

FEED ISSUES

IGFA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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General News

EU/US Trade in Feed

IGFA has continued to highlight the impact of EU/US trade issues on the feed industry at national and EU level. As a result, the European Feed Manufacturers Association (FEFAC) wrote another letter to the Portuguese Presidency ahead of a meeting of EU Agriculture ministers on 26 April calling on them to take action on EU/US tariff disputes to help relieve market pressure on EU feed grain markets.

The letter requested that ministers permanently suspend the Airbus and Boeing retaliatory tariffs and seek a solution with the US to lift the current EU import duties for the US maize (steel and aluminium case). The letter also called on ministers to set up a permanent EU/US feed trade dialogue to identify additional trade facilitation measures to encourage smooth EU/US trade in feed.

GAFTA Contracts Course



An online course 'Know Your GAFTA Contracts' is being held over two half days on 5 & 7 May. It is recommended as a starting point to help better understand GAFTA contracts. While the course will cover general issues and some terms and conditions, IGFA has asked that it also

addresses some questions on **contract 109**. There will be opportunities to ask questions and interact with traders from other countries. See [link](#) to book and more information at the [GAFTA website](#).

Commodity Dash Board



This price dashboard from the European Commission provides a monthly summary of commodity price data for the most representative agricultural inputs, agricultural products and consumer food prices at EU and world level.

Although not all the products are comparable at both EU and world level, this document is intended to give an indication of the most recent price developments. The latest version is available [here](#)

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WHATS ON

May	Teagasc Events
May 19	Webinar - Animal Health and Welfare: What role for animal nutrition
Jun 1	IGFA Feed committee meeting
Jun 14	Fefac Animal nutrition
Jun 18	Premix & Mineral Feed

USEFUL LINKS

HSE Covid 19	CDC Covid19
Crop Forecast	Irish Fbo's
Protein Balance	Fbo Forms
Oeju	Dafm Brexit
Fsai Amr	Dafm Amr
Trader Notices	SCoPAFF
WASDE	NDCC
iNAP	Labelling code

RASFF April 2021

Total Food & Feed	302
Food	284
Food Contact Materials	8
Total Feed	15
Feed Materials	10
Feed Premixtures	0
Feed Additives	1
Compound Feed	3
Pet food	1

Zilpaterol RASFF & Follow up

DAFM updated members states at the February SCoPAFF meeting on the outcome of the investigations related to the finding in Ireland of prohibited substance zilpaterol, a beta-agonist drug (22 µg/kg - ppb), in sugar cane molasses from South-Africa. They said that *“The contamination was traced back to a sugar mill in South Africa that operates with only one blend tank at its feed site. This tank is used for blending standardized molasses, containing zilpaterol, for the local South African market. The blend tank was not sufficiently cleaned for use of production of sugar cane molasses for export and this resulted in a cross-contamination with zilpaterol of sugar cane molasses exported to Ireland. The necessary measures have been put in place to prevent/avoid re-occurrence of such a cross-contamination”*.

IGFA members should now be assured that Irish based suppliers of molasses have in turn updated supplier controls and testing programmes to take account of the incident. In October 2020, a risk assessment by the Irish Food Safety Authority concluded that the levels of zilpaterol in the molasses and the estimated carry over to food and feed did not constitute a food and feed risk. Subsequently, DAFM test results on compound feed containing the molasses were below the level of detection LOD (3 micrograms/kg) and correlated closely to the inclusion rates of the molasses in various feed types. As a consequence, the authorities agreed that, since there was no food or feed safety risk and the levels in the feed were below LOD, there would be no recall of compound feed. DAFM has confirmed the inclusion of these two B antagonists as part of their official control programmes.



Carryover in feed and transfer from feed to food of unavoidable and unintended residues of approved veterinary drugs



Members should also note the FAO/ WHO 2019 report on “carryover in feed and transfer from feed to food of unavoidable and unintended residues of approved veterinary drugs” indicates that zilpaterol and ractopamine may be issues for the racehorse sector. See Link .

GMO Feed-Russia

Russian authorities banned all Spanish companies from exporting feed to Russia due to non-compliance with their GM law. This is the second case in the EU after Dutch companies were also banned from exporting in June 2020.

The Commission raised the issue of GMO related problems during a video meeting with Rosselhoznadzor (the competent authority of Russia) on 22 March 2021. The Commission has informed them that they are preparing a letter with detailed information on the EU GMO legislation and control measures. Russia promised to examine the information received and will come back to the EU if it is sufficient to stop requesting information/testing from the EU importers. The EU letter on GMO in seeds and plant propagating material will be sent before 26 March 2021. A possible follow up letter covering feed materials will be considered only in the next round of letters exchanged between the EU & Russia.

