

## General News

### Black Sea Grain Deal Extended until Mid-July

The Black Sea Grain Deal was extended for another two months on 17 May allowing the continued export of grain and food products from Ukraine by ship. The news was welcomed by various politicians who said that it will “help ensure global food security” and support the incomes of Ukrainian farmers. Despite confirming the extension of the agreement, the response from Russia was not as positive. Moscow continues to claim that Russian exports of food and fertiliser are being hindered by distortions in implementation of aspects of the deal. Russian representatives have said that although dissatisfied with aspects of the deal, they agreed to an extension in the hope that there will soon be solutions to the problems they continue to highlight.

### European Commission Price Dashboard

Through this dashboard, the European Commission provides a monthly summary of price data for the most representative agricultural products and consumer food prices, at both an EU and a global level. Download the latest edition [here](#).

## Environment News

### New EPA Report - Ireland Air Pollutant Emissions

The EPA published the [Ireland Air Pollutant Emissions Report](#) in May. It provides details of emissions to air for the period 1990-2021 and projections for these pollutants for 2030. The report is published as part of our obligations under the National Emissions Reduction Commitment Directive, and the focus is on five key pollutants - Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), Ammonia (NH<sub>4</sub>), Non-Methane Volatile Organic Compounds (NMVOCs) and Fine Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>).

It highlights the below on air pollutant emissions for 2021:

- Ireland complied on (SO<sub>2</sub>), (NO<sub>x</sub>) and PM<sub>2.5</sub> for 2021.
- Ireland did not comply with emission reduction commitments for NH<sub>4</sub> and NMVOCs for 2021.
- Emissions for NMVOCs reduced by only 8% when 25% was required.
- Emissions for NH<sub>4</sub> increased by 3.8% when a reduction of 1% was required.

On Ammonia, the report highlights that agriculture accounts for virtually all the ammonia emissions in Ireland. Grassland ultimately receives the bulk of the 41m tonnes of animal manures. This equates to 572,509 tonnes of nitrogen. Grassland also receives a further 399,160 tonnes of chemical nitrogen (fertilizer). A proportion of the nitrogen in these inputs is volatilised into the air as ammonia.

As Ireland was non-compliant with the 2020 reduction targets, the Commission served Ireland with an infringement notice in January 2023. In 2021 we saw a further growth in livestock numbers and while farmers increased the use of low emission slurry spreading for manures, this was not enough to counteract the livestock numbers and emissions once again increased.

The outlook assessment from the EPA says that the projected compliance with 2030 reduction targets for ammonia is dependent on full implementation of all known ammonia abatement measures as outlined in the Ag Climatise plan. Any underperformance of mitigation measures or activity expansion will result in failure to achieve the 2030 commitments.

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### RASFF 'S MAY 2023

TOTAL FOOD & FEED	438
TOTAL FEED	51
FEED MATERIALS	43
PET FOOD	3
COMPOUND FEED	4
PREMIXTURES	1
<a href="#">READ MORE</a>	

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## Livestock Site Closures to Reduce Nitrogen Emissions in the Netherlands

Two Dutch schemes that aim to reduce nitrogen deposition in nature conservation areas have been approved by the European Commission. The total funding will be €1.47 billion and the schemes will “facilitate the voluntary closure of livestock farming sites with substantive nitrogen deposition on nature conservation areas”. Under the schemes farmers will be compensated for the voluntary closure of livestock sites and will have to guarantee that the closure of their production capacity is definitive and irreversible. They will also need to agree that they will not start the same breeding activity elsewhere in the Netherlands or the EU. To be eligible there are minimum levels of nitrogen deposition load set and those that emit particularly high levels of nitrogen may receive higher compensation.

## Deforestation Regulation Signed off

The new ‘Deforestation Regulation’ was signed off by member states in mid-May and will soon enter into force. The aim of the regulation is to stop deforestation and forest degradation that is associated with EU imports of certain commodities and products. The new rules set out mandatory ‘due diligence’ for operators and traders who place palm oil, cattle, wood, coffee, cocoa, rubber, and soy on the EU market. Operators will have to trace what they sell back to the land where it was produced and there will be a benchmarking system which will assign a level of risk, at low, standard or high, related to deforestation and forest degradation for exporting countries. The level of specific inspection and control obligations for operators and Member States will be determined by the risk. Competent authorities will have to carry out checks on 9% of operators and traders trading products from high-risk countries, 3% from standard-risk countries and 1% from low-risk countries. There will also be fines related to environmental damage for operators.

## GFLI Publishes First Branded Data from Pilot Project

The GFLI published the first results from the Branded Data pilot project on 8 May 2023. Branded data is defined as ‘Lifecycle inventory/impact assessment (LCI/A) data for a feed ingredient marketed under a certain brand and owned by a company or other entity’. Branded data allows producers of feed ingredients to be transparent about the impacts of their specific products and provides credibility to their customers. As branded data is currently not widely available in, or accepted by, existing life cycle databases, a pilot phase was initiated by GFLI to test the robustness of the draft methodology with regard to different types of feed ingredients and to ultimately determine the feasibility of including this kind of data in GFLI.

