

General News

IGFA Annual Dinner 2023

The IGFA 48th Annual Dinner will take place on Thursday 26 January 2023 at 7pm in the Crowne Plaza Dublin Airport Hotel, Santry, Dublin 9. You can download the booking form and guidance document here [booking form](#) / [guidance document](#).

IGFA is planning a workshop on 'Understanding Environment Footprinting in the Animal Feed Sector' on the afternoon of the Annual Dinner from 3-5pm. Further details will be circulated to members over the coming weeks.

Ukraine - Black Sea Grain Initiative Update

Russia announced on 29 October that it would suspend its participation in the Black Sea Grain Initiative to export agricultural produce from Ukrainian ports. The deal, backed by the UN and Turkey, was agreed in late July and was due to expire on November 19. Many feared this would happen in the weeks running up to the end of October as there were significant rumblings from Moscow and claims that the agreement was disproportionately benefitting the EU.

However, on 2 November Russia reversed the suspension of the agreement after talks between Russian and Turkish leaders. Russia said that guarantees it had received on the functioning of the Initiative were adequate to allow the resumption of the agreement.

On 17 November, after further discussion and negotiations, Russia, Ukraine, Turkey and the UN announced that they had agreed on the renewal of the Black Sea Grain Initiative. The renewed agreement will last 120 days, from 20 November 2022 to 20 March 2023. Some reports indicate that there may be modifications to the original agreement that allow Russia to increase exports through the corridor. There also may be new measures included that help improve access to Ukrainian grain exports for vulnerable countries.

Since 1 August, nearly 12 MT of agri commodities have left Ukrainian Black Sea ports.

Update on Solidarity Lanes

The EU solidarity lanes were established in May 2022 to help Ukraine export its produce and to provide alternative routes for those exports at a time when Ukrainian ports were blockaded by Russia. These trade corridors are also used to ensure that Ukraine can import the goods it needs, including humanitarian aid. Given the political instability over recent months there has been a drive to make these lanes more stable, efficient and permanent.

On 11 November, European Commission President, Ursula van der Leyen announced an additional €1 Billion to invest in the improvement of the solidarity lanes. Funding will come from the EU, the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. A number of measures will be financed including mobile equipment to reduce waiting times and improve movement through the border crossing points, road and railway upgrades and cross border transport projects and infrastructure developments to further increase the capacity of the solidarity lanes.

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WHAT'S ON

Teagasc Dec events [read more](#)

Dec 6 IGFA Feed committee meeting

Dec 13 Teagasc will present Outlook 2023 [read more](#)

RASFF 'S Nov 2022

Total food & feed	374
Total feed	17
Feed materials	13
Compound feed	3
Pet food	1

[read more](#)

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

Read Lyons Systems Research Notes [here](#)



For more information or useful links visit www.igfa.ie or <https://twitter.com/IGFAie>

€60m Irish scheme to support fodder producers

The European Commission has approved a €60 million Irish scheme to support the producers of fodder. The aim of the scheme is to help agricultural companies deal with the impacts of Russia's war against Ukraine and it was approved under the State Aid Temporary Crisis Framework.

The aid will take the form of direct grants and (i) will not exceed €250,000 per beneficiary; and (ii) will be granted no later than 31 December 2023. The goal is to provide liquidity support to help deal with disturbances in the economy caused by the war including increases in energy and other input costs.

Commission publishes latest info on EU feed protein production and trade

The Commission has published the [latest information on EU feed proteins](#) giving a full overview of forecasts on EU production, trade (imports and exports) and domestic use of a broad range of feed protein sources. For 2022/2023 it highlights that

- feed demand is assumed to remain stable at 72 million tonnes in crude protein
- EU self-sufficiency for all sources of protein is expected to remain at 77%
- The EU remains fully sufficient in roughage, and it is still the main source of feed protein, representing 42% of total EU feed use.
- The share of all oilseed meals represents 27% of total feed protein use in the EU
- For oilseeds meals, the EU only produces 24% of what it needs to feed its livestock sector

The EU feed protein [Balance sheets by sector \(europa.eu\)](#) are also available and present the feed supply and demand of various protein sources. This includes crops (cereals, oilseeds and pulses), co-products (meals from crushing soya, rapeseed and sunflower as well as protein-rich materials that result from processed arable crops), non-plant-based sources (animal proteins, former foodstuffs) and roughage (grass, silage maize, fodder leguminous).