Since July 2020, Dutch authorities reached out to Russia in order to re-establish a trade relationship and filled up their detailed questionnaire on control of the use of GM feed and feed additives, production of feed and feed additives derived from microbiological synthesis and control during transportation. At the moment, Russian authorities are considering lifting the suspension per company based on their risk profile. The procedure on how that should be done is currently under discussion.

Sustainability News

European Climate Law

A provisional agreement on the new European Climate Law was agreed on 21 April between the EU institutions. The Climate Law is a key element of the EU Green Deal and commits the EU (as a whole) to reaching climate neutrality by 2050. An important intermediate target is to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. A number of other elements were also approved including

- a process for setting 2040 climate targets and a commitment to negative emissions after 2050.

- a commitment to engage with sectors to prepare sector-specific roadmaps charting the path to climate neutrality in different areas of the economy.
- the establishment of the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change, which will provide independent scientific advice.
- the development of a more ambitious land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) regulation to enhance the EU carbon sink. Proposals are due in June 2021.

The draft agreement will be ratified over the coming months.

Managing Methane Emissions in Livestock



On April 12 FEFAC hosted a webinar on managing methane emissions in livestock farming. Dr André Bannink, Wageningen University, set the scene and presented on animal nutrition solutions, including feed additives, to mitigate methane emissions. He also looked at methodologies to model emissions from enteric fermentation taking into account different parameters such as feed intake, feed composition (fat, starch, fibre) and milk yield. You can view the presentation [here](#).

The importance of the role of farmers was emphasised and the need to reward them for their efforts to apply farm management measures and feeding practices which help reduce environmental impacts. Danish MEP, Asger Christensen, supported the event and as a farmer himself said that we cannot accept reduction in the number of animals as the way forward. The role of innovative feed additives in all ruminant production systems (extensive or intensive) was highlighted as a powerful tool to reduce enteric fermentation. A full recording of the webinar can be viewed [here](#)

Date for your diary

We invite you to the first-ever FEFAC/FEFANA public virtual conference: Animal Health and Welfare: what role for Animal Nutrition? The event takes place on Wednesday, 19 May 2021, 09:30 – 11:00 CET (8:30-10:00 IRE)

Panellists:

- **Hanne Larsen**, Chief Veterinary Officer, Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
- **Daniela Battaglia**, Livestock Production Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- **Antonio Tavares**, Chairman, Pig Meat Working Party, Copa-Cogeca
- **Filip Van Immerseel**, Professor, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Gent
- **Benoit Anquetil**, Managing Director, Cargill Animal Nutrition Western Europe

Technical News

Partial Lifting of The Feed Ban

In mid-April the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF) voted in support of a Commission proposal for a re-authorisation of the use of:

- Avian processed animal proteins (PAPs) in pig feed
- Porcine PAPs in poultry feed
- Insect PAPs in pig and poultry feed
- Ruminant gelatine in non-ruminant feed

25 Member States voted in favour of the proposal and Ireland and France abstained. The text will now be submitted to the European Parliament and the Council for a 3-month scrutiny period where the issues will be debated and discussed at length.

The responses to the Commission consultation indicate that animal welfare organisations will use this legislative initiative as a case to support their campaign against factory farming and the livestock sector in general but most of those involved in the feed and livestock chain supported the proposal. There was limited comment

from consumer and retailer organisations. It is likely that due to these different views on the issues, attempts will be made to change the proposal as it stands. IGFA will be following the debate closely.

European Commission Study on New Genomic Techniques

In 2019 the Council requested the European Commission to conduct a study on the status of new genomic techniques' (NGTs) under union law. **NGTs are defined as techniques that are capable of altering the genetic material of an organism** and are currently considered within the scope of the EU GMO regulatory framework.

On 29 April the [final study](#) was published by the Commission and its findings included

- The current EU regulatory system (GMO legislation) is not fit for the purpose of NGTs.
- NGTs applications are expected in the years to come; the large majority are being developed outside the EU.
- NGT products have the potential to contribute to sustainable agri-food systems in line with the objectives of the [European Green Deal](#) and [Farm to Fork Strategy](#)

The European Seeds sector and Farmers Association have welcomed the study and said that a differentiated approach is needed in the EU on products derived from innovative plant breeding methods. Many of the NGOs however are adamant that NGTs should be subject to EU GMO legislation. The study will be presented to Agriculture Ministers at their council meeting on 31 May 2021 and the Commission plans to initiate policy action on NGTs in the coming months.

