

General News

IGFA Annual Dinner 2024



The IGFA Annual Dinner will be held on Thursday 25 January 2024 at the Crowne Plaza Dublin Airport Hotel, Santry, Dublin 9. We look forward to seeing you there. You can download the booking form and the booking form [here](#) the guidance document [here](#). Document password is the same as the website password.

Continued Need for Support for Ukraine

Commission officials discussed the ongoing impact on markets of Russia's war in Ukraine with MEPs at meetings in November. MEPs were reminded of the huge negative impact the war was still having on Ukraine's ability to trade with the rest of the world and the continued need for support from the EU. The Commission told MEPs that the EU should keep stimulating trade flows, grant trade liberalisation measures and maintain the export infrastructure to show our unwavering solidarity. However, they also said that Ukrainian exports, although vital for the farm sector in Ukraine, were having unintended consequences on markets in frontline member states and added that we must deal with these market distortions to ensure that support for Ukraine does not fade. They noted the continued demand from parts of the EU for Ukrainian products but said exports to the rest of the world would also be vital. Many MEPs expressed their solidarity with Ukraine but some were concerned about the impact of Ukraine exports on specific products on local markets. Although the solidarity lanes are still considered absolutely vital, some said that national transport infrastructure is negatively impacted by the transit of Ukrainian cereals.

Irish Grass Fed Beef PGI Confirmed



Irish Grass Fed Beef' is to be added to the register of Protected Geographical Indications (PGI). The application for this special status was finalised at the end of November after being first initiated in 2019. A PGI 'emphasises the relationship between the specific geographic region and the name of the product, where a particular quality, reputation or other characteristic is essentially attributable to its geographical origin'. Irish Grass Fed Beef will apply on an all-island basis and includes cattle that

derive 90% of their feed intake from grass. This is primarily grazed grass, with winter feeding of conserved grass (silage and hay).

- derive 90% of their feed intake from grass. This is primarily grazed grass, with winter feeding of conserved grass (silage and hay).
- Spend a minimum of 220 days per year throughout their lives grazing pasture.

Only carcasses from certain higher-grade beef animals are eligible to be classified as "Irish Grass Fed Beef" as follows

- Steers and heifers aged up to 36 months with conformation better than O- and fat score between 2+ and 4+ and
- Beef cows of up to 120 months with conformation better than O+ and with fat score between 2+ and

The animals must be born, raised on grass, finished, slaughtered, chilled, and quartered on the island of Ireland. Minister McConalogue said "This PGI status will help differentiate Irish beef's premium position in key markets, due to the exceptional quality and sustainability of our pasture-based production system and bring added value to our beef".

TABLE OF CONTENTS

IGFA Annual Dinner 2024	1
Continued need for support for Ukraine	1
Irish Grass Fed Beef PGI Confirmed	1
Review of the EU Plant Protein Policy	1
Webinars on exports	2
Environmental Labelling Code of Practice	2
Glyphosate Vote	2
Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation	3
Medicated Feed	3
Data on sales of antimicrobials	3
Undesirable substance directive	4

RASFF 'S NOVEMBER 2023

Total Food & Feed	430
Total Feed	21
Feed Materials	14
Compound Feed	4
Pet Food	3
Feed Premixture	-
Feed Additives	-
Animal by products	-
Miscellaneous	-

[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

Review of the EU Plant Protein Policy

The Commission held a meeting with stakeholders and Member States in November to discuss the Review of the EU Plant Protein Policy. The Commission is currently working on updating its 2018 report on proteins and in preparation has conducted a number of studies on feeding strategies and surveys on alternative proteins in food demand. The aim is to adopt the new report in Q1 of 2024 and that in addition to emphasizing the need for growth in plant protein production in the EU, it will look at how to create value chains that are not only economically sound, but also environmentally advantageous.

Discussions with the Commission at the meeting recognized the need to emphasize the positive impact that changes in protein consumption and production can have on different aspects of the food system (including food security). FEFAC, the European Feed Manufacturers Association, and other stakeholders highlighted a range of important points during the meeting including,

- The EU was advised not to aim for full protein independence but to acknowledge globalized livestock production.
- Market-driven demand and profitability were deemed crucial for increasing protein production.
- Emphasis was placed on sustainability for imported protein, aligning with EU standards.
- The importance of using New Breeding Techniques (NBTs) for genetic selection and climate adaptation was stressed.
- Encouragement was given for sustainable animal protein production without reducing EU livestock farms.
- A request was made for the re-evaluation of the lifting of the ban on avian and porcine PAPs, with a reconsideration of the proportionality of legal requirements.

The latest EU feed protein balance sheet should be published over the coming weeks.

Webinar on exports of Irish/EU agri-food goods to Great Britain (GB)

DAFM is hosting another webinar on Wednesday 6 December 2023, from 10.00-11.30am. The objective is to share the latest information available on the changes to the UK's import regime which will apply to exports of Irish/EU agri-food goods to Great Britain (GB) and via the GB Landbridge to the EU from 31 January 2024. The webinar will provide updates on DAFM's preparations to support the sector to meet the new UK requirements. Members are encouraged to attend as it is critical that all businesses in the Ireland to GB agri-food supply chains are prepared. Register [here](#).

