

General News

IGFA Meeting with the Tánaiste



IGFA representatives met with Tánaiste Leo Varadkar, Minister of State Martin Heydon and Senator Maria Byrne on 22 June 2022. The aim of the meeting was to highlight the challenges faced by the Irish Animal Feed Industry and specifically the costs of doing business in our sector. These costs do not just have a significant impact of IGFA members, but knock-on effects further up the food chain. Our concerns were discussed under 3 agenda items

1. Energy and transport cost challenges for our sector
2. Increase in the costs of working capital and the impact on feed businesses and native grain producers.
3. Impact of 6th package of sanctions against Russia on feed.

IGFA also highlighted solutions and policy changes that could be explored to ease the burden on Irish feed businesses. Further details are available in this [IGFA briefing](#) and we will follow up with meetings on the issues raised over the coming months. The Tánaiste emphasised the importance of the feed sector and echoed comments he had made publicly that he doesn't anticipate problems around the supply of petrol and diesel over the coming months but that the issue will be price. He said that we are in an unprecedented situation and Minister Heydon added that he would therefore like to keep in close contact over the coming months.

Ukraine Exports

Within its "Solidarity Lanes" project to speed up grain exports from Ukraine, the EU Commission is promoting a new application called [GrainLane](#). This new tool is a marketplace for selling and buying agricultural goods. Through this platform buyers and sellers can make offers and GrainLane provides an interface to get in contact with Ukrainian grain traders. This tool is in addition to a [matchmaking platform](#) which aims to facilitate logistics operations for exporting and importing goods from/to Ukraine.

At recent Brussels meetings the Commission said that there have been positive concrete improvements at the border post level between Ukraine and "frontline" Member States, Poland, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary. Industry bodies highlighted persistent logistics problems that cause queues at borders and the need to agree on an interim storage agreement to allow EU "frontline" countries to store Ukrainian grain on their territory while remaining in transit and the property of Ukrainian owners. Other concerns were raised such as the veterinary requirements issues, which still cause significant delay, leading to quality issues for Ukrainian grain.

FEFAC stressed 2 main bottlenecks that prevent buyers from increasing their engagement. 1) The lack of financial bank guarantees, linked to problems in the Ukrainian banking sector and the 2) quality issues of the products exported and unpredictable delays make contract execution very difficult.

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WHAT'S ON

Teagasc June events [read more](#)
 Signpost Series Webinars -
 Teagasc [read more](#)

RASFF 'S June 2022

Total Food & Feed	351
Total Feed	16
Feed Materials	11
Feed Additives	0
Fats and oils	0
Compound Feed	2
Pet food	3

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EU and Ukraine Crop Monitoring June 2022

EU - The yield outlook for EU winter crops was slightly reduced for the third consecutive month. At EU level, the yield forecasts for soft wheat, durum wheat and winter barley are now just below the 5-year average. The forecasts for rapeseed, maize and sunflowers were also reduced but remain at, or just above, the 5-year average. Forecasts for sugar beet, potatoes, and soybeans (still mostly based on historical trends), as well as spring barley, remain essentially unchanged. [Read more](#)

Ukraine - Adverse weather conditions since the start of the 2021 – 2022 season have led to a poor yield outlook for winter crops in central and western Ukraine. Fair yields are expected in the east of the country. At country level, our yield forecast is below the historical trend and well below last year's record level.

In terms of production, this translates to a forecast of 26.88 Mt of wheat, 6.66 Mt of barley, and 3.75Mt of rapeseed. [Read more](#)

EU Sanctions Against Russia

On 3 June 2022 the EU's sixth package of sanctions against Russia were issued. The objective of these sanctions is to reinforce pressure on the Russian government and economy. Unfortunately for the feed industry, several feed ingredients were added to the list of products that are 'prohibited to sell, supply, transfer or export, directly or indirectly, goods which could contribute in particular to the enhancement of Russian industrial capacities'. Now included in these sanctions are

co-product: 2303 - Residues of starch manufacture and similar residues, beet-pulp, bagasse and other waste of sugar manufacture, brewing or distilling dregs and waste, whether or not in the form of pellets.

