular updates on the work of the implementation team;
- The FSA Assessor asked the Committee to consider a paper that summarised its review of potential gaps in feed chain controls. Members agreed that the paper covered all of the Committee's views and findings and thanked the FSA assessor for its production. It was agreed that this topic will be periodically reviewed.
- A representative of the Pet Food Manufacturers Association and two industry representatives provided a presentation to ACAF Members on pet food issues including the re-authorisation of feed additives. The Committee sympathised with the issues raised and agreed to provide assistance where it can do so.

In June 2013 ACAF members provided comments on an ACNFP paper on effects of GM feed and non-GM feed in pig. The committee's comments were considered during the ACNFP's discussions at its meeting on 26 June 2013.

Date of future meetings

The next ACAF meeting is scheduled to take place in Aviation House on 9 October 2013. Provisional agenda items for this meeting include:

- iodine in animal feed - Members to consider the animal feed implications of the dietary intake of iodine in humans;
- insects as a potential source of animal feed - Members will receive a presentation from FERA officials on work being carried out to evaluate the potential for the generation of economically viable products from insects;
- consumer engagement - Members will receive a presentation from ACAF Member Ann Davison on consumer related issues.;
- feed law enforcement review implementation programme - Members will receive an update presentation from an Agency official on the Feed Law Enforcement Review Implementation Programme; and
- update on official controls 882/2004 - Members will receive a presentation from a Food Standards Agency official on developments in relation to the Official Food and Feed Controls EC 884/2004.

### **Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Practices (ACNFP)**

At the ACNFP's April and June meetings applications on the following novel foods were discussed:

Chia Seed Oil and Chia seeds

D-Ribose

Calanus Oil

Refined Oil from *Bugloisoides arvensis*

1-Methylnicotinamide Chloride (1-MNA)

Phytosterol esters – Extension of use

Pasteurised milk products treated with *Bacteroides xylanisolvens*

In addition in June the ACNFP discussed a toxicology study on pigs fed GM and non-GM diets and was updated on the discovery of GM wheat in a wheat field in Oregon.

### **General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS)**

The GACS Annual Report for 2012/13 was published in July and the GACS Chair presented his annual report in person to the FSA Board at its July open meeting:

GACS report: <http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/committee/gacs-fifth-report.pdf>

Board meeting: <http://www.food.gov.uk/about-us/how-we-work/our-board/board-meetings/board-meetings-2013/13-07-16/board-agenda-130716>

The next GACS meeting is on 8 October. Expected agenda items include:

- High-level challenge and assurance on FSA's use of science
- Science in the FSA - report on science activities and plans, and discussion
- Science in the SACs
- Review of GACS work plan and discussion of ideas for new working groups

- Presentation on FSA intelligence hub
- Report from the Working Group on Data Exploitation
- Report from the Working Group on the Use of Science in Emergencies

## **Social Science Research Committee (SSRC)**

The SSRC has agreed the recommendations on the Agency's future quantitative data needs.

The Agenda for the 12<sup>th</sup> SSRC committee meeting which is being held on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2013 includes:

- First Report from the ESRC Sub-Group
- First Report from the Strategy Sub-Group
- Review of Research Processes
- Research Priorities Update
- Working with Communications Division
- Update on Recommendations
- Review of Forward Work Plan

Members of the SSRC also continued to advise the Agency on key pieces of social science research:

### **1. Food and You Survey:**

As part of their review of the Agency's quantitative data needs the Committee recommended commissioning waves 3 to 5 of Food and You.

### **2. Domestic Kitchen practices:**

This study explored kitchen practices in 20 case study households via a mixed method approach, including observation and depth interviewing. The study also included a small feasibility study to assess the possible application of activity recognition devices and how they may help in understanding kitchen practices. The research was published in July 2013. <http://www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/news/2013/jul/kitchen-life>

### **3. Evaluation of Food Hygiene Rating Scheme/Food Hygiene Information Scheme:**

In June the "business display of food hygiene ratings in England, Wales and Northern Ireland" was published and can be found at <http://www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/news/2013/jul/food-hygiene-rating-display-research>