Defra is also hosting information sessions on [Monday 4 Dec](#) and [Monday 11 Dec 2023](#). The aim of the sessions is to provide details on the changes which will apply to the GB import process from 31 January 2024 and 30 April 2024 under the Border Target Operating Model.

Environment News

Environmental Labelling Code of Practice

Many labels claim products are 'greener', 'more sustainable' or 'eco-friendlier' than others. In 2020, the European Commission found that 53% of examined environmental claims in the EU were vague, misleading or unfounded and 40% were unsubstantiated. The absence of specific EU rules contributes to this situation and the EU Commission therefore put forward a proposal for a Directive on green claims in March 2023. The focus of the Directive is on business to consumer and does not cover feed industry to farmer. However, inevitably feed has become part of the discussion, and the industry has been preparing guidance to support our sector.

As noted in previous IGFA Feed Issues, FEFAC (including IGFA) has been working with others to update the EU code of good labelling practice to include guidance on environmental (green) labelling and claims. The final version was submitted to the Commission for endorsement last week and will be discussed at the December SCoPAFF Animal Nutrition meeting attended by DAFM. A guide to practitioners on the use of the PEF/PEFCR feed method for green feed labelling purposes was also submitted. In October, IGFA sent copies of the new draft to some members for comment and last week sent it to DAFM asking for their support. We will update members on the outcome of the SCoPAFF meeting.



Glyphosate Vote

In the October Feed Issues, IGFA reported that the Commission proposed that Glyphosate be reauthorised for use in the EU for another 10 years. This was based on safety assessments carried out by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). However, when this proposal was put to member states in mid-October a qualified majority in favour of the decision was not achieved. The next step for the dossier was a vote in the Appeal Committee on Phytopharmaceuticals Legislation in mid-November. At this meeting Croatia, Luxembourg and Austria voted against the renewal, France, Belgium, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Bulgaria and Malta abstained, and the rest voted in favour. As a result, member states failed to reach the required majority one way or the other and delivered a 'no opinion'. The Commission must now adopt the proposal under its own authority, before the current approval period expires on December 15.

MEPs reject Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation (SUR)

In the October Feed Issues, we reported that the SUR was fiercely debated in the European Parliament's Environment Committee, which was leading on the dossier. Although the Committee voted to adopt a position calling for a reduction in the use of chemical pesticides by at least 50% by 2030, there was strong opposition from a number of the MEPs. The report was then due to be voted on by all MEPs at their plenary session at the end of November.

However, things didn't run smoothly. After the introduction of a number of amendments, those who had previously supported the report opposed the direction of the changes and therefore, ultimately the report as a whole. The final result was that 299 MEPs voted to reject the proposal, as amended by MEPs, with 207 in favour and 121 abstentions. This means that member states will have to decide where to go from here and find consensus on their position. There were angry reactions and accusations from MEPs on both sides of the debate and some have called for the Commission to withdraw the proposal completely and present a new revised one.

Technical News

Medicated Feed – latest update

As outlined in previous Feed Issues, on 28 January 2022 EU Regulation 2019/4 came into effect for the manufacture, placing on the market and use of medicated feed. Member States could set their own carryover levels for 24 antimicrobial active substances outlined in the regulation, until EFSA carried out studies and then a delegated act would be published. EFSA appeared to have based their studies on the assumption that the feed with carryover levels is fed indefinitely and not a small amount for a very brief period. Based on this, EFSA recommended carryover max levels of parts per billion (PPB).



Over the last year IGFA has worked with European colleagues to outline to DAFM and EU Commission what is and isn't possible with regard to carry over levels. As a result, the EU Commission recognised PPB levels would completely disrupt/prevent medicated feed production. This is not their aim as medicated feed is an important method of administration of medicine to sick animals. Therefore, PPB were rejected by the Commission and a 1% carryover is now in the draft published delegated regulation for non-sensitives species and LOQ in sensitive species. This draft was open to public consultation from 12 October 2023 - 09 November 2023. IGFA uploaded a consultation response to this public forum on 7 November, highlighting again concerns with these reduced levels. However, it is unlikely any changes will be made given the Commission's priority to tackle Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). We expect the delegated regulation to be published in Spring 2024 and initial feedback indicates there will be a 6-month transition. We have asked for a one-year transition period in our consultation. To view all responses to the public consultation including IGFA's click [here](#).

Data for 2022 show a further drop in the sales of antimicrobials



The most recent report by European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobials Consumption (ESVAC) shows the continuation of a downward trend in the sale of antimicrobials for use in livestock. The report focuses on the consumption of antibiotic veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) for food producing animals at the European level and analyses the trends it has followed since 2010. Data is presented from 31 European countries.

