



## General News

### Weather Dominates

Ireland experienced a prolonged period of drought which we have not seen since 1976. However, rainfall came in well above average these past seven days thanks to much needed heavy rainfall, which has occurred on occasion since Friday last. A lot of the country recorded twice the average rainfall in fact, with the highest totals across the southeast (44mm).

Despite high totals for the main, rainfall came in slightly below normal across parts of the north midlands and north, where rainfall totals amounted closer to 15mm. From Friday onwards the signal is for drier conditions as high pressure builds and temperatures climb. As a result, the rainfall over the coming 7-week period will be quite sporadic and generally no more than average. The highest totals are likely across the west and northwest, below average in turn elsewhere, especially in the southeast with less than half the usual rainfall here.

The pattern of high temperatures and lack of rain has also persisted in Northern European and Baltic regions since early June which has the inevitable consequence of reducing the predictions of EU cereal and oilseed production for



the 2018 harvest.

Copa Cogeca (the farmer and agri cooperative representative body in the EU) released new estimates for this year's EU grain harvest on 2nd July, forecasting a 6% drop in EU cereal and oilseeds production, due to extreme weather conditions in a press release. Working Party Chairman Max Schulman said *"Farmers in some Central European and Northern countries - Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Germany and Finland - have been hit by severe drought, which is reaching catastrophic proportions. Whilst some southern countries (Iberian Peninsula, Italy, France) have been experiencing floods"*.

### Inter-Agency Fodder Committee



The Inter-Agency Fodder Committee was set up at the behest of Minister Michael Creed where he asked Teagasc to co-ordinate the re-building of national fodder stocks. IGFA sits on

this committee and continues to work closely with the Minister. for Agriculture Food & Marine, Michael Creed T.D and other stakeholders to work our way through the forage crisis. **Fodder crisis conference call continues fortnightly for members.**



On 24<sup>th</sup> July the Minister met with EU Agriculture Commissioner Phil Hogan, to brief him on the impact on farming in Ireland, of the exceptional and

persistent dry weather conditions.

He also called in the banks to impress upon them the need for their continued support for the sector through this difficult period. IGFA has requested information as to the detail of these discussions and clarity on how banks "intend to respond" to the crisis. Information on the level granularity of these discussions and intentions is vital so that industry can make decisions on levels of merchant credit required over the coming months Following on from his recent request, Minister Creed secured agreement from the Commissioner at the meeting to pay higher advance payments in the autumn. As a result, advances for pillar 1 and pillar 2 payments will be increased to 70% and 85% respectively, resulting in €260 million in additional cash flow for Irish farmers at a time of the year when the needs are most acute.

Minister Creed also used the occasion to ask the Commissioner to expedite consideration of his request for certain flexibilities on the [GLAS](#) (Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-Environment Scheme) scheme, which can assist in *replenishing* fodder stocks in advance of the winter period. Concluding the meeting Minister Creed said;

*“There is no doubt that the current weather events are exceptional and are causing real difficulty for farmers. Navigating the period ahead will require real solidarity from state agencies, banks, the farming community, feed merchants, co-ops and processors. I would call upon all stakeholders to recognise the exceptional circumstances obtaining at present and I would like to assure farmers that I will remain engaged with all stakeholders to help address the issues over the coming period.”* For more information, see [link](#)

In the meantime, IGFA has prepared a standard calculator showing the possible extent of the fodder short fall. **At present the expectation is that we could see an increased demand of over 70 % for beef and dairy rations.** The strain this will put on supply chain will be intense over the coming months.

In order to ensure we deliver feed to farms and cope with harvest during the month of August, the Association, has requested a **pragmatic approach to Tachograph hours** for delivery of compound feed and feed materials.

## IGFA Welcomes IOWA Soybeans

Thanks to staff @LouisMcAuley for welcoming @IowaSoybeans while coping with feed moving to farms in July drought.



## WTO / Trade / Brexit

The EU and US have agreed to move towards zero tariffs, reduce trade barriers and to increase trade in services. This has eased tensions between the two trading blocks where farmers on both sides of the Atlantic were increasingly concerned that agriculture would bear the brunt of a ratcheting up of a trade war. The EU feed industry, oil crushers and traders had pleaded with the EU trade representative not to include US soybeans on the list for potential tariffs this autumn.

**On the 24th July, US** President Trump announced a \$12 billion payment for Soybean farmers to compensate them for the loss of the Chinese market due to retaliatory tariff from china. The USA has an

AMC (amber box) quota of \$19 billion under WTO rules. Only \$4 billion of this quota is used presently and the USA argues that this still leave them well within their amber box boundaries. The USA does provide support to soybean farmers under the de minimus rules, where by 5% of the total crop value can be given to farmers in direct crop subsidies or export promotion programmes. It is expected the \$12 billion will be challenged at WTO level along with the USA de minimus spending.