Previous to these sanctions on 8 April, the fifth package was issued which included amino acid (code 2930 40) methionine antioxidant and (code 2907 19) monophenol – phenols, butylated hydroxytoluene – BHT.

These ingredients are important to the feed industry

In 2021 the EU imported from Russia 727,008 tonnes of beet pulp (230320), 13 742 tonnes of BHT (290719) & 615 tonnes of methionine (290140).

Within the fifth package of sanctions, an exemption was applied to products, for which the contracts were concluded before the 9th of April and execution could take place until the 10th of July 2022. However, this transition phase has not changed for the 6th package, which will affect beet pulp shipments en route to EU destinations. IGFA has contacted DAFM to seek clarification on the inclusion of feed materials and the lack of a workable transition period. IGFA are also liaising with FEFAC on the matter who are in contact with DG AGRI. Additional information on sanctions is available for the Commission: [Sanctions adopted following Russia's military aggression against Ukraine | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#). It includes regularly updated FAQs already conveyed by economic operators and authorities, in areas such as customs, circumvention, transport, financial, freezing of assets, etc. Lastly, it is important to note that the implementation of EU sanctions is the primary responsibility of Member States.

EU Import Duties on All Ukrainian Exports suspended

On 3 June 2022 [Regulation\(EU\) 2022/870](#) was published and shall apply between 4 June 2022 and 5 June 2023. The regulation suspends all tariffs and quotas on Ukrainian exports, including agricultural products (i.e. cereals, meat, live animals etc.), processed agricultural products, and fruit and vegetables.

Global Food Security

The EU Foreign affairs Council approved a "[Team Europe](#)" plan on food insecurity on 20 June setting out conclusions on Europe's response to global food insecurity reaching unprecedented levels. The plan refers to a significant drop in the availability of food and fertiliser leading to price rises aggravating global food insecurity. The EU Council urges member states to boost sustainable production and to transform food systems and make them more resilient. It also calls for emergency relief action promoting open global trade in food and fertilisers to make food affordable, asking for effective multilateralism.

Environment News

DAFM Crude Protein Survey for 2021 to be Issued at Start of July

One of the actions outlined in Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2021 specific to our sector is to 'Reduce the crude protein content of livestock feeding stuffs to minimise nitrous oxide and ammonia loss'. In Spring 2020 DAFM undertook a comprehensive survey of crude protein levels in animals feed to establish the situation on the ground. Feed mills and

home mixers that manufacture compound feed were asked to provide information on production quantities and weighted average crude protein contents for dairy, beef, pig and poultry compound feeds. Data was requested for the years 2015, 2017 and 2019.

The survey results showed that protein levels have been following a positive environmental downward trend since 2015. There was an 80% response rate to the survey which meant the results gave an accurate picture of the situation.

DAFM are conducting the survey again to gather data for 2021. IGFA is supporting their work as we understand the importance of accurate data to ensure future policy developments in this area are based on robust information. The survey will be sent out at the start of July and IGFA is requesting that members complete this survey as accurately as possible and return it before the deadline.

GFLI – Environmental Footprinting for Animal Feed

GFLI is a non-profit working on improving Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) data on animal feed raw materials. Their aim is to support the feed sector's efforts to reduce the environmental footprint of animal feed by providing high-quality, uniformly calculated LCA data on feed raw materials. The more animal feed companies and associations that join GFLI, the clearer the signal to the market and society. The lower the impact of animal feed, the better the environmental performance of meat, dairy, eggs, and farmed fish. This video

<https://youtu.be/nfzfQ9utMTE> will give you a better understanding of how it works.



Circular Feed and Co-Products

The EU Farm to Fork Strategy has focused attention on the use of alternative feed ingredients and how the sector can lower the environmental footprint of animal products through increased use of circular feed. FEFAC has released its new [Publication on Circular Feed](#) which showcases how the European feed industry contributes to the circular economy. In raising the profile of the circular feed concept at the EU level, the hope is that it will help identify solutions to address current and future regulatory challenges and 'bottlenecks' limiting access to a wider range of circular nutrient sources. The sustainable food systems framework should also ensure that feed applications of nutrients emerging from the circular economy are not deviated towards bioenergy use because of incentives provided through renewable energy policy-making. Factors that determine how "circular" the feed is are discussed in the document e.g. Food/feed grade status, proximity to the feed mill, land use ratio, and nutrient digestibility.



