

General News

Compound Feed Production in 2021 and 2022

Data collected by FEFAC from their members indicate that EU compound feed production (EU27) for farmed animals in 2021 is estimated to have increased 0.03% compared to 2020. Except for the pig feed sector, all other sectors managed to stabilize or slightly increase their production despite the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, global grain market rally, supply chain disruptions and spread of animal diseases in 2021.

The pig meat sector faced various challenges in 2021 including reduced meat demand in key export markets, high costs for feed grains and African Swine Fever. As a result, pig feed production decreased by -1.5% in 2021. The countries most affected were Germany, France, Portugal, Spain, Austria, Slovenia and Hungary. The Netherlands and Belgium have continued to depopulate their pig herds in order to lower agricultural environmental emissions. The EU poultry feed sector managed to increase its production by 1.1 % compared to the previous year, recovering partially from losses linked to COVID lockdown measures in 2020. Cattle feed production slightly increased by 0.2% compared to the previous year due to a higher increase in production in some member states. In Italy and the Czech Republic dairy farmers decided to buy industrial compound feed rather than mixing their feed on farms, reacting to high costs for raw materials.

Looking ahead to 2022, the EU pig and poultry sectors are expected to reduce their activities due to the high cost of feed materials, lower market demand and expanding Avian Influenza outbreaks in several countries. FEFAC members estimate a decrease of - 4.2% for pig feed and - 3% for poultry feed. The cattle feed production is expected to decrease by - 1.6%. Overall, the industrial compound feed production is estimated to decrease by - 2.9% (i.e. 4.3 Mio tonnes) compared to 2021. However, market uncertainties remain very high due to ongoing war in Ukraine.

Ukraine's Grains exports - Commission's new Action Plan

The commission published a new communication on 12 May that looks at establishing "Solidarity Lanes" to support exporting grains from Ukraine. The communication stresses the need to find alternative solutions to the problems caused by the blockade of Black Sea ports and at a recent meeting they highlighted that

- Before the Russian invasion, 90% of the Ukrainian grains were exported through Black Sea ports
- 20MT of cereals need to leave Ukrainian storage capacity by July
- This means a monthly grain export of 3MT and the current average is 1.5MT per month

The Communication identified key bottlenecks to tackle including unharmonized rail links between the EU and Ukraine, insufficient transshipment capacity, lack of available lorries and lorry drivers and unnecessary delays due to border checks. It looks at short and long-term measures that could help alleviate the problems. At a recent meeting with stakeholders and government a Ukrainian representative talked about the importance of the collaboration between Ukraine and the EU to

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WHAT'S ON

- Teagasc June events [read more](#)
- Signpost Series Webinars - Teagasc [read more](#)
- June 1 Fefac board meeting
- June 1 DAFM & BB meeting
- June 2 VICTAM/VIV Europe
- June 14 Feed committee meeting

RASFF 'S May 2022

Total Food & Feed	365
Total Feed	24
Feed Materials	17
Feed Additives	2
Fats and oils	1
Compound Feed	2
Pet food	2
read more	

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manage the situation. He also highlighted ongoing improvements - Ukraine exported 1MT of grains in April which is likely to increase to an estimated 1.5MT in May. His view was that the most pressing issues limiting exports were the availability of trucks and wagons and the administrative procedures, adding that both require massive investment.

At that meeting the Commission presented 2 existing platforms that could be used for 'matchmaking' between logistic operators but stated that "Solidarity Lanes" actions are market-driven. Commission representatives said they are keen to set the overall framework but only companies and organisations will have the capacity to take up the logistics challenges. Stakeholders highlighted the need for reinforced coordination and the time wasted due to uncoordinated activities. Administrative obstacles were also emphasised and the commission said they are currently working on a trade agreement to facilitate road transport and ease the admin checks. Almost all the logistic stakeholders mentioned the difficulties caused by the reluctance of insurance companies to cover trade relations with Ukrainian operators. The commission said it will further investigate insurance solutions with international bodies.

Global Food Security Crisis

High level officials have called for action to improve food security in all countries with UN Secretary General António Guterres highlighting that "If we do not feed people, we feed conflict". At a Global Food Security Ministerial meeting in mid-May he said that to avoid a humanitarian disaster there is a need to "urgently reduce the pressure on markets by increasing supplies of food and fertilizers," adding that it is vital that food commodities and fertiliser from Russia and Ukraine be allowed to flow onto world markets. He also called on governments to "bolster agricultural production and invest in resilient food systems". US Secretary of State Antony Blinken echoed many of the concerns and said we are facing "the greatest global food security crisis of our time..... driven in part by the pandemic, driven by an accelerating climate crisis." He added that "Every driver of the crisis that we'll discuss today has been made worse by President Putin's war".