Outcome of the SCoPAFF meeting of 19-21 April 2021

The Animal Nutrition (AN) Section of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF) held their second meeting of 2021 on 19-21 April. Keeping informed of the outcomes of these meetings will help you keep abreast with regulatory changes as they happen, thereby making the reading of the regulations easier down the line.

Vitamin B2/Riboflavin produced by *Eremothecium ashbyi* CCTCCM 2019833

[EFSA](#) cannot conclude on the safety of the additive for the target species, consumers and users, due to the lack of data on the toxicological profile of the additive, including its genotoxic potential. The applicant Hubei Guangji Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd will be asked by the EU Commission to indicate if their intention is to provide the missing information.

Mycotoxins

Several Member States (Denmark, Czech Republic and Germany) argued in favour of maintaining the guidance values for compound feed, considering that the focus of the control should be put upstream in the chain. DG SANTE still insisted on its argument that, if private schemes such as GMP+ International or QS establish rejection limits for compound feed, why would the sector oppose legal maximum limits. As agreed at the last meeting of the Feed Safety Management Committee, assistance of GMP+ and QS will be sought to draft a paper explaining the differences between legal maximum limits versus rejection limits under private schemes. As regards the values themselves, further to the request made by FEFAC at the mycotoxin forum on 9 March 2021, the scientific justification for some limits for fumonisin in pig and horse feed will be checked with EFSA. The guidance values for T2+HT2 in oats and zearalenone for sugar beet pulps may also be reviewed upward. No specific timeline was set for the next steps.

Other contaminants

Ergots alkaloids

The EU Commission will ask EFSA for an update of its opinion. Discussions on setting of guidance values for compound feed (and possibly for certain feed materials) will therefore be suspended in the meantime.

Dioxins

WHO will not finalise the review of the TEF values before the end of 2022. This means that the comprehensive review of maximum levels/action levels is postponed until 2023. However, the Commission still considers that, meanwhile, some limits could be reviewed when needed on the basis of the present TEF values.

P-phenitidine

Discussions are ongoing, with the view to set a max limit at the Limit of Quantitation (LOQ), with possible values around 2.5 ppm for fish meal and 1 ppm for compound feed based on present state of the art as regards method of analysis validation.

PFAS

PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that are manufactured and used in a variety of industries around the world (e.g. textiles, household products, fire-fighting, automotive, food processing, construction, electronics). The EU Commission is considering initiating an EU-wide monitoring on the presence of PFAS in feed combined with a full investigations into the possible sources of any contamination

EU Catalogue of feed materials

Several points were discussed related to the boundary between feed additives and feed materials, in particular:

- **Extraction:** some Member States are willing to restrict the possibilities for operators to pretend that the extract they place on the market is covered by the EU Catalogue; this means that the term “extract” as a qualifier may be removed from the glossary of processes.
- **Presence of living micro-organisms in fermentation products and residual enzymatic activities:** several Member States are concerned that some feed materials placed on the market would undergo fermentation for the purpose of bringing living micro-organisms (probiotics) and enzymes to the animals' diets. The EU Feed Chain Task Force was asked to suggest possible improved wording to minimize this risk;
- **High levels of iodine in red seaweed:** the SCoPAFF wants to have red seaweed listed in the EU Catalogue of feed materials because of its increased ability to reduce methane emissions. However, this seaweed contains very high levels of iodine. Under the present feed legislation, maximum levels for trace-elements or vitamins in complete feed apply only to the **supplementation** of the feed with trace-element compounds and/or vitamins as feed additives. To avoid the situation whereby, compound feed containing red seaweed may be legally placed on the market with high levels of iodine, the Commission is considering establishing under Annex 1 of Regulation 767/2009 that the max level of iodine set under the feed additives law also applies to compound feed. This would cover the situation, where compound feed containing red seaweed is on the market but not supplemented with extra iodine compounds. This could create a precedent for e.g. the case of vitamin D in fish feed.
- **Max content for CBD in hemp products:** some feed materials produced from hemp such as hemp flour or hemp silage contain high levels of CBD. As a consequence, the Commission is considering removing these products from the EU Catalogue of feed materials, which may establish a regrettable precedent.

Animal Health

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

IGFA attended the 13th INAP Animal Health Implementation [Committee](#) meeting which was held remotely on 29 March 2021.