The issue of circular feed was discussed at the June IGFA Feed Committee meeting and our plans are to use some of the information from the FEFAC publication to develop a document on the importance of circular feed in an Irish context.

Animal Health

African Swine Fever (ASF) and Avian Influenza (AI)

To date there has never been a case of ASF in Ireland and while there is no human health risk with the disease, it is easily transmitted in pork products and is potentially fatal to pigs. On 10 June 2022, Italy confirmed an outbreak of ASF in a small domestic pig farm in the municipality of Rome. This is the first outbreak of ASF in domestic pigs on mainland Italy. For more information and biosecurity advice see DAFM info issued on 15 June 2022 [here](#).

The EU Animal Health Advisory Group met on 7 June 2022 to discuss ASF and Highly Pathogenic AI

ASF - the EU Commission presented the main changes to Regulation (EU) 2021/605 [agreed by SCoPAFF](#) in May 2022 regarding control measures for ASF, concerning, in particular, the movements of animals kept within restricted zones permitted for farms with high biosecurity levels only and the obligation for Member States to establish a long term wild boar management action plan. Upon request of FEFAC, the EU Commission indicated that Member States were asked to inform the SCoPAFF of any significant scientific findings regarding ASF and so far, none of them has reported any specific result of research regarding the survival and/or the analytical means to detect ASFv in feed matrices.

AI - the EU Commission presented an overview of the prevalence of AI in wild birds and poultry farms during the last years, pointing to a strong correlation between the two except in 2019/2020. They stressed that the present outbreak in the EU was special in the sense that there were two waves in winter and spring, the severity of the pandemic with twice as many commercial birds affected and in terms of genetic diversity of the virus. They pointed to recurrent clusters in high-density poultry areas linked to “risky” practices such as foie gras production. A debate took place on the EU Council [statement](#) calling for the development of a vaccination strategy.

The EU Commission also presented an overview of the state of implementation of the new Animal Health legislation, asking participants to contribute to the dissemination of the information on different topics available on their [website](#).

Technical News

Feed Additives Legislation

The work on the new (re-fit) of the feed additive regulation has been delayed. The expected date of the publication of the first draft is now the end of 2022/ beginning of 2023 “if everything goes well”.

SCoPAFF and Feed Additives

SCoPAFF Animal Nutrition took place on 28-30 June 2022. Details of the outcomes will be in next months Feed Issues.

Non-Organic Protein

The EU Commission services has advised that the adoption of the delegated act providing for an extension of the present 5% non-organic protein feed to adult pig and poultry as a result of the war in Ukraine is scheduled for 28 June 2022. Once the delegated act is adopted by the Commission, there will be a 2-month period during which the Council and the European Parliament (EP) can express objections (3 months over the summer). The Commission will seek an early notification by the Council and EP of their “non-objection”, which would shortcut this delay and allow for publication by end of July 2022. National authorities will be able to apply it retroactively until the start of the war on 24 February 2022.

Arsenic (inorganic)

Currently there is a maximum permitted level for total arsenic set in the undesirable regulation. In May 2022 the EU Commission published a recommendation for monitoring the presence of inorganic arsenic in feed. This recommendation says that Member States, with the active involvement of feed business operators, should monitor for the presence of inorganic arsenic in feed. It includes the particular samples of feed materials and compound feed that should be taken, as well as a sampling procedure. Data should be provided to EFSA by 30 June 2023, following which consideration will be given to the setting of maximum levels of inorganic arsenic in certain feed or any other risk management measures needed. DAFM therefore will be obliged to increase sampling of feed considered to be of higher risk of inorganic arsenic over this time frame.