The evaluation of the pilot project is still ongoing, but this highlights the possibility for companies to submit their data to verify GFLI-compliant company-specific data. Read more [here](#).

## Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation Update

The Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation (SUR) is being discussed in the European Parliament and divisions are emerging between the MEPs on the direction the regulation should take. The big area of debate is the proposal to reduce by 50% the use of chemical pesticides by 2030. Some Environment Committee MEPs are adamant that this is needed to protect environment and human health but MEPs on the Agriculture Committee believe the measure should be delayed to 2035 and some are even calling for the proposal to be removed altogether. Many are expressing serious concern about the impact this level of reduction will have on production levels in the EU and the consequences for EU food security. There is criticism that the proposed reduction has not been properly scientifically assessed, the farming impacts not correctly evaluated and viable alternatives to plant protection products not adequately considered. Debates will continue but a compromise final position from the European Parliament is expected by October 2023.

## Animal Health

### EFSA Welfare of Dairy Cows Report



The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is conducting assessments of livestock welfare for the various sectors. One assessment, the [Welfare of dairy cows](#) report was recently completed and highlights the importance of sufficient space for animals to move and rest. It also says that “Access to well-managed pasture (i.e., well-drained, provision of shade) should be provided because it offers opportunity to walk freely, ease of changing posture and a comfortable lying area”. The report says that “a total indoor area - including lying area - of at least 9m<sup>2</sup>/cow should be provided” and that it is important to regularly monitor animals to identify issues such as lameness, mastitis and metabolic disorders. Sufficiently thick bedding material to ensure that the cows are comfortable and healthy and having brushes available for cows in loose-housing systems to help them stay clean and comfortable are also recommended.

## African Swine Flu (ASF) Update

The number of ASF outbreaks in pigs and cases reported in wild boar in the EU fell considerably in 2022 compared to the previous year, according to a new report published on 22 May 2023 by EFSA. In 2022, ASF outbreaks among domestic pigs in the EU decreased by 79% compared to 2021. The decrease was particularly marked in Romania, Poland and Bulgaria. Lithuania registered a slight increase caused by a cluster of outbreaks notified in summer in the southwestern part of the country. The full report can be downloaded [here](#)

## Technical News

### New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) due in early July

The publication of the highly anticipated regulation on plants produced by New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) has been delayed until 5 July. The Commission plan to publish it as part of the 'Food & Biodiversity Package' which will include a Soil Health Law, a revision of aspects of the waste framework directive and revision of legislation on seeds and other plant and forest reproductive material.

### Withdrawal Regulation for feed additives no longer authorised in the EU

At the May SCoPAFF meeting a regulation withdrawing authorisations for several existing feed additives which failed the re-authorisation step was adopted. The publication of this regulation is expected within 1 month and entry into force 20 days after, i.e., end of June. Transition periods are foreseen i.e., 12 months to use stocks of the additives produced before the entry into force of the Regulation, 15 months for premixtures, and 24 months for compound feed.

Polyoxyethylene (20)-sorbitan monooleate – an emulsifier used frequently in milk replacers and all forms of Vitamin B12 except for the preparation of cyanocobalamin produced by *Ensifer adhaerens* CNCM I-5541 [3a835] are included in this list. We will include the details of the regulation in Feed Issues next month.

### Feed Additives - Cobalt

On 19 May IGFA submitted a paper on behalf of relevant members, to DAFM who lodged it with the EU Commission. This paper outlined our serious concerns for animal welfare in Ireland if there is not access to feed additives 3b301, 3b302, 3b303, and 3b305 (Cobalt salts) post 15 July 2023. We requested urgent and provisional authorization for these compounds in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003. We believe that France, Spain, and Portugal have also lodged consultations with the Commission. You can download IGFA submission [here](#).



This request will be discussed at the SCoPAFF working group meeting of 12-13 June 2023, at which time the EU Commission will decide whether to go ahead with a proposal for temporary approval. We have also asked DAFM for a national solution if the urgent authorisation is not granted within the necessary timeframe.

### Feed Additives - Vitamin D3

Following several months of discussion and tension on the vitamin D3 market, as outlined in the last few IGFA Feed Issues, the decision re-authorising imports of vitamin D3 from China for feed use was [published](#) on 22 May. This amendment was needed to exempt vitamin D3 for feed use from the general prohibition of imports of products of animal origin from China established by Decision 2002/994. However the classification of vitamin D3 as a product of animal origin means also that it shall be imported in the EU, whatever the country of origin, in accordance with the Animal-By-Products rules, i.e. via BCPs, from suppliers registered under TRACES and with health certificates. This is because vitamin D3 is usually coated with gelatine. The nature of this (these) health certificate(s) is not completely clear at this stage and there are discussions ongoing between DG SANTE and the Chinese authorities on this.



### New Online Feed Additives Register

The Commission invited stakeholders to share their comments on the new online Feed Additives Register and FEAC submitted remarks and suggestions for improvement based on input from IGFA and other Members. The general view is the new online register does not have as much information as was available in the older PDF format. Therefore FEAC has asked the EU Commission to maintain for a certain period of time at least, the two versions ie online and pdf. The new online Feed Additives Register can be accessed via the IGFA [regulations page](#).