

General News

The agriculture news this month has been dominated by events in the Ukraine

Short-Term Outlook For EU Agricultural Markets in 2022

The Spring 2022 edition of the above report was published by the Commission on 5 April and says that Russia's invasion of Ukraine "significantly disturbed global agricultural markets, creating more uncertainty regarding the future global availability of grains and oilseeds" The invasion has also raised "fundamental food security concerns as well as concerns regarding the EU dependency on feed and fertiliser imports, in particular from Ukraine, Russia & Belarus." It notes the importance of the fact that the EU is largely self-sufficient for food but concern due to high market prices and inflationary trends. On the feed side it says that "reduced imports of maize, wheat, rapeseed and sunflower oil and meals from Ukraine will however have an impact especially on feed prices and for the EU food processing industry" adding that the industry is "looking for alternative supplies and adjusting feed rations to address high costs". The report notes the importance of spring weather conditions in the availability of home-grown feed "which could partially compensate for reduced feed imports". The uncertainty created by Brexit is also mentioned as creating trade friction for both imports and exports." The full report is available [here](#).

Agriculture Commissioner Comments on Impact of Invasion of Ukraine

Commissioner Wojciechowski echoed many of the messages in the above report at a recent meeting with EU Agriculture Ministers. He said that although EU harvest prospects currently look good, "nearly all of our farmers feel the costs of high fuel and fertiliser prices, while the livestock sector, pig meat and poultry in particular, feel the strong impact of feed price increases". For EU citizens he warned that the challenge will not be availability but affordability. He said "the number one problem is feed imports from Ukraine" noting that EU dependence on "huge imports of animal feed and loss of Ukraine exports, combined with uncertainty over Russian exports, has led to sharp increases in prices". Fertilisers are also a big concern and he commented that the costs and potential scarcity of fertilisers could "pose significant risks to agri-food production in the EU and on a global level."

FAO Warns of Food Security Problems

The United Nations Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has stressed the need to prevent food insecurity in the Ukraine calling for funds to support Ukrainian farmers to plant vegetables and potatoes during the spring season and ensure they are able to get onto their fields and save the winter wheat harvest. The FAO highlight the limited availability of critical agricultural inputs to Ukrainian farmers, including seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, equipment, fuel and livestock supplies. They add that the immediate concern is to support the spring planting season and to prevent the disruption of the upcoming winter crop harvesting, which typically occurs in June-July. FAO estimates that a third of crops may not be harvested in 2022 and a third of land may not be cultivated. These concerns were also emphasised by EU Commissioner Wojciechowski who said that despite the heroic

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WHAT'S ON

- Teagasc May events [read more](#)
- Signpost Series Webinars - Teagasc [read more](#)
- May 6 INAP meeting
- May 11 Fefac Sustainability
- June 2 VICTAM/VIV Europe

RASFF 'S April 2022

Total Food & Feed	380
Total Feed	17
Feed Materials	8
Feed Additives	1
Feed Premixtures	2
Compound Feed	1
Pet food	5

[read more](#)

For more information or useful links <http://igfa.ie/MonthlyFeedIssues.html>



<https://twitter.com/IGFAie> 



Read Teagasc Signpost newsletter [here](#)

efforts of farmers, there remains huge uncertainty on the extent of sowing and harvesting that is possible in Ukraine.

Ukraine Crisis – Organic Feed Regulation (EU) 2018/848

Ireland has been raising with the Commission the impact of the invasion of Ukraine on organic protein feed availability. On 06 April the EU Commission circulated a delegated act that would empower national authorities to grant an extension of the present 5% derogation for the use of non-organic protein feed in young pigs and poultry to adult pigs and poultry. This draft regulation is undergoing consultation within the Commission but in the absence of objections, the delegated act would be published immediately and should apply retroactively from 24 February 2022. FEFAC has indicated that certain countries have already anticipated the publication of this text with feed manufacturers in most German Länder, The Netherlands and Northern Ireland already availing of this possibility and some other countries are expected to join soon.

Ukraine Crisis - Russian Ship Derogations

IGFA and their importer members meet with DAFM on Friday 8 April to discuss the most recent Russian sanctions and derogations with regard to animal feed imports. Following the meeting the sanctions were published and from 16 April 2022 the EU has prohibited vessels registered under the flag of Russia from accessing EU ports. This also applies to vessels that have re-registered from the flag of Russia to the flag of another state after 24 February 2022. The EU sanctions, however make provision for a national Competent Authority (Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment) to authorise a **derogation from the prohibition on limited and very specific grounds**.