Pesticides Legislation - EU Developments

The EU Farm to Fork Strategy calls for a 50% reduction in the use of pesticides by 2030 (*2011/2013 average use of pesticides will be used as the baseline*). CropLife Europe representing the EU pesticides industry, provided an overview on 15 June to stakeholders on the ongoing legislative developments affecting directly or indirectly the pesticides industry and trade in agricultural products. Some of their key messages they opened with were as follows

MRLs are trading standards related to consumer health, not the environment

Farmers across the world need access to crop protection tools

Different regions have different needs. Some pesticides not EU registered may be necessary in non-EU countries. Farmers need to have a broad toolbox available to support climate change adaptation, mitigation and prevention.

With regard to import tolerances, they advised that the EU Commission is expected to submit to the SCoPAFF a proposal providing for the withdrawal of import tolerances for two substances due to environmental factors in September 2022, which would then be followed by a notification to the WTO. This will also test the reactions of global trade partners on one of the most controversial measures from the Farm to Fork Strategy. They stressed that there is a growing trend from certain MEP's (Left & Greens) to propose motions for objections that, if supported by a majority of the European

Parliament (EP) result in blocking the setting or modifications of MRLs. To date in 2022, 3 out of the 11 EU Commission proposals for modifications of MRLs faced a proposal for motion of objections. CropLife EU, pointed to the unpredictable character of such objections, which until the end of 2021 were consistently supported by the EP in Plenary. However, they indicated a shift in attitude at the end of 2021, with a motion for objection being rejected by the EP in Plenary. They explained this was the result of a better understanding by MEPs of the consequences of such objections and more engagement from the EU Commission to defend their proposals.

Pesticides Legislation – Ireland Developments

Following numerous discussions, DAFM feedstuffs section advised IGFA that they have reviewed the option of adopting temporary MRLs and are preparing a paper so that the decision can be taken at a senior level. Further information has been requested by DAFM in relation to any discussions members may have had with upstream customers and if an enactment of these temporary MRLs in July would be an acceptable time frame for the trade (if that is the decision that is made re tMRLs).

A background briefing and update was presented at the IGFA Feed Committee meeting on 14 June (IGFA briefing [here](#)). In anticipation of how any issue related to pesticides may be perceived by those who don't necessarily understand the issue, members were very keen to ensure that DAFM communicates clearly to the food chain the reasons why tMRLs are necessary and that the robustness of the DAFM risk assessment is emphasised. IGFA has asked DAFM to share with us their plan for communications and messaging on the issue. We have also indicated to DAFM that July would be a workable timeframe to implement the tMRLs but would like to be reassured of clear information and updates from government in advance of the publication of the S.I.

OTHER NEWS

UK – Gene Editing

The UK Parliament published on 26 May 2022 the genetic technology (precision breeding) bill. This bill, which only applies to England, will enable the development and marketing of precision bred plants and animals, removing barriers to research into new gene editing technology. These technologies will enable UK scientists to help farmers and producers develop plant varieties and animals with certain beneficial traits that could also occur through traditional breeding and natural processes, but in a more efficient and precise way. The bill will now undergo its passage through the House of Commons and the House of Lords, with the second reading due in June 2022. Industry partners have raised issues around the appropriateness of requiring a risk assessment by the FSA for these products fearing delays within FSA will result in a bottleneck for gene edited crops.

UK - Units of Measurement

3 June 2022 the UK launched an open consultation entitled [Choice on units of measurement: markings and sales](#). The purpose of this consultation is to gather information for the government review of units of measurement for consumer transactions. The evidence gathered will inform the government's plans to provide a choice on weights and measures for consumer transactions. The Government want to hear from a broad range of stakeholders that interact with all consumer transactions based on units of measurements – including businesses, trade associations, enforcement authorities, consumers, and consumer organisations. From businesses, the consultation seeks to understand the likely uptake of selling solely in imperial measures, or in imperial units with a less prominent metric equivalent; and the costs and benefits related to both options. It also asks for business views on potential impacts on their customer base and suppliers.

Input is sought from audiences in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland; although it is acknowledged that it may not be possible to implement policy in the same way in Northern Ireland at present due to the current provisions of the Northern Ireland Protocol. However, government still welcome views about the implementation of these changes in Northern Ireland when they are able to be made. There will be a separate government review on specified quantities relating to the measurements in which wines and liquors are legally permitted to be sold; this legislative area does not fall within the remit of this consultation. The consultation will close at 11pm on 26 August 2022.