

## General News

### IGFA Annual Dinner 2023

We were delighted to host our Annual Dinner in Dublin on 26<sup>th</sup> January and to have the opportunity to welcome members and guests from all over Ireland and abroad. After such a long break, it was clear that everyone was delighted to be back together, celebrating the Irish Feed Industry and enjoying time with colleagues. Thanks to everyone who helped organise the night and especially the staff at the Crowne Plaza Hotel who did such a wonderful job. Some pictures at the end of this newsletter.

### IGFA Environment Footprinting Workshop

On the afternoon of the IGFA Annual Dinner we hosted a workshop for members on Environment Footprinting in the Animal Feed Sector. It was a lively event with lots of discussion on a very important topic for our industry. For those members that could not attend, the recorded presentations and powerpoint slides are available [here](#). Our training pages have a different password to the usual IGFA website one. If you can't remember yours, please email [cornelia.oconnell@eorna.ie](mailto:cornelia.oconnell@eorna.ie)



### Trader Notice on Animal Feedingstuffs Production Statistics Returns

The first trader notice of 2023 was published on 25 January asking feed manufacturers that have not yet completed and returned the 'Animal Feedingstuffs Quarterly Statistics Returns' to DAFM, to do so as a matter of urgency. The trader notice emphasises the importance of the data, not just to inform policy but also for the feed industry itself to analyse trends in production.

The returns were requested from the industry by 30 December 2022 and are now overdue. The document notes that failure to submit these returns by January 31<sup>st</sup> will result in an infringement being issued. Full details [here](#)

### Update on monitoring of Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) Black Sea Grains Initiative & EU solidarity lanes

JCC Black Sea Grains Initiative - As of 27 January, the total tonnage of grain and other foodstuffs exported from the three Ukrainian ports is 18,653,928 metric tons. A total of 1,354 voyages (678 inbound and 676 outbound) have been enabled so far.

This week, the JCC has noted issues of non-compliance by ships' captains that slow inspections and have led to administrative measures for certain vessels. Currently, 33 vessels are waiting for inspection, 12 of them waiting to move into Ukrainian ports and 21 are loaded with cargo and waiting to sail to their global destinations.

EU solidarity lanes - No official monitoring of the EU solidarity lanes exists but there is data available from the Ukraine authorities. The Ukraine government reported that since the beginning of the war, foreign trade in agricultural products reached 41 267 990 tons. As the JCC reported that up to 18, 653 928 tons of products were exported via sea, this indicates that approximately 22 614 963 tons of products were exported via EU solidarity lanes.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

IGFA Annual Dinner 2023	1
Env. Footprinting Workshop	1
Animal Feedingstuffs	1
Production Statistics Returns	
Black Sea Grains Initiative & EU solidarity lanes	1
Swedish Presidency Priorities for the next 6 Months	2
Data & Trends European Food and Drink Industry2022	2
Domestic Cereals Used in Animal Feed 2021	2
Gafta Contracts Training	2
Environmental News	2
Technical News	4
IGFA Annual Dinner Photos	5

### RASFF 'S JAN 2023

TOTAL FOOD & FEED	316
TOTAL FEED	15
FEED MATERIALS	13
PET FOOD	1
FEED ADDITIVES	1

[READ MORE](#)

### RASFF 'S DEC 2022

TOTAL FOOD & FEED	364
TOTAL FEED	18
FEED MATERIALS	13
PET FOOD	5

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Read January Teagasc Signpost newsletter [here](#)

Read Lyons Systems Research Notes [here](#)



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## Swedish Presidency Priorities for the next 6 Months

Sweden took over the rotating presidency of the EU at the start of January until the end of June. One of the key priorities for our sector will be addressing the issues caused by Russia's war in Ukraine and specifically the monitoring of agricultural markets and the impacts on farm input prices, especially fertilisers. They also intend to advance discussions on the legal framework for plants produced using new genomic techniques and progress the regulation on the sustainable use of plant protection products. On other food related priorities, they will work on legislation covering Geographical Indications (GIs), emissions from agriculture, nutrition information for consumers and continue discussion amongst member states on the proposal for a Farm Sustainability Data Network (FSDN).

## Data & Trends of the European Food and Drink Industry 2022

FoodDrink Europe's latest [Data & Trends 2022](#) report is now available, providing statistics and insights on the EU food and drink industry.

The report shows that the EU food and drink industry employs 4.6 million people, generates a turnover of €1.1 trillion, and €230 billion in value-added, making it one of the largest manufacturing industries in the EU. In half of the EU's 27 Member States, the food and drink industry is the biggest manufacturing employer. The report also provides an outlook on markets and highlights that about 60% of EU food and drink exports are destined for the Single Market. At the same time, the EU is the largest exporter of food and drink products in the world with exports outside the EU reaching €156 billion and a trade surplus of €73 billion.

The report also provides some data on feed:

- Exports of animal feed amount to €20 billion in 2021 (€14 billion intra-EU exports vs €6 billion Extra-EU exports). The top 3 export destinations for animal feeds and pet foods were UK, Russia and US.
- Imports of animal feed amount to €2.2 billion in 2021 – an increase of 1% compared to the previous year.
- Compared to 2020 animal feed enjoyed double-digit growth in 2021.

