

General News

IGFA Energy Workshop

IGFA held an energy workshop on 5 October 2022 in Portlaoise. Keith Donnelly & Denis McCarthy from [Kore Energy Consultancy](#) gave a detailed presentation on energy procurement and risk management followed by a presentation by Ray Lawlor CEO [ICM Computer Systems](#) on Improving mill efficiency. The final presentation was given by Cormac McCarthy [Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland](#) on Grants and resource. IGFA wishes to thank Peter Bolger who chaired the



workshop and ensured it ran efficiently and smoothly. All of the presentations are available for all members to download [here](#).

Ukraine - 8th Package of EU Trade Sanctions

The 8th package of EU sanctions came into effect on 7 October 2022. The major trade-related elements of the package, which are set out in. To view details of these sanctions visit [EU trade sanctions in response to situation in Ukraine - DETE \(enterprise.gov.ie\)](#)

Ukraine - Black Sea Grain Initiative

The UN-backed deal that reopened Ukraine's ports to feed countries around the world was suspended by Russian on Saturday 29 October. This agreement between Ukraine & Russia - major grain exporters - was brokered by the UN & Turkey in Istanbul on July 22 and was due to expire on Nov 19.

Russian says the suspension is as a result of drone attacks on ships at its naval base of Sebastopol in Crimea. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said Russia was using the attack as a "false pretext" for blocking the "grain corridor which ensures food security for millions of people."

Media reports are suggesting that Moscow stands ready to "replace Ukrainian grain" & deliver supplies of up to 500 000 tonnes to developing countries at affordable prices over the next four months. The UN is continuing to negotiate with Russia to renew the initiative, with António Guterres Secretary-General of the United Nations, delaying his departure to attend the Arab League Summit in Algiers for one day to try to resolve the impasse (due to be held on Nov 1-2).

Autumn 2022 Short Term Outlook Report

DG AGRI has published the Autumn 2022 edition of the short-term outlook report. The consequences of the Russian war in Ukraine continue to have an impact in the EU through surging energy prices, increasing input costs and food inflation. In addition to geopolitical instability, the EU recorded one of the hottest summers in history, which significantly affected summer crops, such as maize, soybeans and sunflower. Despite this the report says that the EU agricultural sector is standing strong and food availability is no longer at risk. Moreover, EU exports of cereals are expected to reach 51 million tonnes, which is 6.5% above last season and 20.9%

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WHAT'S ON

Teagasc Nov events [read more](#)

Signpost Series Webinars - Teagasc [read more](#)

Nov 3 Meeting with FSA and BAFSAM

Nov 21 SPS meeting (Halal feed)

Nov 23 FEFAC Feed Safety meeting

RASFF 'S Oct 2022

Total food & feed	363
Total feed	17
Feed materials	10
Compound feed	2
Animal by product	1
Pet food	4

[read more](#)

Read the October Teagasc Signpost newsletter [here](#)

Read Lyons Systems Research Notes [here](#)



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above the five-year average.

On macroeconomic issues EU natural gas prices will remain high and volatile especially due to uncertainties in Russian supplies and EU consumer prices for food are expected to increase by +14,7%, year-on-year. The prices of fertilisers remain 110% above 2019 levels, despite a reduction observed during summer on international markets, small for P and K, and more substantial for nitrogen. Container prices are still 330% above the 2019 level.

On agricultural commodities: in August prices were still 36% above the same month last year, the gradual resumption of international trade has brought international prices down from their earlier peaks. Uncertainty about geo-political developments in the Black Sea region and concern about the availability of feed in the drought-stricken regions are factors that may trigger increased price volatility in the months to come.

On arable Crops, usable cereal production is projected at 270.9 million t for 2022/23, a 5.1% decrease over the 5-year average (and a 7.8% decrease year-on-year). This is in no small part due to the drought conditions that affected maize in particular (-19.3% on the 5-year average).

Despite the temporary relaxation of greening rules to allow farmers to cultivate in a larger area, the area under cereals decreased by 1.3% compared to the 5-year average. The poor harvest, combined with high cereal prices and an anticipated decrease in meat production, is expected to reduce the use of cereals for feed by 2.3% year-on-year. Given the very low EU maize production and fodder shortage due to the drought, feed imports are expected to increase. Strong EU oilseed production (especially of rapeseed) is expected in 2022/23 (32.2 million t, +8.5% above the 5-year average). 2022/23 EU sugar production is forecast at 15.5 million t, 5.8% below the 5-year average as both beet planting area and yields were reduced. With a general decline in feed demand, feed use of protein crops overall is forecast to decline in 2022.23 by 1.3% to 3.27 million t.

The full report is [here](#) and includes the outlook for specialised crops, meat, milk and dairy products



2023 EU Work Programme

The European Commission has published its 2023 work programme entitled “A Union standing firm and united”. It contains 43 new policy initiatives across all policy areas. Those that impact directly or indirectly are the feed sector are listed below intent.

