

General News

French Presidency Work Programme

France took over the rotating presidency of the EU at the start of January until June. Top of the agenda on agriculture is reciprocity in environmental and health production standards with trading partners and the French are calling on the commission to produce a report on the legal powers the EU possesses to oblige non-European farmers exporting to the EU to produce to the same health and environmental standards as EU farmers. The issue of carbon farming is another priority which the French intend to tackle. Highlighting that farmer are "soldiers in the battle" against climate change, the aim is to progress work on sustainable carbon cycles which will feed into a regulatory proposal for the accounting of carbon removals. The new regulation on deforestation free supply chains and developing an EU Protein Strategy will also be significant topics over the coming six months.

Price Dashboard

The latest edition of the "Price dashboard" is now available [here](#). This price dashboard provides a monthly summary of price data for the most representative agricultural inputs, agricultural products and consumer food prices. Although not all the products are comparable at both EU and world level, this document is intended to give an indication on the most recent price developments.

Monitoring EU Agri-Food Trade: Developments Jan - Sept 2021

The Commission (DG AGRI) has published its report 'Monitoring EU agri-food trade: developments until September 2021'. The report outlines that during the first nine months of 2021, EU27 agri-food trade (exports + imports) reached a value of €239.5 billion, 6.1% more than in the same period in 2020. EU27 exports increased by 8% compared to the corresponding period in 2020, reaching €145.2 billion and imports reached €94.2 billion, 3.5% increase. Looking at monthly developments, EU agri-food export values in Sept 2021 were 11% higher than previous month, while EU import values in the same month were 6% higher than Aug 2021. Read the full report [here](#).

Sustainability

France Pushes Development of an EU Protein Strategy

France is pushing forward on highlighting the importance of EU self-sufficiency in protein production and in partnership with Austria, published a declaration just before Christmas. France (Dec 2020) and Austria (July 2021) have already developed national protein strategies aiming to increase sustainable production and emphasising the positive impacts of the cultivation of plant-based proteins on climate and the environment. The declaration addresses both food and feed and says that 'the protein sector as well as research and sustainable innovation have to be further strengthened at European level'. It highlights the importance of increasing domestic production of plant-based proteins that meet our high European standards, shortening transportation routes with regional supply chains and securing a regional value chain including processing capacities for food and feed. It adds that effective plant breeding is vital to ensure that our protein crops are fit for the future. The declaration notes that boosting sustainable production is in line with EU environmental goals and calls on the Commission to develop a European protein strategy.

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WHAT'S ON

- Teagasc Feb events [read more](#)
- Signpost Series Webinars - Teagasc [read more](#)
- Feb 03 FEFAC Feed safety committee
- Feb 09 FEFAC Industrial compound feed
- Feb 17 FEFAC Sustainability

RASFF 'S Jan 2022

Total Food & Feed	344
Total Feed	20
Feed Materials	11
Feed Additives	1
Compound Feed	1
Pet food	7
read more	

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<https://twitter.com/IGFAie>



Read Teagasc Signpost newsletter [here](#)

New Regulation on Deforestation Free Supply Chains

As highlighted previously the European Commission published a proposal in November for a new regulation on deforestation-free supply chains. The aim is to ensure that products such as soy imported into the EU are not contributing to deforestation or forest degradation in other parts of the world. The EU feed industry continues to raise concerns about the proposal highlighting the onerous traceability requirements, potential costs and the lack of clarity on how the regulation could be administered and controls implemented. The issue is likely to be hotly debated by MEPs and others over the coming weeks and months and although the focus will mainly be on soy and other commodities imported by the EU, it is also likely to stimulate discussion on 'native' and EU grown proteins.

New Guidance Available on Environment Footprinting For Animal Feed

The focus on sustainability in the EU feed industry is driving the development of tools to look at the environmental footprint of feed manufacturing. It can be a complicated process but FEFAC is working with others to make it more accessible. FEFAC has published a [factsheet](#) on the Product environmental footprint category rules (PEFCR) which aims to highlight where feed manufacturers need to collect company-based information if they want to perform environmental footprinting in line with the PEFCR Feed. A second factsheet "[Step-wise engagement plan for feed manufacturers on environmental footprinting](#)" aims to give feed manufacturers guidance on where to start with environmental footprinting and set out a work plan in line with their company ambitions.

To do an environmental assessment of feed ingredients you need data on the life cycle analysis (LCA) of the various materials. This information is available from the Global Feed LCA Institute (GFLI) who have developed a LCA database for animal nutrition products. The GFLI has recently published a Q&A and database Guidance Document in an effort to explain and help understand the GFLI Database. The [Q&A](#) addresses matters such as how to access the GFLI database, what to do when a feed ingredient is missing and how the GFLI database differs from other databases. The [Guidance Document](#) is of more technical nature and explains how to read the Lifecycle Impact Assessment (LCIA) excel document. It addresses points on how to understand the different possible allocation methods to choose from, the environmental impact categories in the LCA datasets and how feed manufacturers could use the GFLI LCA Database.