**On July 24<sup>th</sup> the UK** circulated its draft “schedule of concessions tariffs and amber box quotas” to the WTO. This is a first and extremely important step to the UK becoming an independent member of the WTO and paving the way for FTAs with third countries and the EU post Brexit. The aid to farmers is expected to be capped at €5.9 billion as the UKs commitment to reducing subsidies. The EU and the UK had agreed to divide existing quotas and country concessions on a 3-year historical basis. Once a product enters the EU it is not reliably tracked throughout the EU by customs. In the case of Argentinian beef, the EU controls a Quota of 29,000 T and EU licence figures show 99.6% of this beef goes to the EU with 111 tonnes going directly to the UK. This figure is almost certainly lower than actually consumed in the UK and will not be acceptable to Argentina. Similar complications arise with the number of trades (in both directions) that take place for beef and milk for the UK and Ireland. Brazil, Argentina, Canada, USA, NZ & Thailand has notified their disagreement by letter in November 2017. The EU agreed with member states in June 2018 to enter full negotiations on the new schedules. It is unclear at the moment how the UK will react; as protracted negotiations may force the UK to rethink its position. The notification from the UK is in the form of a technical rectification note. **IGFA has requested access to the schedules through DAFM.**

## IGFA Web Site - What's new this month

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| GENETICALLY<br>MODIFIED FEED | Regulations page has updated with link for GMO authorisation dossier's tracking see <a href="#">link</a> |
|------------------------------|--|

## Dates

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Aug 19<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup></b>  | <a href="#">International Association for Plant Biotechnology Congress Dublin</a> |
| <b>Aug 21<sup>st</sup></b>                   | Mill Manufacturing Workshop Horse and Jokey                                       |
| <b>Aug 30<sup>th</sup></b>                   | <a href="#">Seminar Sustainability in the Agri Food Sector NUIG Galway</a>        |
| <b>Sept 26<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup></b> | <a href="#">Feed Additives Amsterdam 2018</a>                                     |
| <b>Sept 25<sup>th</sup></b>                  | Feed Committee Meeting  |
| <b>Oct 3<sup>rd</sup></b>                    | Feed Forum The Killeshin Hotel  |
| <b>Dec 11<sup>th</sup></b>                   | Feed Committee Meeting  |

## Consultations/ Websites

[Commodity Price Dashboard](#)  
[DAFM Trader Notices](#)  
[DAFM Registered & Approved FBO's](#)  
[DAFM FBO Forms](#)  
[DAFM Meat Market Weekly Figures.](#)

## RASFF Summary 1<sup>st</sup> July – 31<sup>st</sup> July

|                        |     |                                     |    |
|------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|----|
| Total                  | 322 | <i>Feed Premixtures</i>             | 1  |
|                        |     | <i>Feed additives</i>               | 1  |
| Food                   | 286 | <i>Feed material</i>                | 19 |
|                        |     | <i>Animal By products</i>           | 0  |
| Food contact materials | 13  | <i>Compound Feed</i>                | 0  |
|                        |     | <i>Herbs &amp; Spices</i>           | 0  |
| Feed Total             | 23  | <i>Pet food</i>                     | 2  |
|                        |     | <i>nuts, nut products and seeds</i> | 0  |

## Technical News

### DAFM Results of Residue Testing

#### Results of Residue Testing in 2017 Shows Continued High Levels of Compliance

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine released the results on 15<sup>th</sup> July of testing carried out under the **National Residue Control Plan (NRCP)** in 2017 with the overall rate of compliance remaining at an extremely high level of 99.7%. The NRCP covers testing for banned substances, approved veterinary medicines, pesticides and environmental contaminants.

Samples were tested across all 8 food producing species (bovine, ovine, porcine, equine, poultry, farmed game, wild game and aquaculture ) as well as milk, eggs and honey.

|                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Samples Tested              | 18,513 |
| Compliant tests results     | 18462  |
| Non-compliant tests results | 51     |
| % Compliant                 | 99.7%  |

Most samples are taken in accordance with criteria designed to target animals or products that are more likely to contain illegal residues ('targeted sampling'). This high level of compliance has been consistent going back to 2013 and the Department welcomes this as a positive indicator of the continued responsible approach adopted by producers in general. Just 51 samples were non-compliant and of these the majority related to residues of authorised medicines. Risk evaluations by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland

were carried out in response to each result and it was found that there was no unacceptable food safety risk to consumers. In these circumstances, none required a recall of products from the market. In all cases where positive results were found, a follow up investigation takes place at the farm of origin.

Results from the extensive testing under the NRCP in 2017 indicated the absence of illegal administration of growth promoting hormones and other banned substances to food-producing animals in Ireland. Click on [link](#) to download the complete 2017 Residues Report

## Ruling on New Plant Breeding Techniques (NPTBs)



In 2016 the Confederation Paysanne, a French organisation representing small scale producers, brought an action before the Council of State in France It was contesting the French legislation, which **exempts product obtained by mutagenesis** from obligations under EU deliberate release GMO legislation (2001/18). **Mutagenesis is the process**

**whereby the genome of a plant can be altered without the insertion of DNA from another plant (transgenesis).** European researchers and plant breeders, have developed NBTS based on mutagenesis, to develop resistant and tolerant plants, to replace the use of transgenics, in the hope that these new varieties, could avoid the regulatory hurdles of the GMO directives.