The following is a list of commodities the derogations apply to the purchase, import or transport of natural gas, oil, including refined petroleum products, as well as titanium, aluminium, copper, nickel, palladium and iron ore, as well as certain chemical and iron products as listed in Annex XXIV to the Regulation

- purchase, import or transport of pharmaceutical and medical products, agricultural and food products, including wheat and fertilisers whose import, purchase and transport is permitted under the Regulation
- humanitarian purposes
- transport of nuclear fuel and other goods strictly necessary for the functioning of civil nuclear capabilities
- the purchase, import or transport into the Union of coal and other solid fossil fuels, as listed in Annex XXII until 10 August 2022

Importers seeking a derogation on one of these grounds should complete the [Application Form \(PDF, 130KB\)](#) and submit it electronically to the relevant Government Department:

FEFAC Public Annual Meeting To Address Impact of the War

The European feed compounders' organisation FEFAC, and its Dutch member organisation Nevedi, will jointly host the 66th FEFAC Public Annual meeting on June 2 in Utrecht with the theme 'EU food & feed autonomy in times of geopolitical crisis'. The discussions will focus on how the sector can respond to the impact of the Russian attack on Ukraine. Food chain resilience while meeting EU Green Deal targets for the EU livestock sector will also be a key topic. Registration details [here](#)

FEFAC has started a dialogue with US colleagues on setting up a dedicated EU/US feed trade partnership/dialogue. The aim is to strengthen US/EU feed systems resilience and sustainability through identifying increased transatlantic feed trade opportunities. The plan is also to look at the development of common feed sustainability standards and guidelines. Sharing information on the impact of the Ukraine crisis on essential feed supplies will also be important.

Support Package for Pig Farmers Announced



On 14 April Minister McConalogue announced an exceptional aid package of €15.8m for the pig and horticulture sectors. The money will come from EU funds set aside for agricultural sectors which have been impacted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and pig farmers will be eligible for a maximum payment of €70,000 per undertaking. The payment will be subject to conditionality but the details of this are, as yet, unclear.

When announcing the package, the Minister highlighted the significant challenges the industry continues to face despite being a highly productive and resilient sector. The IFA has said that they welcome the funding but added that there should be "no

unrealistic conditionality attached to the scheme” and specifically that there should be no attempt to impose a mandatory reduction on farmers. They warned that the support might not be enough to stop significant departures from the sector and that 7% of pig farmers have already been forced to exit, with a further 20–30% at serious risk of going out of business. They also called on the processing sector to play its role in the survival of the sector saying that a substantial increase in the price of pigmeat was urgently needed.

Brexit - Postponement of Post-Brexit Checks until the End of 2023

The UK Government has again postponed the introduction of import checks previously due to start on 1 July 2022. The reason given is that British businesses and people are being hit by rising costs caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and it would be wrong to impose new administrative burdens and risk disruption at ports and to supply chains at this time.

In a statement the UK government has said that no further import controls on EU goods will be introduced this year and that the following controls, which were planned for introduction from July 2022, will now not be introduced:

- A requirement for further Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) checks on EU imports currently at destination to be moved to Border Control Post (BCP)
- A requirement for safety and security declarations on EU imports
- A requirement for further health certification and SPS checks for EU imports
- Prohibitions and restrictions on the import of chilled meats from the EU

The statement says that the UK government is planning a new approach and will publish a ‘Target Operating Model in the Autumn that will set out our new regime of border import controls and will target the end of 2023 as the revised introduction date’.

Sustainability

Responsible Soy

FEFAC and ITC announced that five more schemes offering responsible soy products to the European feed market having successfully passed the independent benchmarking process against the [FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines 2021](#). This brings the total number to 20 responsible soy schemes which are compliant with the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines 2021. 19 out of 20 schemes also comply with the specific desired criterion on conversion-free soy, meaning they offer responsibly produced soy grown on land that didn’t come at the expense of any (illegal or legal) conversion of natural eco-systems. All schemes are displayed in the updated [FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines Benchmarking Tool](#) on ITC Standards Map.