Animal Health

Avian Influenza

There have been no outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 since 18 December 2021. However, wild bird mortalities continue to be reported in several counties and the risk of outbreaks in poultry and captive birds in Ireland is still considered 'significant'. Outbreaks of avian influenza in poultry continue to be reported across the EU and UK. Farmers are urged to stay vigilant and maintain strict biosecurity. For the latest DAFM report published 25 January 2022 see [here](#).

Medicated Feed - Statutory Instrument (SI) Implementing EU Regulation 2019/6 & 2019/4

The Irish SI implementing EU Veterinary medicine Regulation 2019/6 and medicated feed regulation 2019/4 was published on Thursday 27 January, 2022. SI No. 176 of 1994 (Animal Remedies and Medicated feedingstuffs Regulations) is now revoked. You can download the new SI on the IGFA regulatory web page [here](#)

Medicated Feed – Zinc Oxide

In June 2017, the European Commission (EC) adopted an Implementing Decision to withdraw, by 26 June 2022, the marketing authorisations (MAs) of veterinary medicines containing Zinc Oxide for oral administration to food-producing animals. On 5 January 2022 the UK Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) published a [statement](#) on zinc oxide which effectively means that they are allowing pig producers in Great Britain and Northern Ireland to continue to use stock of zinc oxide for a period of up to 2 years beyond 26 June 2022.

IGFA asked DAFM and the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) for comment on the VMD statement and clarification on the situation for Ireland. DAFM Veterinary Medicine division responded advising the following:

"We have consulted with the HPRA and we have the following update on the use of Zinc Oxide. On foot of the EMA decision issued on 26 June 2017 regarding veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) containing zinc oxide to be administered orally to food-producing species. Existing marketing authorisations for VMPs containing zinc oxide will be withdrawn in June 2022 and no new marketing authorisations will be issued. The products in question are allowed to stay on the market until June 2022. At that stage, it is not the intention of HPRA to recall any remaining product on the market and those products can continue to be used for the duration of their shelf life (2 years)".

Medicated Feed - National Veterinary Prescription System (NVPS) Phased Implementation

The National Veterinary Prescription System (NVPS) is a secure free online prescription and dispensing application and portal supported by a centralised database prescription system. It was developed by DAFM in order to meet certain requirements within the new EU Veterinary Medicines Regulation 2019/6. The NVPS will also facilitate the prescribing of Medicated Feed as per EU Regulation 2019/4. The use of the NVPS will not be mandatory from the outset but DAFM intends to shortly introduce legislation requiring all veterinary prescriptions and dispensing actions, for food producing animals, to be submitted electronically to and from the NVPS. DAFM has advised us of the following phased implementation of this system before it is mandatory for all to use for food producing animals.

Phase I Monday Jan 31 2022	DAFM will initially work with a small number of identified veterinary practitioners who will use the system for an initial pilot period of 4/5 weeks, during which their 'dispensed' prescriptions will be recorded on the system.
Phase II March 2022	DAFM will increase the size of the prescribing cohort, release further functionality allowing for the recording and dispensing of Medicated Feed prescriptions, the recording of all un-dispensed prescriptions and providing access to the system for all dispensing agents.
Phase III April 2022	DAFM will release functionality to all veterinary practitioners to allow familiarisation with the system. This Phase opens up the NVPS to all stakeholders on a voluntary basis.

DAFM will publish a set of short NVPS tutorial 'How To' videos which will provide insights and training on the various elements of the system including how to login, assign a vet to your veterinary practice and how to generate and dispense veterinary medicines and medicated feed. Feedback from Phase I will be helpful in building content for these videos and other support/guidance material. DAFM also intends hosting nationwide webinars across the different release phases to ensure those intending to use the system are provided with the necessary information and training.

Technical News

Rapid Alert System For Food and Feed (RASFF) - 2021 Report



Created in 1979, RASFF enables information to be shared efficiently between its members (EU Member State national food safety authorities, Commission, EFSA, ESA, Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland and Switzerland) and provides a round-the-clock service to ensure that urgent notifications are sent, received and responded to collectively and efficiently. Thanks to RASFF, many food safety risks had been averted before they could become harmful to European consumers. The system has an interactive searchable online database [here](#). It gives public access to summary information about the most recently transmitted RASFF notifications as well as the ability to search for information on any notification issued in the past. The 2021 report is now available and FEAC has provided a summary of the main findings.