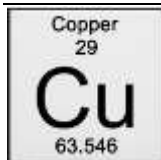
Traditional plant breeding relies on mutagenesis to develop new varieties by using chemicals or radiation to alter the genome sequences. As the case was referred to the European Court of Justice ECJ, this month they found that **"organisms obtained by Mutagenesis are GMO within the meaning of the Directive, in so far as the techniques and methods of mutagenesis alter the genetic material of an organism in a way that does not occur naturally".** The court also ruled that the legislation does not apply to existing techniques that have a long history of safe use.

Industry has reacted with shock to the decision as the ECJ decision runs contrary to the advocate general's opinion and this rarely happens. They also regret the fact, that new techniques that are more specific, better targeted and better controlled, will be regulated tighter, than old conventional breeding techniques, that are less predictable and do not come without risk.

It is also pointed out, that mutagenesis occurs naturally in plants and therefore these techniques should not be considered GMOs. The NGOs are delighted with the ruling, as they see NPBTs as GMO.2, and see it as a

victory for consumers and small farmers. US Secretary General Sonny Perdue describes the ECJ ruling (C-528/16) as a “setback as it narrowly considers newer genome editing methods to be within the scope of EU’s regressive & outdated regulations governing GMO”. He added that “global regulatory treatment of genome – editing agricultural products has strategic innovation and trade implications for US agriculture”. The issue of NBTS along with existing GMO breeding is seen by the feed industry, as another possible barrier to trade and possible block on essential feed material to EU livestock farmers.

## Copper Reauthorisation



If **animals** are **deficient** in **copper** signs include, poor growth and appetite occurs due to gut health problems, along with coat changes in texture and colour/pigment, bone fractures, diarrhoea (scour), anaemia (lack of iron) and fertility issues. However, high levels of copper (higher than the nutritional needs) are excreted by the animals and may then pose a threat for the environment. This is why in 2016, EFSA’s Panel on Additives and Products or Substances used in Animal Feed (FEEDAP) published an opinion to reduce the current total copper levels of **170 mg/kg** complete feed until 12 weeks of age down to **25 mg** per kg of feed regardless of age. **Fortunately**, the **European Commission** listened to **FEFAC** (feed industry experts including **igfa**) who proposed more realistic options, taking the environment, animal performance and health into consideration.

**Background:** Upon review of all the scientific literature (including [Paul Bikker et al.](#) from Wageningen University and Research Centre in the Netherlands) FEFAC experts challenged this opinion. **Firstly**, the proposed reduction levels were based on American trials where the piglets no matter which test groups with different copper levels all received medicated feed (220 mg tetracycline) and results showed that lowering the copper to 25 mg there was no impact on performance or growth nor faecal scores. **Secondly**, it is a known fact that when copper levels are dramatically reduced, then the need to use antibiotics increases due to for example gut health problems, often showed by abnormal faecal consistency scores. So, the fact that these trials formed a basis where the pigs were medicated is neither a realistic nor a valid scenario for the feed industry or farmers. **Thirdly** the use of more antibiotics as a result of reduced copper levels is not what responsible farming is about. On a global level, AMR is high on the agenda and the livestock sector, in particular in the EU, is required to implement animal health management strategy to reduce the need for antibiotics, so proposing changes in animal nutrition that will clearly lead to an increase

in antibiotic use is not what the end consumers, the EU and the livestock sector want the opposite.



Summary of the changes

| Old (EC) No 1334/2003                   | New (EU) 2018/1039 published 23 <sup>rd</sup> July  |
|---|---|
| Bovines before the start of rumination: | Bovines before the start of rumination: 15 (total)  |
| Milk replacers - 15 (total)             |   |
| Other complete feedingstuffs 15 (total) |   |
| Other bovines: 35 (total).              | Other bovines: 30 (total).  |
| Ovines: 15 (total).                     | Ovines: 15 (total).   |
|   | Caprines: 35 (total)  |
| Piglets up to 12 weeks 170 (total)      | Piglets:<br>suckling and weaned up to 4 weeks after weaning: 150 (total). —<br>from 5 <sup>th</sup> week after weaning up to 8 weeks after weaning: 100 (total) |
| Other Pigs 25 (total)                   |   |
| Fish 25 (total)                         |   |
| Crustaceans: 50 (total)                 | Crustaceans: 50 (total)   |
| Other species 25 (total)                | Other animals: 25 (total)   |

We will provide you with more details including the transition periods in next months Feed Issues

**Feed labelling Reminder**  
 Members of IGFA committee suggested (Sept 2016) that advisory statements could be used on labels to communicate to farmers the need to check with technical experts before providing extra mineral sources. This was as a result of concern by Milk Processors of over supplementation of trace elements. The following statements were suggested

1. No additional trace elements should be fed without specific nutritional advice
2. No additional minerals or feeding stuffs containing minerals should be fed without consulting expert technical advice
3. No additional sources or minerals or feeding stuffs containing minerals, should be fed without consulting a nutritionist or feed advisor
4. Do not exceed the maximum intake guidelines