

General News

Black Sea Grain Corridor Update

The non-renewal of the Black Sea Grain Corridor agreement is causing significant concern for EU grain organisations and feed manufacturers. The European grain trade organisation, COCERAL and Feed Manufacturers Association, FEFAC, have reported that the impact on exports and delivery of cereals and oilseeds from Ukraine is already being felt, and without prompt action, the situation could escalate into a major crisis. Russian attacks on the Ukrainian Danube Port Ismail at the start of August have further enhanced concerns about the logistical challenges facing trade.

The organisations have warned that with the Black Sea Grain Corridor no longer accessible, the volume of tonnage exported via sea lanes is expected to decrease drastically. This could lead to challenges in the distribution of grains through the EU's Solidarity Lanes, potentially resulting in increased grain prices on local markets. Furthermore, the withdrawal of insurance coverage for trade in the region due to military threats by Russia could deter private operators from engaging in trade with Ukraine.

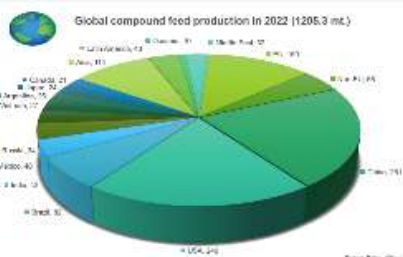
The failure to maintain current grain exports from Ukraine could have far-reaching impacts. Ukrainian farmers, who are already facing bankruptcy, may reduce their plantings for the coming year. This could result in a significant loss in global grain supply, with Russia's position becoming increasingly dominant in grain import-dependent countries.

In a letter to Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, COCERAL has asked for immediate action to support Ukrainian grain exports and secure the global grain supply chain. They propose the creation of a fund to cover re-insurance of cargos, vessels, and port facilities for war damage due to Russian attacks. While this may not eliminate all risks, it will increase the likelihood of operators continuing to engage in Ukraine. They recommend opening additional "green corridors" to allow the passage of Ukrainian grain through ports located in areas such as the Baltic states, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Croatia and Slovenia. These corridors would streamline sanitary, phytosanitary, and veterinary controls at the port of destination to avoid delays at the Ukrainian border.

Although recognising the politics, COCERAL also calls for the frontline countries (Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia) to permanently lift the import restrictions they have imposed on wheat, maize, rapeseed, and sunflower seeds from Ukraine.

Efforts continue at a high level to convince Russia to resume participation in the Black Sea Grain Initiative and Josep Borrell, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security has said in the press that "Russia's attackshave turned food into a weapon....Urgent action is needed to prevent a humanitarian disaster and stabilize the global food market. Cooperation and diplomatic pressure on Russia are crucial to safeguard access to food".

EU Feed Industry Data 2022



FEFAC has published key data on the EU Compound Feed industry for 2022. It includes information on compound feed production, consumption of feed materials, industry turnover, number of plants, meat production, consumption, and more. Full details [here](#)

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RASFF 'S AUG 2023

Total Food & Feed	397
Total Feed	27
Feed Materials	19
Pet Food	3
Compound Feed	3
Feed Additives	2
read more	

Read the latest 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>

UFAS, FEMAS and TASCSC Assurance Schemes Consultations

AIC has launched industry-wide consultation on updates to the Standards for three key trade assurance schemes. IGFA is encouraging members to respond and also to send views to cornelia.oconnell@eorna.ie so we can prepare an overall IGFA position.

Universal Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS) consultation click here	Feed Materials Assurance Scheme (FEMAS) consultation click here	Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops (TASCSC) consultation click here
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Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) – Updated Info and Training

The UK Government has published its updated Border Target Operating Model (BTOM). It sets out a new approach to security controls (applying to all imports), and sanitary and phytosanitary controls (applying to imports of live animals, animal products, plants and plants products) at the border. Full details are available [here](#). Irish officials are currently analysing the BTOM and its implications for Irish exports of agri-food products to the UK. They have highlighted that businesses should pay attention to the specific sections on movement of goods from the island of Ireland (Section 2) and Transit (Section 1.4) in the document above. It is also vital to note the below date changes.

- The planned changes in relation to pre-notification of certain sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) goods and the move to full customs formalities that were to be introduced from 31 October 2023 have been deferred until 31 January 2024.
- Documentary and risk-based controls on certain SPS goods, that were to commence on 31 January 2024, will not now be introduced until 30 April 2024.
- Safety and Security declarations for EU imports will proceed as planned from 31 October 2024.

The Irish government is emphasising that although some dates have been postponed, businesses should continue to prepare for the changes.

Defra is running sector focused monthly online training sessions to prepare traders for the changes. The sessions cover all sectors including – meat and poultry, animal by-products and dairy. On 21 September there is a specific session on Exports from Ireland. Full details [here](#)

Environment News

Downward Trend in Crude Protein Levels in Animal Feed Continues – National Crude Protein



DAFM published the results of the survey on crude protein levels in compound feed in 2021. The survey was managed by DAFM in partnership with IGFA and aims to provide accurate information on current practices. There was an excellent response rate to the survey from feed mills, representing 99.7% of overall national feed production. The results were added to the information already collected from the industry in 2020 for the years 2015, 2017 and 2019.