## Domestic Cereals used in Animal Feed 2021

IGFA has been emphasising to DAFM the importance of having up to date information on the inclusion of native grains in Irish animal feed. DAFM has therefore restarted publishing this information. The most recent figures for 2021 are available on the IGFA website [here](#). DAFM is currently gathering the data for 2022 and we will let members know as soon as it is available.

## Gafta Contracts Training



The next training course will be held on line in two 3 hour sessions on the mornings of 22 and 24 March. The course is aimed at trade professionals who need to have an understanding of what to expect when dealing with Gafta contracts within their role. At the end of day 2 of the seminar there will be a short quiz to assess what you have learnt. This will be sent online and submitted to Gafta. After successfully passing this quiz, you will receive a certificate of attendance via email (within 2 weeks of completion). For further

information and to book click the [link](#) here or contact [events@gafta.com](mailto:events@gafta.com)

## Environment News

### Climate Action Plan 2023 – Changing Ireland for the Better

The Government published its latest [Climate Action plan 2023](#) on 21 December 2022. This plan is the next step in the drive to fulfil Ireland's commitment to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) by no later than 2050 and to achieve a 51% reduction in GHGs by 2030, relative to 2018 levels. The plan covers all sectors and includes a chapter on agriculture (pages 213-225). In 2022, sectoral emissions ceilings which set maximum limits on GHGs, were agreed for all sectors of the Irish economy. The ceiling agreed on 28 July 2022 for Agriculture has been set at a 25% reduction by 2030 relative to 2018 levels.

The document outlines themes, targets and measures needed to deliver GHG reduction from agriculture in the coming years. Specific to the animal feed sector it refers to the need to improve how farmers feed their animals by reducing the crude protein content of their feed and the need for better knowledge transfer and the provision of data and analysis to farmers on the benefits of improved animal feeding. It also highlights the need to develop a methane-reducing slurry additive and to work with all stakeholders to develop a slow-release bolus pasture-based feed additive.

A key theme is the ‘mobilisation of land diversification options for livestock farms’ towards activities with a reduced climate change impact. This includes moving to tillage and availing of the opportunity ‘to increase the volume of Irish grain being used in the high-value drinks industry, and as a source of protein for the livestock industry’. The target set is to have up to 360,000ha of tillage by 2025 and 400,000ha by 2030. The plan says that in 2022, there were approximately 348,500 hectares of tillage crops and that this increase was supported by a tillage incentive scheme. It also refers to the potential to produce 40,000 hectares of beans which would provide a native source of proteins.

Significant targets are also set for the domestic biomethane industry and a National Biomethane Strategy is planned for publication in the next 6 months. By 2025 the target is to produce up to 1 TWh of biomethane rising to 5.7 TWh by 2025. To achieve this, the goal is to construct up to 20 Anaerobic Digestion (AD) plants of scale by 2025 and 200 by 2030. This biomethane would be made from biological feedstocks including food waste and agricultural feedstocks such as animal manures, grass and grass silage. IGFA has prepared a summary of the document [here](#).

## National Fertiliser Database and Nitrates Update

One of the measures under Ireland's Fifth Nitrates Action Programme, published in March 2022, was the development of a register of chemical fertiliser sales across the country. The aim of this National Fertiliser Database is to accurately track the sales of fertiliser throughout the whole supply chain, thereby giving a more realistic picture of where fertiliser is applied to land. This will help enable better compliance with water quality and environmental targets. It will also fulfil commitments to the European Commission and is likely to help the process of securing any future nitrates derogation. The database requires registration of all fertiliser economic operators (merchants, co-ops) and professional end users (farmers). In short, you cannot buy or sell fertiliser without being registered. You can find more details on the DAFM [FAQ document](#) which was updated in December (scroll down the page to Information Note and FAQ)

Under the Nitrates Action Programme, a number of other changes are due to take place in 2023. One measure that is causing some concern is the issue of livestock excretion rates and the plan to have bands for excretion rates based on milk yields. We understand that DAFM is developing a FAQ document on this topic that will help clarify the relevant questions. We will let members know when it is available.

The national fertiliser database and upcoming changes under the Nitrates Action Programme were discussed at a very informative recent Teagasc webinar. Rewatch it [here](#).

## Draft EU Commission proposal on Green Claims

According to the Commission's future agenda planning, the release of their proposal for a Directive on “Substantiating Green Claims” is expected now on 22 March 2023. The scope of the directive covers green claims related to the environmental performance of any kind of product.

Although this text covers only green claims in a Business 2 Consumer environment, it provides a direction to which Business 2 Business communication upstream in the chain is expected to align. It is therefore a valid point of reference for the drafting of the guidance on green feed labelling which FEFAC is working on by amending the current FEFAC/Copa-Cogeca Code of Good Labelling Practice for compound feed for food-producing animals.