An update was given on the EU AMR One Health Network meeting. There is a lot of political support for AMR reduction measures in light of the pandemic and reducing antimicrobial use through disease prevention is viewed as key to addressing AMR. The G7 (intergovernmental organization consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US) summit has identified lack of innovation and access to AMs as a challenge to addressing AMR. Combating AMR is recognised as one of the Sustainable Development Goals and AMR is viewed as the next potential global pandemic.

A new EU action plan on AMR is being drawn up as part of the EU Farm to Fork Strategy, with ambitious targets for reducing AM sales by 50% by 2030. DAFM said that the Animal and Plant Health Association (APHA) has agreed to chair a working group to develop sector specific reduction targets for Ireland. See a clip [here](#) for a useful introduction to the issue and details on the 6 R's for Responsible Use of Antibiotics.

DAFM also gave a presentation outlining how the National Veterinary Prescription System (NVPS) will work and what fields will look like on prescriptions for medicated feed as well as other prescription medications. The chair added that use of the NVPS will make the process of record keeping less onerous for vets and other

stakeholders. ICOS questioned how NVPS will affect internet sales of POMs and the possible impact on the viability of existing businesses in the Irish animal health market. See [here](#) for a recording of a DAFM webinar on 'The future of prescribing – EU regulations.

Medicated Feed

The manufacture, placing on the market and use of medicated feed is currently regulated by EU Directive 90/167/EEC and in Ireland by SI.176/1994. In January 2022 a new EU Regulation 2019/4 comes into effect and this replaces all other legislation. DAFM recently wrote to all medicated feed manufacturers bringing to their attention a number of areas which will impact the way they operate. On 19 April 2021 IGFA held a remote meeting with all members involved in this area to discuss our concerns. For further information please contact cornelia.oconnell@eorna.ie

Avian Influenza

Avian influenza (also called 'bird flu') is a viral disease that primarily affects poultry and wild fowl.

Current Situation in Ireland

There have been no further outbreaks of avian influenza H5N8 confirmed in poultry or captive birds in the Republic of Ireland since a single outbreak which occurred on 10 December 2020. The restriction zones put in place following that outbreak were lifted on 14 January 2021.



Current Situation in Northern Ireland

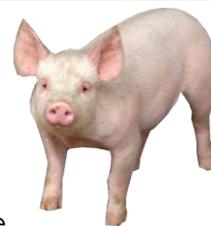
No further outbreaks of avian influenza H5N8 have been confirmed in poultry or captive birds in Northern Ireland since the two separate cases confirmed in County Antrim on 7 January and 11 January. All restriction zones placed following those outbreaks have since been lifted.

Avian influenza in wild birds in Ireland

- The most recent case of HPAI H5N8 in a wild bird in Ireland was confirmed on 16 February 2021.
- A total of 28 wild birds have been confirmed with Avian Influenza subtype H5N8 since it was first detected on 6 November 2020. Two further birds were confirmed with HPAI H5N3 on 19 January 2021. This has been the only confirmed incident of that particular avian influenza subtype in Ireland this year.
- Wild bird species confirmed with HPAI H5N8 since November 2020 in Ireland include the following: whooper swan (17), mute swan (5), barnacle goose (1), curlew (1), cormorant (1) and peregrine falcon (3).
- Wild bird HPAI cases have been confirmed in counties: Cavan, Cork, Donegal, Galway, Kildare, Limerick, Louth, Mayo, Monaghan, Wexford and Wicklow.

African Swine Fever (ASF)

African swine fever (ASF) is a viral disease of pigs and wild boar that is usually fatal. The disease can result in devastating losses for pig farmers and the pig industry in affected countries. There is no cure or vaccine available for ASF and the disease is spreading across the world. Ireland is free of ASF and it is in all of our interests to keep it that way as an outbreak of the disease would have a huge impact on our pig industry.



ASF however continues to spread to new countries and territories. Pig owners in Ireland are advised to remain vigilant and to implement biosecurity measures to mitigate the risk of an outbreak of the disease. Such measures include never allowing pigs to have access to food waste and implementing a pig free period of 72 hours for anyone coming from an ASF affected region. For more information click [here](#)

EFSA's latest advice published on 27 April 2021 on ASF looks at the risk of the virus being introduced to non-affected regions of the EU via pathways such as feed, bedding materials and empty pig transport vehicles returning from affected areas. The opinion concludes that the potential for transmission through these pathways is lower than for several others – such as moving live domestic pigs or allowing contact between wild boar and domestic pigs – but that a risk cannot be completely excluded. See [here](#) for full details.