

General News

Ukraine



COCERAL, representing the European grain trade, and FEFAC continue to meet with Commission officials to highlight the impact of the the Russian attack on Ukraine on feed and food supplies and potential mitigation measures. COCERAL noted that 15/16 million tons of Maize, 7 million tons of wheat, as well a large volume of sunflower meal/oil still needs to be exported from Ukraine, as well as 7 million tons of wheat from Russia, mainly destined for EU and North Africa. COCERAL Ukrainian members noted that all Black sea and Mariupol ports are blocked. Port authorities will not sign phytosanitary certificates required after two vessels were attacked when leaving Ukrainian ports. The expectation is that the port blockages may last for weeks or months. They noted that loading from Russian ports has become difficult and trade disruption with the EU is possible as financial payments are no longer possible due to EU and US sanctions. They noted that the loss of Ukrainian and Russian grain exports cannot be replaced by EU origin only, requesting flexibility on EU SPS and GM import rules due to an exceptional wartime situation.

FEFAC highlighted that feed industry working stocks for maize are lowest in Southern Europe with 20 days max in some countries. These countries are also experiencing a drought and fodder supply shortages. The loss of sunflower meal from Ukraine can only be replaced by Rapeseed meal and Soybean meal from other origins. Shipments from other origins such as North and South America could take up to 40 days to arrive in EU ports which will lead to a significant time loss. Russia is also a key supplier for magnesium oxide, rock phosphates, urea and fertiliser. FEFAC asked for clarification on GM approval timelines. The only unauthorized EU events for the moment is grown in a closed-loop system and should not be an issue for the authorities. In addition, the issue of pesticide MRLs for maize import from South America and Import Tolerances for third country suppliers was raised.

Commission officials fully acknowledged the need to tackle the absence of wheat, maize and sunflower imports from Ukraine, both from a short-term substitution perspective as well as the more mid-term and long-term implications. The concerns over the possible interruption of spring season planting in Ukraine and the possible shortage of fertiliser within the EU for the new crop year was discussed. They noted the request for flexibility to allow trade to effectively overcome consequences linked to the war situation, pointing the EU should be prepared to challenge the current “business as usual” scenario, in the light of pending feed and food security threats.

IGFA is in constant contact with DAFM and FEFAC. Members are requested to urgently bring any issues to our attention so they can be highlighted in Dublin and Brussels.

Monitoring EU Agri-Food Trade: Developments Jan – Oct 2021

The Commission has published its report [‘Monitoring EU agri-food trade: developments until October 2021’](#). The report outlines that during the first ten months of 2021, EU27 agri-food trade (exports + imports) reached a value of €268.1 billion, 6% more than in the same period in 2020. Exports rose by 7% to €162.8 billion, while



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WHAT’S ON – some dates

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

March 8 Feed Committee meeting

March 9 Fefac Premix meeting

March 10 Fefac Animal Nutrition meeting

March 10 Sea Solutions webinar [click here to register](#)

March 11 Sea Solutions webinar [click here](#) to register

RASFF ‘S February 2022

Total Food & Feed	352
Total Feed	17
Feed Materials	15
Feed Additives	0
Compound Feed	0
Pet food	2

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imports grew by 4% to €105.3 billion, giving a total agri-food trade surplus of €57.5 billion. This is an increase of 14% compared to the corresponding period in 2020. The largest growth in exports was to the United States, which grew by €2.4 billion or 7%. Exports to the UK during this period increased marginally, up €39 million or 0.1%. Exports to the UK were particularly depressed in the early part of the year and this slight increase reflects how strongly they have rebounded as the year progressed. Read the full report [here](#).

European Compound Feed Production 2021

FEFAC has gathered information on 2021 Compound Feed Production. Despite cost increases in energy and raw materials and the spread of COVID-19 and animal diseases, most countries managed to keep compound feed at more or less a stable level. These issues are still a concern for 2022 and the situation for downstream partners, especially pigmeat producers, is deeply worrying. It is expected that the first half of 2022 will be very challenging for the feed and livestock sector.

UFAS Update

UFAS 2023 Code: A joint standard is being developed between UFAS, FEMAS and TASC. A draft text will be distributed to auditors for initial consultation. The draft text is planned for finalisation by the end of 2022 for implementation in 2023.

DEFRA Salmonella Code of Practice: A draft has been completed and this has been forwarded to industry representatives. There is no update available yet on when it will be published.

Grain Purchase Requirements: UK farmers have raised concerns regarding UK Red Tractor standards being more restrictive in comparison to international ones. Gatekeeper options for domestic grains are being considered for use by UFAS participants and the effect each approach could have further down the chain.

KIWA are the new Certification Body for UFAS: KIWA contracts start February 10th 2022. KIWA are currently sending contract information to UFAS participants by email including renewal forms. The UFAS Scheme Manager is Dawn Besick.