Revision of EU Plant Protein Plan

The [EU report on plant proteins](#) was first published in 2018 and found that there is growth potential for EU plant proteins in premium feed and food sectors. Agricultural Commissioner Wojciechowski announced this month that the 2018 report will be reviewed as part of the work plan for 2023.

A number of follow-up actions have been taken since the 2018 report including targeted support measures to increase the production of vegetable proteins in the new CAP national strategic plans, improved market analysis and research and innovation. The issue of EU dependency on imported protein used for feed has been discussed at length in recent years and is 'more relevant now than ever, given the war in Ukraine and record high feed costs'

The commission has highlighted that alongside economic benefits, increased plant protein production in the EU could also bring environmental benefits. Examining 'EU rules to reduce the dependency on critical feed materials (e.g. soya grown on deforested land) by fostering EU-grown plant proteins' was also discussed under the EU Farm to Fork Strategy as a means to help ensure sustainable food production.

In 2023 the commission will therefore review the scope, timing and form of the 2018 EU protein plan. A study will also be undertaken on EU feeding strategies which FEFAC will provide advice on.

Environment News

UN Climate Change Conference, COP - 27th Conference

The 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27), took place on 6-20 November 2022 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. The key take home messages from the event were;

- An agreement was reached to provide loss and damage funding for vulnerable countries affected by climate disasters. How the finances should be provided and where they will come from has not yet been agreed.
- The targets of the Paris and Glasgow COP agreements have been kept alive - to keep the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees within reach by 2030. A number of countries pushed for higher ambition but this failed to make the final text.
- Parties agreed that limiting global warming to 1.5°C required "rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions, reducing them by 43% by 2030 relative to the 2019 level,"
- With regard to fossil fuels, some countries wanted to include a commitment to phase down all fossil fuels. However, this was rejected. Agreements on mitigation measures only include a coal phase down (instead of a phase out).

European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen stated that although COP27 had “kept alive the goal of 1.5°C,” she said, “unfortunately it has not delivered on a commitment by the world's major emitters to phase down fossil fuels, nor new commitments on climate mitigation.”

COP27 - Agriculture sector roadmap 1.5°C

On 9 November 14 large food companies and global traders published their joint COP27 roadmap. It outlines targets for reducing emissions from land use change, covering crops and products linked to deforestation (palm, soy, cattle and cocoa). A calendar and sectoral commitments to “drive the transformation of commodity producing landscapes” and “support forest positive sector transformation” are also outlined. For example, with regard to soy, the roadmap sets out 2025 as the time-bound target for the removal of deforestation (Amazon Cerrado and Chaco Biomes). Companies involved include ADM, Amaggi, Bunge, Cargill, COFCO, and LDC. Read more [here](#)

Update on the implementation of the Biomethane Industrial Partnership (BIP)

On 25 October, DG ENER and the European Biogas association organised the technical launch of the Biomethane Industrial Partnership (BIP). This partnership aims to gather the biomethane stakeholders around the table to decide how to reach 35 billion cubic meters of biomethane produced annually by 2030 (the current annual production is 3bcm). As a possible additional deliverable, a database could be established to account for potentials from all resources, e.g. manure, industrial waters, municipal wastes and sludge, agricultural waste and residues, agro-industry and food waste, and for existing and innovative technologies. This potential database of possible biomethane resources is a long-standing FEFAC request to the Commission's services to design a proper Biomass balance sheet similar to the EU protein balance sheet.

ReFuelEU Aviation initiative and Renewable Energy Directive (RED)

A package of measures was published by the EU in July 2021 to address GHG emissions and a proposal to ensure a level playing field for sustainable air transport, also known as the ReFuelEU Aviation initiative was included. A point of concern for our sector within this proposal is the definition of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF).

Recently FEFAC, FEDIAF (the European pet food industry) & APAG (the European Oleochemical Industry) shared views with Brussels decision makers on the definition highlighting the danger that the proposed sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) definition represents for traditional users of animal fats Category 3. If the proposed definition for SAF is supported, then animal fats Category 3 would be permitted in the aviation sector. The increased competition for Category 3 animal fats from aviation could see large quantities of these animal fats being diverted from the pet food, animal feed and oleochemical sector.

FEFAC also highlighted two areas that will be damaging to the continued supply of vital feed materials if proposals on revising the RED are accepted.

- Creating a permitted feedstock list for stationary installations

Proposed changes may lead to the eligibility of the sugar industry co-products for stationary electricity generation. (EU Beet processors could move to use beet pulp for their own energy generation).