- 233 feed related notifications were submitted to the RASFF in 2021. 64% for feed for farmed animals and 36% for petfood. This is equivalent to 2020 and remains approximately 30% lower than the 2018 and 2019 figures, although 2020 and 2021 may not be easily comparable to other years due to the Covid-19 impact on performance of controls.
- Among the 149 notifications for feed for farm animals, 14 triggered alerts, whereas 116 gave rise to information and 19 to border rejections.
- Approximately half of the notifications are linked to Salmonella contamination (70 out of 149). This is equivalent to 2020 and significantly less than in 2019.
- 87% of notifications for feed for farm animals concern feed ingredients, thereof 80% for feed materials and 7% for feed additives/premixtures. This shows the importance of the detection of contaminants at the earliest stage of the chain, in line with the "top-of-the-pyramid" principle promoted by FEAC in its [vision paper](#).
- The number of notifications concerning ambrosia/ragweed increased dramatically (12 in 2021 vs. 4 in 2020) with 10 leading to alerts. 2021 has seen also a surge of notifications for presence of mould in different feed materials imported from Ukraine (10 notifications). The number of notifications concerning non-authorised substances, exceedance of pesticide MRLs, overdosing of feed additives and dioxin and dioxin-like PCBs remained stable. The number of notifications related to inorganic contaminants has dropped considerably (7 notifications in 2021 vs. 13 in 2020). One non-compliance with GM legislation was notified and also one regarding ethylene oxide in a feed additive imported from India.

- 62% of the notifications concerning feed for farm animals result from own-checks performed by operators. This is now a consistent track-record for the last 5 years and is well above the proportion 10 years ago (20%), showing an increasing reliability of private controls and responsibility of operators notifying incidents to their authorities.

Source FEFAC

Presence of Ethylene Oxide (ETO) and 2-Chloroethanol in Choline Chloride

Choline chloride is a complex vitamin that is added as an important nutrient in animal feeds. As discussed in previous IGFA Feed Issues, in reference to the Summary of the Meeting on Ethylene Oxide, 04 October 2021 Industry expressed their concerns to the EU Commission with regard to maximum levels of 0.1 mg/kg ethylene oxide (ETO) and 2-chloroethanol (2-CE) as these levels cannot technically be achieved for some authorised feed additives e.g. Choline chloride. This situation has already led to production and supply stops in the EU market and may have devastating consequences for animal health and welfare unless a practicable solution is found which provides legal certainty for EU feed business operators.

After several exchanges between the EU Commission, FEFANA, FEFAC and national authorities, the SCoPAFF members asked the EU Commission to establish specific limits for choline chloride and compound feed containing choline chloride. It is acknowledged that for choline chloride, a maximum level for ETOsum is set at 40 ppm (Note: when the measurement of uncertainty of 50% is applied, analysis up to 80 ppm should be considered compliant). In the case of non-compliant additive/feed material, compound/complete feed exceeding a level of 0.02 mg/kg ETOsum these products would not have to be withdrawn from the market on the condition that the fraction of ETOsum above 0.02 mg/kg can be attributed to the use of choline chloride (maximum level of 40 mg/kg). In the event of a positive found during routine official controls, the max limit on compound feed should be calculated taking into account the respective limits and inclusion rate in compound feed of each ingredient.

The [minutes of the meeting of the ETO crisis coordination team of 4 October 2021](#) have been now amended to reflect this request with a new footnote 7 that reads “*conclusion reached at the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Feed and Food, section Animal Nutrition on 14 December 2021: The presence of 2-chloroethanol in choline chloride is not the consequence of an illegal use of ethylene oxide (ETO) as disinfectant/biocide, but an unavoidable impurity of the production process following the use of ethylene oxide and hydrochloric acid as starting materials; Based on the information contained in the EFSA opinion on choline chloride in 2011 indicates that choline chloride (75 % purity) is ethylene oxide free and that 2-chloroethanol can be present in levels from 10 to 55 mg/kg, a maximum level of ETOsum (sum of ethylene oxide and 2-chloroethanol expressed as ethylene oxide) in choline chloride of 40 mg/kg(*), relative to choline chloride with 99 % purity, is to be applied for enforcement in the frame of the management of this incident. Based on the use levels of choline chloride, the level in the compound/complete feed could exceed the level of 0.02 mg/kg (LOQ). Compound/complete feed exceeding the level of 0.02 mg/kg has not to be withdrawn from the market on the condition that the fraction of ETOsum above 0.02 mg/kg can be attributed to the use of choline chloride with a maximum level of 40 mg/kg (relative to choline chloride with 99 % purity). (*) 40 mg/kg is 55 mg/kg x 0.55 x 1.32, whereby 0.55 is the factor used to express 2-chloroethanol in ethylene oxide equivalents and 1.32 (99/75) is the factor used to express the maximum level relative to choline chloride with 99 % purity.*”

This footnote is directly applicable.

New Genomic Techniques (NGTs)



The debate on NGTs at EU level is progressing quickly with views developing on how it can help to tackle challenges outlined in the EU Farm to Fork strategy and Green Deal. EU institutions are increasingly perceiving NGTs as a promising way to ensure continued food security under sustainable food systems. However certain aspects need to be further explored in terms of risk assessment, transparency, detectability, and societal benefits.

A joint virtual internal workshop was held by EU industry last week. The objective was to provide a discussion platform for members to take stock of all relevant aspects of the public debate on NGTs from a trading and regulatory perspective. All presentations are available to download [here](#).