Animal Health

Avian Influenza

Further to the DAFM update of 26 April 2022 which announced that the Precautionary Confinement of Birds (Housing Order) was to be withdrawn on 29 April, the remaining measures introduced to mitigate the risk of spread of avian influenza are also to be withdrawn. For more information see latest AI information from DAFM issued on 16 May 2022 [DAFM Avian Influenza Update No. 6 of 2022](#)



Avian Flu Vaccination an "Additional Tool" to curb spread

EU Agriculture Ministers approved Council Conclusions on a strategic approach for the development of vaccination as a complementary tool for the prevention and control of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) at a meeting on 24 May. Given that the "current HPAI epizootic is the most severe in recent history," the application of strict biosecurity and other prevention and control measures are key. They added that vaccination could complement existing policy instruments and help to curb the spread of the virus in the domestic bird population. Ministers would like to see further development of scientific knowledge including updated risk assessments and call on member states and the commission to intensify their efforts to develop vaccination strategies targeted at risk areas, species and farming practices.

ASF detected on German pig farm

The authorities in Germany confirmed on 25 May that African Swine Fever (ASF) has been detected on a domestic pig farm in Baden-Württemberg close to the French border. The location is more than 500km away from other outbreaks and on a free-range finishing pig holding. The first case of ASF was confirmed in a wild boar in Germany in September 2020 and although a few cases have been reported since in domestic pigs, the majority were in wild boar. The pigs have been culled to contain the spread and the necessary biosecurity and protection and surveillance measures have been put in place.

Strategies to Reduce the Needs for Antibiotics

The EU research project [DISARM](#), deals with the implementation of strategies at farm level to reduce the need for antibiotics. Feed composition is a key element in safeguarding animal health and welfare in livestock production. Therefore, properly formulated rations play an important role in reducing the need for antibiotics. Animal feeds can be formulated with special ingredients like additives, supplements and active feed ingredients that can assist in supporting the animals' (gut) health and immune function. Click here to access more information [Feed Composition, Additives and Supplements](#) | [Colostrum and Early Feeding](#) | [Water](#) | [Feeding Management](#)



Technical News

Establishment of temporary MRLs

In a joint letter sent on 1 March 2022 to the European Commission, COCERAL, FEDIOL and FEFAC indicated that there was, in general, enough exportable surplus of maize for feed use available in the Americas (USA, Argentina, Brazil) to substitute for the volumes lost due to the war in Ukraine. However, the organisations pointed to potential risk of non-compliance of this maize with EU standards on pesticide residues and GMOs. They therefore asked for some limited relaxation of the standards and time to facilitate access to this corn while not compromising public health. These requests were considered by the commission.

Following this, the EU Commission held a special meeting of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed on 11 March 2022, which concluded with the possibility for member states to grant temporary Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) in case of risk of acute shortage (article 18(4) of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005) upon certain conditions.

The situation was discussed on 8 March at the IGFA Feed Committee meeting and following this representation was made to DAFM to review the possibility of adopting temporary MRLs. The current situation is that DAFM, following meetings with the industry, reviewed the option of adopting temporary MRLs and are in a position to draft a Statutory Instrument (SI) to enact temporary MRLs. DAFM has asked that importers provide them with more information with regard to the benefit of these MRLs and market information before they continue down this path or finalise and publish the SI. For more information read the recent briefing issued to all IGFA members 17 May 2022. See [here](#)

Feed Additives

Feed additives register The [third edition](#) this year was released on 18 May 2022

Ethoxyquin update	The SCoPAFF meeting on 2-3 May 2022 discussed the EFSA opinion on ethoxyquin issued in February 2022. Despite the announcement by industry representative FEFANA that some of the remaining concerns on consumer safety could be addressed, there was a consensus to order a denial of authorization which is expected to be proposed at June SCoPAFF meeting.
BHT (antioxidant) update	The two draft EFSA opinions were published on 3 May 2022 and 10 May 2022 . Due to data gaps, both opinions are inconclusive as regards the safety of species other than pigs and poultry, for users and for the environment. The opinions are positive regarding the safety of consumers. It is expected that the Commission will ask the applicants to provide the missing information within a predefined timeline.

RASFF - Ethylene Oxide

Since February 2022, four RASFF notifications have been issued relating to residues of ethylene oxide (ETOsum's). Three of these notifications related to food and one to feed by Germany - see RASFF [link](#). To address this issue FEFAC set up a meeting with Starch Europe, the European association representing wheat gluten producers. The main outcome of this were

- The origin of the contamination has nothing to do with the illegal use of ethylene oxide. It is due to the use of a processing aid, monochloramine, which during the production of wheat gluten, generates 2-chloro-ethanol.
- The levels found (between 0.03 and 0.21 ppm) make the wheat gluten non-compliant but it is unlikely that, considering the inclusion rates of wheat gluten, the levels in compound feed exceed the LOQ of 0.02 ppm.
- The members of Starch Europe who may have used monochloramine have put in place actions whereby the use of monochloramine in the future, if any, will not result in the formation of 2-CE.
- The members of Starch Europe who may have used monochloramine were recommended to contact their customers to explain measures put in place in further detail and to cover any other aspects deserving clarification.

