

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2006/07

Secretariat August 2006

ACAF Work Plan 2006/07

Topic	Progress
The manipulation of animal feed to enhance the nutritional value of food.	The Committee received a presentation from Dr Minihane of Reading University on manipulating feed to affect the 'fat' content of animal products for human consumption at its meeting on 30 November 2004. The Committee also discussed the issue at its meetings in February and April 2005. Plans are being progressed to hold an exploratory workshop in conjunction with the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) 2006.
Non-feed use of additives (boluses, additives in water, etc.)	Presentation planned for the November 2006 meeting.
Aquaculture.	<p>The Committee considered aquaculture at its meeting on 25th June 2003. The Committee also visited a fish farm in Scotland. The Secretariat will look for opportunities to bring this important subject area back before the Committee.</p> <p>EFSA has issued an opinion on astaxanthin and intends to issue opinions on other colours in fish feed. No firm timescale currently available.</p>
EC proposals on feed labelling.	The Committee had an initial discussion on the forthcoming EC proposals on feed labelling at its meeting in April 2006. The Commission intends to issue its proposals in 2007.
EC Feed Hygiene Regulation (183/2005) and related issues.	The Committee discussed the microbiological criteria provision in the Feed Hygiene Regulation at its meetings in April 2005 and November 2005. The Committee will be kept informed of progress via regular EC development information papers and discussion papers.
Herbal additives.	At its meeting on 8 February 2005 the Committee had a brief discussion on the use of herbal additives. EFSA are currently

	undertaking a self-tasking study on the assessment of herbs, essential oils and other plant products as "additives" for use in animal nutrition.
The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition's (SACN) Vitamin A Report.	Specifically the recommendation ¹ on animal feed – was discussed at the July 2005 meeting. The Agency's Animal Feed Unit is pursuing this matter with the European Commission and EFSA.
To be aware of animal welfare implications arising out of the use of certain feeds or feed management.	Yet to be considered in isolation, but regularly arises during discussions.
Feed issues relating to organic production.	Yet to be considered.
Nanoscience	The Committee discussed nanotechnology and the impact on animal feed at its meeting in February 2006 and agreed to put the subject on its forward work programme.
Imports of feed materials – information flow, sampling, testing and inspection, movement of small consignments of ingredients which are used at low concentrations, etc. ²	Yet to be considered.
Use of co-products. ²	Yet to be considered.
Proportionate regulation in relation to animal feed. ³	Yet to be considered.
The use of feed co-products from the production of biofuels.	Yet to be considered.
The presence of acrylamides in animal feed.	Yet to be considered.

Continuous work:

GM issues.	The Committee receives a report from the GM Sub-group Chairman at every meeting and has agreed to consider GM topics in more depth at least twice a year.
Horizon scanning.	The Committee regularly horizon scans for topics of future consideration.

¹ A reduction in retinol content of poultry and livestock feed as part of a strategy to reduce the retinol intake of regular consumers of liver should be explored further. The implications of lower levels of retinol supplementation for the welfare and productivity of poultry and livestock would need to be determined should such a strategy be considered.

² Suggestion by DARDNI.

³ Suggestion by Defra.

<p>European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) work in relation to animal feed.</p>	<p>The Committee received a paper on the work of EFSA at its meeting on 21 September 2004 and the ACAF Secretariat met with EFSA representatives at their offices on 12 January 2005. An EFSA representative attended ACAF's meeting in September 2005 to give a presentation on the work EFSA do in relation to animal nutrition. Contact will be maintained with EFSA's FEEDAP Panel and Secretariat.</p>
<p>Discussions on future EFSA Opinions on additives and contaminants in animal feed.</p>	<p>The Committee will discuss EFSA opinions on additives and contaminants in animal feed when appropriate.</p>
<p>To make proposals for R&D and surveillance projects as the need is identified.</p>	<p>The Committee make suggestions for R&D and surveillance work when necessary.</p>
<p>The Committee to receive regular updates on EU developments as they affect animal feedingstuffs and to advise/comment on the UK negotiating line.</p>	<p>The Committee receives updates on relevant feed items at every meeting.</p>