Some of the main features of the draft Commission proposal on Green Claims are as follows:

- The form of the legal act chosen is a Directive: this leaves the margin of manoeuvre to Member States, in particular, on acceptance of methodology to substantiate claims.
- The scope covers all products placed on the EU market. It concerns the voluntary communication of information on environmental performance via claims.
- No specific method for substantiation is imposed but any eligible method must meet minimum requirements (e.g. Life Cycle Analysis basis, all impact categories relevant to a sector should be included).
- Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) remains the method promoted by the Commission and PEF category rules based environmental claims are expected to be properly substantiated.
- There is an obligation for Member states to set up a system for the verification of the substantiation of claims by independent verifiers (self-certification is not allowed). A verification certificate based on the EU format will be issued and recognized across the EU.

The implications of this draft will be discussed by the FEFAC Task Force on Green Labelling in early February. IGFA staff will be participating in this meeting.

# Technical News

## Update of Jan UFAS meeting

**FEMAS Calculator:** The FEMAS calculator has been updated again and covers additives and feed materials. Guidance on the new calculators is available [here](#).

**Tesco and Enterobacteria testing:** The UFAS committee were informed that from now on ruminant only mills will be derogated from the requirement to undertake the full Enterobacteria testing as required under the TESCO standard. The industry welcomes this move but mills will still need to demonstrate best practise and a good understanding of their microbiological controls.

**Marks & Spencers** have noted they have no plans to return to auditing and inspecting of feed manufacturers. They have requested however, that UFAS mills host some M&S visits.

**Salmonella surrogate project:** The surrogate project involves using an inert Enterococcal species in the form of an additive to measure the effectiveness of salmonella controls in a manufacturing plant. The additive is almost through FSA approval and has shown good efficacy under laboratory conditions. The next phase will be use of the additive in a commercial mill setting.

**Resistant bacteria in imports:** It was reported that APHA (Animal and Plant Health Agency) and VMD (Veterinary Medicines Directive) in the UK have found exotic and “unexpected” strains of resistant bacteria on farms. The focus of the authorities will now shift to imports as it was considered this was a possible route of entry to the country as these strains appeared to be commonly found in other countries.

**Transport:** TASC auditors have started to inspect trucks at busy intake points. So far, the process has worked smoothly with all hauliers able to comply / answer question on the spot to auditors. There has been no negative feedback from either the sites chosen or from the hauliers. If any one wishes to make their site available for this extra check on transport coming onto their site, please let the IGFA know. A full copy of the minutes will be available from IGFA next month.

## Pesticides

On 2 December, the European Commission adopted [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2022/2364](#), extending the current approval of the active substance glyphosate by one year - **until 15 December 2023**. The extension followed the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) [statements](#) on the updated timelines for the re-evaluation process in May 2022. Such a procedure is not unique to glyphosate; it was granted to every other plant protection active substance that required this temporary administrative extension in the EU in order to complete the evaluation process.

## Medicated Feed

The Unit on Food Hygiene, Feed and Fraud in DG SANTE intend to deliver, within the next months, on their obligation to set maximum limits for residues of antibiotics in non-target feed. DG SANTE intend to meet with Member States in February to discuss these options. Based on the outcome, they will draw up with a draft text for discussion in Q2 2023 and adoption shortly after. A meeting of the FEFAC medicated feed task force will be held this week and comments have been asked of IGFA medicated feed members to present at this meeting.

## Product of animal origin detected in Bread intended for animal feed

On 2 December 2022 DAFM detected product of animal origin in samples of a consignment of former foodstuff (surplus food) “milled bread” imported from the UK, which is now classified as a third country and subject to third country import rules. This incident was subsequently notified to RASFF. See link [here](#).

Following this incident in Ireland, DAFM issued two trader notices to feed business operators including manufacturers, suppliers of surplus food and by-products, importers and food recyclers. The first trader notice, no. 6 of 2022, outlined the steps required for the importation of former foodstuffs (surplus foods) destined for animal feed from Third Countries, containing any level of animal by-product (for example milk/dairy, eggs or products containing those i.e. bread).

See the full trader notice 06/2022 [here](#).

The second trader notice, no 7 of 2022, reminded feed business operators that former foodstuffs (surplus food) must not contain or consist of materials that are prohibited in animal feed ([Article 6, Regulation \(EC\) No 767/2009](#)). The list of such materials is set out in Annex III and includes packaging. Packaging is prohibited under Annex III and there is no tolerance set in EU legislation for the presence of packaging materials in animal feed. Therefore, all packaging materials including but not limited to plastic, paper and tinfoil must be manually or mechanically removed from all former foodstuff (surplus food) prior to being placed on the market as animal feed. Failure to adhere to this will result in the surplus food being detained and removed from the market by authorised officers of DAFM. See the full trader notice 07/2022 [here](#).

DAFM has informed the IGFA that all imports of FFS will now be **scheduled** for analysis for the presence of product of animal origin.

# Annual IGFA Dinner 2023

If you wish to receive an e mail full version of a photo, please request from [cornelia.oconnell@eorna.ie](mailto:cornelia.oconnell@eorna.ie) quoting the reference number below the thumbnail version below.



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