

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE WELSH FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Executive Summary

1. The attached report provides an update on issues emanating from the Welsh Food Advisory Committee.
2. The Board is invited to **note** the report by the Chair of the Welsh Food Advisory Committee. **No action** is required.

Food Standards Agency Wales

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REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE WELSH FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE**Advisory Committee Meetings**

1. The Welsh Food Advisory Committee held a closed meeting on 17 January 2006. The meeting was preceded by a tour of the ADAS Research Centre at Pwllpeiran, Ceredigion. The Research Centre is primarily concerned with the development of sustainable agriculture systems relevant to the UK uplands, and to establish a focal point in Wales for agricultural, agri-environmental, and agri-food research. The visit to the Centre provided the opportunity to see a wide range of experimental work being undertaken at the centre. In particular, Members observed a range of clean carcass projects being carried out by the centre on behalf of the FSA.
2. In closed session, the Committee considered the report commissioned by the Chief Medical Officer for Wales on the recent outbreak of *E Coli* 0157 in S Wales. Additionally, as the meeting was the last closed meeting to be chaired by Mrs Ann Hemingway, both the Chair of WFAC and the Director in Wales took the opportunity to facilitate discussions on the key issues which WFAC might need to address in the future, within a changing environment. This included discussion of the challenges facing the Agency as a result of the level of funding provided for its work in Wales.
3. The open meeting, which followed the next day, was held at the Aberystwyth Arts Centre, University of Wales, Aberystwyth. This was a themed open session on "Meat and Agricultural issues. A series of presentations from the Agency were provided. The introductory presentations featured an overview of the Food and Feed Hygiene regulation, which came into force in January 2006 providing background and information on the specific implementation of the Regulations within Wales. These were followed by a general BSE update session commencing with generality of OTM rule change, implementation / testing / Implementation Review Group (IRG) meetings, and other BSE issues including BSE in sheep.
4. The Committee observed a presentation from the Meat Hygiene Service, which detailed implementation of the BSE testing regime at Caernarfon abattoir.

Additionally, the Committee was updated on FSA research being undertaken to inform consideration of the possible future production of skin-on – sheep, which is currently illegal.

Forward Look

5. Please note that items listed are provisional, and are therefore subject to change.

DATE	VENUE	AGENDA ITEMS
21/22 February 2006	Closed business meeting and briefing session. Cardiff	Covering issues for 8-9 March Board and to include folic acid.
28/29 March 2006	Open business meeting North Wales	Covering issues for Board on 5/6 April.
23 May 2006	Awayday (Closed) Cardiff	Review feedback on previous meetings; WFAC performance etc.
6/7 July 2006	Closed business meeting. Open evening meeting themed. Brecon/Mid Wales	Covering issues for 12/13 July Board. Linked to community engagement including practical activity (e.g. linked to Get Cooking).

Other Activities

6. Mrs Hemingway attended a reception hosted by the British Nutrition Foundation on 24 November 2005.

7. Mr Gardner, the newly appointed Chair of the Advisory Committee, met a range of Agency officials and stakeholders, and initial meetings with other stakeholders including the Welsh assembly Government are being arranged.