FEMAS Calculator: A new calculator is available from 1 Feb 2022. It covers all feed materials in the EU catalogue. Separate Sector notes are being compiled for insects and seaweed in animal feed. We welcome comments on the new calculator.

Sustainability

Crude Protein Permissible in Concentrate Feed In 2022

In Ireland's Draft Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) published on 13 December 2021 section 5.3.2.14 says 'Crude Protein in Concentrate Feeds From 1st January 2022, on holdings with grassland stocking rates of 130kg N per hectare from grazing livestock manure or above prior to export of livestock manure from the holding, a maximum crude protein content of 15% is permissible in concentrate feedstuff fed to grazing livestock on the holding between 15 April and 30 September'.

In meetings with DAFM officials IGFA was assured that further info and guidance on this would be available at the start of 2022. We emphasised that members need clarity as early as possible so they can finalise their feed range.

Recent contact with the department indicates that there are delays in the official approval of the NAP from Brussels and the sign off of our own national legislation has not yet been completed. This is all expected to happen in mid-march. We have been advised that nothing is definite until the legal texts are finalised but that the government anticipates that what is contained above in the Draft NAP is unlikely to change. We have emphasised that working on a 'draft' basis is not at all satisfactory but will advise members as soon as we have more clarity.

Crude Protein Survey for 2021

Members participated in a DAFM survey in the spring of 2020 on crude protein contents for dairy, beef, pig and poultry compound feeds. The information requested was further broken down into various categories within each animal species. Data was requested for the years 2015, 2017 and 2019 to ensure any trends in crude protein levels over the years was established. Given the focus on the relationship between crude protein and GHG and ammonia emissions, DAFM is planning to run the survey again this spring looking for data for 2021. Members committed to provide this information under the IGFA sustainability action plan 2021, noting the importance of having accurate information and data to make policy decisions. Although firm dates are not yet available, it is likely that the survey will be circulated by the end of March to all feed mills and approved home mixers who are manufacturing compound feed. We will update members with further information as it becomes available.

Animal Health

Avian Influenza

Outbreaks of avian influenza in poultry continue to be reported across the EU and the UK. On 8 February 2022, Northern Ireland confirmed an outbreak of avian influenza in Co. Fermanagh. Avian influenza also continues to be detected in wild birds in Ireland so there is still a significant risk of outbreaks in poultry and captive birds. DAFM are urging farmers to remain vigilant and maintain strict biosecurity. For the latest DAFM report published on 10 February 2022 see [here](#).

EPHA Report Criticises Overuse of Antibiotics in the Livestock Sector

The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) issued a [report](#) recently denouncing the low progress achieved in the livestock sector as regards the use of antibiotics. It was published on the day the new Veterinary Medicines Regulation (2019/6) and the new Medicated Feed Regulation (2019/4) entered into application, which includes the ban on the prophylactic use of antibiotics. The report starts from the assumption that such a ban will not be effective as long as the EU will not “move away from highly intensive livestock farming systems, which often have poor hygiene, high levels of disease and excessive antibiotic use”. The report notes that countries in Northern Europe that have higher animal welfare standards are those using fewer antibiotics. The report makes a number of recommendations including the abolishment of group treatments (except for poultry), collection of data on antibiotic uses per farming system, a ban on the use of colistin, later weaning of piglets, lower indoor density, access to outdoor areas, ban on tail-docking, etc.

EPHA denounces the feed additive status of coccidiostats pointing to the direct connection between the end of the use of narasin by the Norwegian poultry industry and the decrease in vancomycin-resistant enterococci. They also argue that ionophores may in the future be useful tools for use in human medicines. EPRUMA, the European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals, which includes FEFAC as a member, will meet EPHA to discuss their report, bearing in mind that EPHA is very influential in the European Parliament.

Technical News

Medicated Feed – NVPS

The newly proposed National Veterinary Prescription System (NVPS) is due to go live for dispensers at the end of March 2022 for food producing animals. Feed manufacturers producing medicated feed, will need to register each responsible person/member of staff within their organisation who will be using the system. DAFM have sent out forms in the last week that need to be completed to gain access to the NVPS system. If you have queries, please contact nvps@agriculture.gov.ie

Medicated Feed – Zinc Oxide

The Pig Development Department hosted a webinar on January 25 focusing on the practical steps and considerations for producers in advance of the ban on Zinc Oxide. The presentations are available [here](#).

Pesticides Update

Defra announced on 14 January 2022 that it had approved an emergency temporary authorisation for the use of a neonicotinoid pesticide treatment on the 2022 sugar beet crop in England only, due to the risk to the crop from yellows virus. The strictly time limited emergency authorisation of the Cruiser SB treatment will provide emergency protection for the 2022 sugar beet crop against the virus. Its exceptional temporary use will be tightly controlled and only permitted in very specific circumstances when strict requirements are met. The maximum amount of treatment approved for use is 6% of the quantity of the active. There will be an initial threshold for use and, if the virus threshold is not met, the neonicotinoid treated seed will not be used.