- Revision of food waste and textiles aspects of the EU waste framework Directive (legislative, incl. impact assessment)
- Legislation for plants produced by certain new genomic techniques (legislative, incl. impact assessment)
- Animal welfare – revision of EU legislation (legislative, incl. impact assessment)
- The legislative framework for sustainable food systems (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Q3 2023)
- Initiative on protecting, sustainably managing and restoring EU soils (legislative, incl. impact assessment)
- Greening corporate fleets initiative (legislative or non-legislative, Q3 2023)
- European critical raw materials act (legislative and non-legislative, incl. impact assessment)

It is worth noting the absence of details in the work programme on the publication of the Feed Additives legislation. We will aim to get more details on this but there are rumours that the revision of the feed additives legislation may be delayed due to lack of resources.

Environment News

The Societal Role of Livestock – Dublin Declaration

“The Societal Role of Meat – What the Science Says” was the topic of the two-day international summit hosted by Teagasc in Dublin on 19 October. Today’s food systems face an unprecedented double challenge

- 1 to increase the availability of animal-origin foods to help satisfy the unmet nutritional needs of an estimated three billion people in poorer areas of the world and
- 2 in tandem have regard to biodiversity, climate change and nutrient flows, as well as animal health and welfare within a broad ne health approach.

All summit attendees with academic and scientific credentials were invited to endorse the evidence base presented by signing the [‘Dublin declaration of scientists on the societal role of meat’](#). This declaration aims to give voice to the many scientists worldwide who research diligently, honestly and successfully to achieve a balanced approach to the future of animal agriculture. More information [here](#).

UK Government Consultation on Methane Suppressing Feed Products

At the start of October the UK Government launched a UK-wide [call for evidence](#) to gather information on the use of new types of animal feed products that can help reduce livestock methane emissions. The exercise is aimed at all agri stakeholders with the objective to consider the potential feed technologies available and barriers that could prevent their uptake. Feed additives are obviously a significant theme in the consultation and the responses should contribute to shaping future UK policy in that area. According to the UK government, agricultural greenhouse gas emissions have reduced by 16% since 1990 but more must be done by all sectors to achieve the target of net zero emissions by 2050.

Animal Health

Avian Influenza (AI) Update

On 26 October, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) subtype H5N1 was confirmed in a mute swan found in Co. Cavan. This is the first case of HPAI H5N1 found in a wild bird in an **inland area** since April 2022. Cases of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds since then had been confined to coastal areas. This case of HPAI H5N1 demonstrates that the virus is present in wild birds in an inland and poultry dense area of the country. For more information see DAFM bulletin of 27 October 2022 [here](#).

Technical News

Fraudulent use of Technical Fats as Feed

IZBA, the Polish Member Association of FEFAC informed FEFAC members of the official investigations into tax fraud regarding the use and supply of “**technical** vegetable fats” for feed use. The case was notified by the Polish authorities to the internal EU alert system. Due to the possible impact on the reputation of the feed sector FEFAC has been in contact with the commission and has set up a team, involving Polish and German member associations and experts from the FEFAC Feed Safety Management Committee, to assess whether there could be any safety issue linked to the case and/or potential breach of compliance with the EU feed hygiene legislation.

Official test results by the competent authorities in Poland of blocked lots of feed fats and compound feed containing them did not provide any evidence of exceeding feed safety standards for undesirable substances and pesticides. There was therefore no evidence of any feed safety challenge. The Feed Safety Management Committee will further investigate possible shortcomings, including at the level of private feed safety assurance schemes linked to this case (traceability and labelling, approval of establishments, audits) at its next meeting in late November. Commission officials will participate in the meeting to explain the functioning of the EU food fraud management policy and stakeholders’ engagement.



We encourage all our members to review your suppliers to ensure they are registered/approved with competent authorities and have adequate traceability systems in place (requirement of feed safety schemes and regulatory requirement). You can access Irish feed business and European feed business operators’ approval and registration details at the bottom of [igfa web site](#).

Pesticides - Update on Glyphosate approval

The current approval for glyphosate expires on 15 December 2022 and an implementing regulation to extend it by one year was voted on by member states at a meeting in mid-October. The majority of countries voted in favour but with large member states, including Germany and France abstaining from the vote and others voting against, the necessary qualified majority was not achieved. As a result of this ‘no opinion’ the Commission has asked member states to reconsider their positions and the proposal will be submitted to an Appeal Committee soon. EFSA is currently working to complete its scientific assessment/evaluation of glyphosate and the proposed extension would allow the results of that evaluation to be completed before decisions were made on its future approval. Germany has agreed to end the use of glyphosate nationally with a phase out date of 1 January 2024. France and Austria are doing similar and Luxembourg banned its use on 31 December 2020.

Other News

Brazilian Election

Brazil has taken a turn to the left as former president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva beat far-right incumbent Jair Bolsonaro in the presidential election. The veteran leftist politician, stated during his election campaign that the EU-Mercosur bilateral trade deal would be back on the table if he returned to power, striking an agreement “within six months.” His political opponent Bolsonaro, who was criticised for his mishandling of the COVID pandemic & the worst deforestation in the Amazon in over a decade, repeatedly threatened not to accept the result if defeated.