This latest data confirms that overall protein levels continue to follow a positive environmental downward trend since 2015. A reduction in crude protein was recorded for dairy and beef and although there was a slight increase for poultry, the biggest reduction has been in pig feed with an overall reduction of 1.3% over the period.

The report also notes that the actual quantities of crude protein in animal feed has increased over this time period due to increases in volumes of feed. IGFA has highlighted that the increase in the volume of feed manufactured, especially the increase in 2021, was due to increased demand from farmers for compound feed as a result of the impact of weather conditions on grass and fodder supplies. The full report can be viewed [here](#).

Interim Review of the Nitrates Action Programme

The Irish Nitrates Derogation lasts until 2025 and a condition of that derogation was that a review of the Nitrates Action Programme would be done in 2023. The review will look at the effectiveness of the measures we have in place, changes in water quality data and consider whether any new measures are required. The European Commission has indicated that where the review identifies worsening trends in water quality, the maximum organic nitrogen per hectare must reduce from 250kgN to 220kgN from 2024 onwards.

IGFA met with DAFM officials in April as the review is likely to also consider whether crude protein levels in animal feed should be reduced from the current 15%. The review was due to be completed by the end of September 2023 and a public consultation on the measures proposed in the review was expected in mid to late summer. However there have been delays in the process and the latest information from DAFM is that the consultation will happen in September. IGFA will keep members updated.

EPA Water Quality Conference



The EPA annual water conference took place on 14/15 June and included the launch of the 2022 Water Quality Indicators report. The report states that overall, there is no significant improvement in the biological quality of our rivers or lakes in 2022; improvements are happening in some areas but are offset by declines elsewhere.

The report received a lot of press attention and created much discussion between stakeholders. Highlights from the conference include a presentation by Bill Callanan, Chief Inspector, DAFM on [‘The Policy Landscape for Irish Agriculture’](#) and a very interesting panel discussion moderated by RTÉ's Philip Boucher-Hayes, see [here](#).

FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines Updated

The FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines were originally developed with the aim of driving mass market transition to responsibly sourced soy. They are a set of 73 criteria covering agricultural, environmental and social issues, setting out the European feed industry's requirements for responsible soy and providing a credible source of information to companies in the soy value chain. The guidelines have been updated on various occasions over the past number of years and the key change in 2023 is that the criterion on the protection of natural ecosystems has become an essential requirement. This means that certification and verification schemes and programmes must ensure that the certified soy has not been cultivated in converted natural ecosystems (natural forest, native grasslands, wetlands, swamps, peatlands, savannas, steep slopes and riparian areas) in order to successfully pass the benchmarking exercise against the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines.

‘Conversion-free’ soy was previously a ‘desired’ criterion and including it now as an essential criterion will make it easier for companies to specify soy grown to a standard which ensures production is not linked to deforested or converted land. This provides greater transparency for soy value chain partners and may help with documentation requirements under the new EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

Concerns regarding EUDR Implementation

The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), which will come into force at the end of next year, is the first in the world to ban imports of products linked to deforestation, including cattle, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, soya, wood and rubber. On 20 August 2023, the Financial Times published an interview with ITC (International Trade Centre). Executive Director Pamela Coke-Hamilton pointed to ‘catastrophic’ impacts on global trade if smallholders and developing nations are not assisted with the adaptation to EUDR rules, with the obligation to use geolocation technology as a key burden. She noted “What the biggest producers may do is, not being able to do the traceability for these small farmers, simply cut them off,” Exporters from those countries may then send goods to countries with less stringent import rules which would disrupt trade.

Members are reminded that at a Sustainable Soy [Webinar](#) hosted by Bord Bia in June, DAFM gave an overview of the changes that will be introduced under the EUDR. IGFA helped prepare this webinar and John Coleman, IGFA Feed Committee Chairman spoke at it on behalf of the feed industry. The Commission has also published a [FAQs document](#) on the Regulation to provide information to all stakeholders on how it will be implemented.

Technical News

Feed Additive Withdrawal Regulation

On the 15 June [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1173](#) was published withdrawing some feed additives from the European market including some Vitamin B12 sources (see page 3). This leaves us with just one source of Vitamin B12 (‘cyanocobalamin’) produced by Ensifer adhaerens CNCM I-5541 containing ≤ 1% of cyanocobalamin, solid for authorised (authorisation [link](#)). There are however transition periods for the other sources of Vitamin B12 as outlined in [\(EU\) 2023/1173](#) as follows.

Existing stocks of the feed additive can be used up to 6 July 2024	Premixtures produced with the additives can be used up to 6 October 2024.	Compound feed and feed materials produced with the additives can be used up to 6 July 2025.
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IGFA News



Deirdre Webb

Deirdre Webb will be leaving IGFA at the end of August 2023. Deirdre was Director of IGFA for 16 years and more recently worked as IGFA Regulatory Specialist. She was a constant support to members, the IGFA Feed Committee and the IGFA Board and worked tirelessly on behalf of the industry on issues ranging from feed safety, GMs and pesticides to feed markets and Brexit. She will be hugely missed by everyone at IGFA, especially Maeve and Cornelia. We would like to thank her for everything and wish her all the best for the future.