New Genomic Techniques (NGTs)

Defra announced on 20 January 2022 that legislation was being laid to grant new powers to research on gene editing in plants. This follows the launch of the Government's response to the Gene Editing (GE) consultation in 2021. The legislation will mean that scientists in England can undertake plant-based research and development, using genetic technologies such as gene editing more easily now that the UK has left the EU. The rules will apply to plants where GE is used to create new varieties similar to those which could have been produced through traditional breeding processes.



Examples of crops under research or in trails at the moment

Canada	University of Calgary used GE technology to develop a shorter, highly branched canola variety with more pods and that is easier to harvest. Pod shatter and loss can be a major problem for growers.
Belgium	Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO) has field trials of GE maize modified for resistance to drought stress and improved digestibility.
Japan	Researchers from Nagoya University reported that they have successfully developed sweeter tomatoes using GE technology.
United Kingdom	Rothamsted Research is running a series of field trials of genetically engineered (GE) wheat that has been edited to reduce the levels of naturally occurring amino acid, asparagine, which is converted to the carcinogenic processing contaminant, acrylamide, when bread is baked or toasted.
China	Chinese researchers have developed a GE wheat that is resistant to the fungus causing powdery mildew without stunting the grain's growth and crop yield. Powdery mildew may cause losses of up to 40% for Chinese wheat farmers.

Management of ID numbers for Amino Acids on Feed Labels

FEFAC and FEFANA wrote a joint letter to the EU Commission asking for an in-depth review of the system of allocation of ID numbers for amino acids. The present system requires putting different ID numbers for the same amino acids to take care of the fact that the applicant asked or not for direct use in water or not. The consequence of this is that labels may need to be changed when changing suppliers, although the substance remains exactly the same. FEFAC has asked for the possibility to indicate on premixtures and, when required on compound feed labels, all the ID numbers corresponding to the same amino acid. We will keep you updated of the progress on this issue.

Update of Undesirable Directive 2002/32/EC

The EU Commission presented at the meeting of the Expert Group Animal Nutrition on 15 December 2021 a comprehensive proposal for the establishment/modification of existing limits for many undesirable substances.

Arsenic	There was support for an increase of the total arsenic level for feed materials from aquatic origin from 25 to 40 ppm. Authorities also insisted that, beyond total arsenic, operators should consider the 2-ppm mentioned for inorganic arsenic in a footnote as a maximum limit in itself, i.e. subject to auto controls
Nickel	There was support for introducing a max. limit of 20 ppm for nickel in some co-products from the oleo-chemical industry and hydrogenated fats for which there was until now only a max. level set in the EU Catalogue of feed materials; the catalogue will be updated to remove all references to Nickel when the new max limits for Nickel enter into force
Rye ergot	The reduction of the maximum limit for <i>Claviceps purpurea</i> from 1,000 ppm to 500 ppm for unground cereals except for rye (reduction to 750 ppm) was generally supported; the Danish authorities asked for delaying the entry into application of these new limits until 2025 to allow operators to invest in sorting equipment.
THC	New limits are proposed for THC in several hemp products listed in the EU Catalogue (hemp seed, expeller, oil, flour and fibre), based on the levels applied in the food sector. In parallel it is expected the Commission will request additional restrictions for the use of other hemp products than the five listed above and this will be reflected via annex III of Regulation (EC) No 767/2009
Dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs	The proposed reduction concerning feed materials of aquatic origin and fish feed did not trigger comments from Member States; FEFAC underlined that the new limits proposed for fish oil went slightly beyond what the application of the "P95" principle allows (2.5 ppt proposed by Commission vs. 2.8 ppt from the data collected by FEFAC in 2019). The EU Commission stressed that detoxification techniques were effective enough to allow the new limit to be achieved at an affordable cost.
Mycotoxins	<p>The EU Commission is still proposing to maintain the guidance values for feed materials and switch to maximum limits for compound feed but there is no final conclusion yet. The following are the current positions expressed by national authorities regarding the evolution of regulatory limits for mycotoxins which currently have only recommended levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o BE supports the proposal for max limits for compound feed, guidance limits for feed materials o FR, PT, NL (tbc) and IE support the proposal for max limits for compound feed, guidance limits for feed materials but with additional obligations for suppliers. o AT, SI, DE, CZ, DK (tbc) support the status quo i.e no change to the current situation o IT, CH views are unclear/undefined <p>The discussion is scheduled for the next SCoPAFF Working Group meeting in March 2022. The Commission intends to have final conclusions by the end of 2022.</p>