Starch Europe members are also challenging the legitimacy of the stated non-compliance. They noted in a briefing, issued on 6 May that the alerts are NOT linked to the presence of Ethylene Oxide (ETO) in wheat gluten as the RASFF incorrectly reports - ETO is a non-authorized pesticide in Europe and is of course not used in the production process of wheat gluten. Only 2-CE was found in the gluten and the most likely cause is the use of monochloramine as a processing aid, use that is expressly authorised in France. This means that the current classification as pesticide occurrence is incorrect, and they intend to explore ways to address it.

Glyphosate Renewal Update

The consultations carried out by EFSA and ECHA (European Chemicals Agency) on the draft assessments of glyphosate attracted an unprecedented number of comments, confirming the high level of interest in this substance. The input received from the consultations, together with the replies received by EFSA from the applicant in response to its request for additional information, added a significant amount of information to a dossier that already contained far more scientific data than are usually available for such assessments. This additional information will be thoroughly considered by the Assessment Group on Glyphosate (AGG), composed of four EU Member States – France, Hungary, the Netherlands and Sweden – that is now updating their initial draft renewal assessment report (dRAR). Against this background, EFSA and ECHA have revised the timeline for the remaining steps in the re-evaluation process.



The ECHA's Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) will discuss the *hazard* classification and consider carcinogenicity, genotoxicity, reproductive and developmental toxicity, as well as the environmental classification. The ECHA opinion will be made available to EFSA and published on ECHA's website by end of July to mid-August 2022. EFSA also received approximately 2,400 comments from Member State experts and the Glyphosate Renewal Group (GRG). These contributions have resulted in a file of approximately 3,000 pages, which must be scrutinised, and which will then serve as a basis for the preparation of the updated draft risk assessment. EFSA will therefore be able to hold the Pesticides Peer Review meetings in November and December 2022 and to finalise the conclusions in July 2023. At this point the opinion is available to the Commission who then draft the reauthorisation regulation to be voted on by the Member states. This may now be delayed until 2024 at the earliest.

Public Consultation on New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) Published

The Commission opened a public consultation on NGTs that will run until 22 July 2022. It includes questions on 3 themes

- Section A “Regulating plant produced by targeted mutagenesis and cisgenesis” focuses on the current situation and the definition of the problem;
- Section B “Regulating plants produced by targeted mutagenesis and cisgenesis” centres around the risk assessment of NGTs, sustainability of NGTs traits and traceability/detection;
- Section C “Other relevant aspects of a new framework” focuses on possible solutions and other relevant aspects (coexistence, facilitation of access to NGTs).

IGFA will contribute to the FEFAC response to this consultation and we also plan to submit a response from a national perspective. Our position will support the view of Irish farming organisations and academics on this topic.

Other News

Irish Seed Trade Association (ISTA) Event



The Irish Seed Trade Association (ISTA) is hosting an event at the National Crop Variety Testing Centre at Backweston Farm to view and learn about the continuous work carried out there by the DAFM Crop Policy, Evaluation & Certification Division. It is on **June 29th starting at 10:30am** with tea/coffee on arrival. The eircode for Backweston Farm is W23 AE3V or click here for the [google maps link](#). The visit to the trial site will also be followed by lunch, just minutes away in the Springfield Hotel (Eircode W23 W280), for all those in attendance. We ask you to register your intention to attend [by completing this form, ideally by 22nd June, but it will be available right up until the evening before the event.](#) For those

who wish to count their attendance at the event, it has been awarded 20 IASIS credits.

Ulster Bank Update

In February 2021, Ulster Bank announced a phased withdrawal of all its banking activity and financial services in Ireland. The EU Union Customs Code (UCC Art 94.1) requires a guarantor to be established in the Customs territory of the union and as a result businesses will need to change any Customs comprehensive guarantees that they have in place with Ulster Bank. Ulster Bank will start making contact with their clients who have comprehensive guarantees shortly to discuss a changeover process which they hope to complete within a period of approximately 6 - 9 months from September 2022. New financial undertakings for the comprehensive guarantees will be required, and traders can contact the Comprehensive Guarantee Unit at compguarantee@revenue.ie to obtain these new undertakings for completion by their new Guarantor. Customs Division will continue to have regular meetings with Ulster Bank to ensure an efficient changeover. There are no issues with KBC Bank guarantees as they are established in Belgium.