Animal Health

Avian Influenza



Regulations introduced in November 2021 which require the confinement of poultry and captive birds are to be lifted from 29 April 2022 (Statutory Instrument No. 607 of 2021). All flock owners intending to allow birds to have outdoor access from this date must take action now to ensure those areas conform to best biosecurity practice. This will help minimise the potential for poultry and captive birds to come into contact with wild birds and potential environmental contamination with avian influenza viruses. Additional biosecurity regulations introduced in November 2021 to help protect poultry and captive birds from avian influenza remain in force (Statutory Instrument No. 593 of 2021). High standards of biosecurity remain essential as infection can survive for weeks and may still be present in the environment. For more information see latest AI information from DAFM issued on 26 April 2022 [DAFM Avian Influenza Update No. 5 of 2022](#)

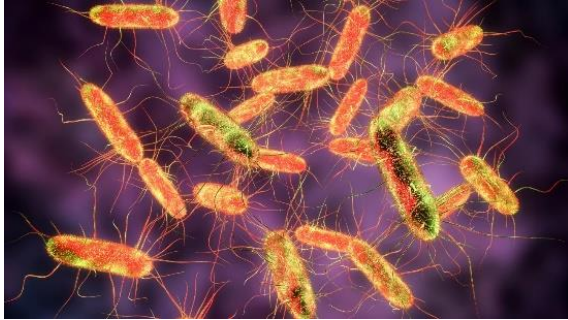
Technical News

Ethoxyquin Feed Additive

In 2017 the authorisation of ethoxyquin as a feed additive was suspended with different transition periods as outlined in [\(EU\) 2017/962](#). The transition period for use of ethoxyquin in preparations of vitamins and carotenoids was 2018 and since then some EU feed business have experienced a loss of stability, in particular for vitamin A. None of the alternatives to ethoxyquin could reach the same level of protection against oxidation. This resulted in an increase in the number of non-compliances on the labelled amount of vitamins and gave rise to a number of litigations in other EU countries.

At the next SCoPAFF experts meeting on 2 May 2022, reauthorisation of Ethoxyquin will be discussed. Members are requested to please let cornelia.oconnell@eorna.ie know if you have experienced issues with loss of stability, in particular for vitamin A (analytical results lower than expected). We will advise (confidentially) the DAFM representative attending the meeting so they can note this at the SCoPAFF discussion.

Salmonella - Multi-Country Salmonella Outbreak Linked To Chocolate Products



In December 2021, *S. Typhimurium* was detected in a buttermilk tank at the Belgian establishment of the company in question during its own checks. The company implemented some hygiene measures, and sampling and testing of the products and processing environment were increased. After negative Salmonella testing, it then distributed the chocolate products across Europe and globally. At the end of March 2022, upon availability of sequencing data, scientists linked human cases to the establishment in Belgium through advanced molecular typing techniques.

IGFA contacted DAFM to request assurances that the contaminated food material had not and would not enter the food chain.

The French approach to the management of the salmonella risk in feed was discussed at a recent FEFAC Feed Safety Management meeting. It is a combination of processing requirements (evidence of efficiency of heat or chemical process to achieve a reduction of the amount of Enterobacteriaceae for feed for poultry breeders) and of strain-specific measures for the management of contaminated consignments. However, it was noted that the relevance of Enterobacteriaceae as an indicator of efficiency of a treatment against salmonella is being challenged. It was also noted that the question of the use of organic acids for decontamination purposes was still an issue for discussion in several countries. EuroFac, the French feed industry organisation, has developed an online application for operators to manage the salmonella risk not only in the case of contamination of feed but also of the environment. The system is called Salmo check and can be viewed [here](#).

Brexit

The following is a brief summary update on what is happening in the UK

- UK Feed Additives Register: The FSA has issued public consultations for the first 11 feed additives to go through the UK evaluation process: [Consultation on applications for eleven additives for use in animal feed \(food.gov.uk\)](https://www.food.gov.uk/consultation-on-applications-for-eleven-additives-for-use-in-animal-feed). Following completion of the consultation, the FSA will review the comments and update the opinions as necessary. Recommendations will then be made to Ministers with regards to authorisation of the feed additives. The anticipated timeline is towards the end of 2022. A second set of feed additives are completing their review by the UK Scientific Committee and a public consultation is expected later this year. The requirement to submit a renewal application for a feed additive 1 year before the expiry date also applies in the UK.
- UK Feed Materials Register: The notification form for new feed materials to be placed on the GB market is expected within weeks. The full UK feed materials register will not be available immediately because a clean-up process is planned in collaboration with the FSA.
- Mycotoxins in feed: The FSA has issued new guidance to companies on mycotoxin testing of feed [Raising awareness and mitigation of the potential risk of mycotoxins in animal feed | Food Standards Agency](#)
- Titanium Dioxide: The FSA has initiated re-evaluations of titanium dioxide for food and feed additive use. The feed legislation refers to the food additive and therefore, if the food additive is withdrawn from the market before the feed risk assessment is completed, titanium dioxide for feed use would also have to be withdrawn.