- Deletion of separate accounting rules for residues fit for use in the food or feed market

Molasses usually falls under the “residue” category although they are highly valorised co-products of the sugar industry. In national transposition, this leaves room for very variable interpretations. The proposed change would result in increased competition in our sector.

Both legislative proposals are currently being negotiated between the European institutions with an aim to reach agreement over the coming months.

Environmental Footprint of Feed - GFLI Database update

An updated version of the GFLI database (a collection of feed ingredient datasets collected through Life Cycle Assessment) was published on October 31, 2022. This updated version includes a variety of changes and new feed ingredients compared to the original November 2020 version. This database allows feed, livestock and aquaculture sectors to calculate the environmental footprint of products in a transparent and trustworthy manner, benchmark and make meaningful comparisons. You can download the latest version [here](#).

Animal Health

Avian Influenza Update

A second outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) subtype H5N1 was confirmed in a poultry flock (turkeys) in Co. Monaghan on 22 November. This outbreak has occurred in an area very close to the first outbreak. To mitigate the risk of spread of the disease, 3km protection and 10km surveillance zones were introduced around the outbreak. This places additional controls on the movement of poultry and poultry products within the zones. Movements into and out of the zones are also subject to licensing. Additional surveillance measures also apply within the restricted zones. For more information see DAFM bulletin of 23 November 2022 [here](#).

Mandatory use of NVPS – Medicated Feed

A further **deferral** for the requirement for a veterinary prescription for antiparasitic products and the introduction of the new electronic National Veterinary Prescription System (NVPS), which was scheduled for 1 December was announced on 24 November. The deferral is until the legislative process in the Oireachtas [read more](#). Following this announcement, IGFA on 30 November enquired with DAFM Jacqueline Mounsey of an expected time line for implementation of the NVPS. She advised the next steps are mostly out of DAFM's hands, but they are attempting to expediate as much as possible.

Technical News

Glyphosate - EU Commission poised to extend approval by one year

Member States delivered a 'no opinion' on a draft implementing regulation to extend the current approval period for glyphosate by one year at the Appeal Committee on GMOs that took place on 15 November. This result paves the way for the Commission to adopt the Regulation under its own authority by 14 December, immediately before the current authorisation period runs out in mid-December. This will extend the approval period of glyphosate by one year for farmers and growers until Dec 15, 2023. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) scientific reassessment of glyphosate will not be available before July 2023. An extension to the current authorisation was therefore necessary to provide legal certainty for stakeholders. Once the EFSA opinion is available, the Commission will bring forward a proposal for a regulation to reauthorise the active ingredient for the normal 10-year period. This regulation will once more go for vote at SCoPAFF level. It is not expected that member states will change their voting positions and the reauthorisation of glyphosate may be in question at that stage.

Aflatoxin B1 in maize (by-products): Change in Risk Profile for Hungary and Romania

As a result of the evaluation of the available results of Aflatoxin B1 in maize done by GMP+ International together with [other accepted scheme holders](#), the risk profile for Aflatoxin B1 has been adjusted as follows;

- Hungary - raised from medium to high
- Romania - raised from medium to high

This means that maize originating from Hungary and Romania must be analyzed more frequently. This new risk profile takes effect as from 23 November 2022. For more details [GMP+ Aflatoxin Protocol](#) and [TS 1.7 Monitoring - Appendix](#)

The Feed safety management committee within FEFAC recommended that the industry should also question the risk profile of neighbouring Bulgaria, Croatia, and Serbia. An increased level of Aflatoxin in Brazilian maize was also reported whereas the levels in the USA, although higher than normal, remain at a relatively safe level. Furthermore, the Committee asked the Feed Safety Standard Owners to provide a consolidated overview of their monitoring results as soon as possible.

Other News

Outlook 2023 - Economic Outlook for Irish Agriculture

Teagasc will present Outlook 2023 as a virtual event on the morning of Tuesday Dec 13th. For further information and to register please see <https://www.teagasc.ie/news--events/national-events/events/outlook-2023.php>

Optimize the energy consumption in the feed mill

Adisseo hosted an energy workshop on November 14, 2022. You can listen to a replay [here](#).

'Science on the Menu' podcast

Is it safe to eat insects? How is science helping us improve animal welfare? These are just some of the many questions EFSA discuss in their new podcast series 'Science on the Menu'. The podcast features conversations with scientists who help keep food safe in the EU and unexpected journeys into how we relate to our food. Tune into the first podcast [here](#).