The data is provided at package level in accordance with the data reporting protocol and data collection form published in March 2015. Information on country-specific trends is published separately on the EMA website.

Click [here](#) to view trends in Ireland 2010 to 2022 or [here](#) to view all 31 countries. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

Update on Undesirable Substances Directive

As outlined in [IGFA October Feed Issues](#), the last update to the Undesirable Directive was in November 2019. However, last week the EU Commission services advised that modifications to directive 2002/32 are now at the final stages and will undergo public consultation within the next few weeks. The updates include modifications for arsenic, lead, cadmium, dioxins, dioxin-like PCBs, datura, rye ergot, some organochlorinated pesticides, and coccidiostats, as well as new limits for Nickel, THC and p-Phenetidine. The official adoption is foreseen for February 2024 (see table below for more detail).

The image shows a document titled 'COMMISSION DECISION ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO DIRECTIVE 2002/32/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL OF 10 MAY 2002 ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES IN FEEDSTUFFS'. The document lists various amendments and their effective dates. Key amendments include:

- Amendment 1: Addition of Arsenic to the list of undesirable substances in feedstuffs for fish and complementary feed for fish.
- Amendment 2: Addition of Cadmium to the list of undesirable substances in feed additives.
- Amendment 3: Addition of Lead to the list of undesirable substances in game meat for use in pet food.
- Amendment 4: Addition of Nickel to the list of undesirable substances in feed materials containing fatty acids esterified with glycerol.
- Amendment 5: Addition of Rye ergot (Claviceps purpurea) to the list of undesirable substances in feed materials and compound feed containing unground cereals and rye.
- Amendment 6: Addition of Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) to the list of undesirable substances in feed materials containing hemp seed and related products.
- Amendment 7: Addition of Endosulfan to the list of undesirable substances in feed materials and compound feed with specific exceptions.
- Amendment 8: Addition of Heptachlor, exachlorobenzene, and Gamma isomers to the list of undesirable substances in feed materials and compound feed and fats and oils.
- Amendment 9: Addition of Dioxins and PCBs to the list of undesirable substances in feed materials of animal origin.
- Amendment 10: Addition of Weed seeds etc. to the list of undesirable substances in feed materials and compound feed.
- Amendment 11: Addition of 10 Coccidiostats to the list of undesirable substances in feed materials and compound feed and premixtures.
- Amendment 12: Addition of p-phenetidine to the list of undesirable substances in feed materials, feed additives, premixtures and compound feed.

On the subject of mycotoxins, after intensive consultation with Member States over the last 3 years, the EU Commission decided not to switch from guidance values to maximum limits for DON, ZEA, FUM, OTA and T2/HT2 in compound feed due to lack of sufficient support from Member States. The Commission will instead specify more clearly in recommendation 2006/576 what the concept of guidance values means in practice. Next year they will resume discussions on a revision of a number of guidance values based on particular EFSA opinions with significant reductions expected for DON and OTA in pig and poultry feed. A feed mycotoxin forum to exchange views on this topic is foreseen for February 2024.

Summary of expected modifications to directive 2002/32

Description	Undesirable to change
Inorganic contaminants - Heavy metals	
Feed materials “- fish, other aquatic animals and products derived thereof and Complementary feed for fish;	Arsenic
Feed additives - “- copper (I) oxide.	Cadmium
Game meat for use in pet food	Lead
Feed materials Fatty acids esterified with glycerol	Nickel
Mycotoxins	
Feed materials and compound feed containing unground cereals & feed materials and compound feed containing unground rye	Rye ergot (Claviceps purpurea)
Inherent plant toxins	
Feed materials - hemp seed - hemp expeller - hemp seed oil - hemp flour - hemp fibre and Complete feed	Delta-9- tetrahydrocannabinol (Δ9 - THC)
Organochlorine compounds	
Feed materials and compound feed with the exception of: - cotton seed and products derived from the processing thereof, except crude cotton seed oil - soybean and products derived from the processing thereof, except crude soybean oil - crude vegetable oil - complete feed for fish except for Salmonids - complete feed for Salmonids	Endosulfan
Feed materials and compound feed and fats and oils	Heptachlor, exachlorobenzene, Gamma isomers
“Feed materials of animal origin: - Animal fat, including milk fat and egg fat; - Other land animal products including milk and milk products and eggs and egg products. - Fish oil; - Fish, other aquatic animals, and products derived thereof with the exception of fish oil, hydrolysed fish protein containing more than 20 % fat(3) and crustacea meal; - Hydrolysed fish protein containing more than 20 % fat; crustacea meal and compound feed for fish; Compound feed	Dioxins and PCBs
Harmful botanical impurities	
Feed materials and compound feed	Weed seeds etc
Authorised feed additives in non-target feed following unavoidable carry-over	
Feed materials and compound feed and premixtures	10 Coccidiostats
Other undesirable substances	
Feed materials, feed additives, premixtures and compound feed	p-phenetidine