

## General News

### Agriculture Ministers Discuss Feed Prices

Slovenia have taken over the rotating presidency of the EU and the first agriculture council was held on 20 July. At that meeting the Croatian farm minister tabled a point on the high feed costs impacting on livestock farmers. An information note prepared for the meeting showed that the average export price of EU corn was 41% higher in comparison to the same period last year, while the export price of corn from the US was 58% higher. The export price of soybeans in the US is 42% higher than in July 2020. The increase in domestic feed prices since May 2020 was also highlighted and it was noted that the price of livestock products recorded a significantly lower growth. In response Agriculture Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski was more optimistic although he acknowledged that feed costs for the livestock sector have “increased considerably in the last year”. He agreed with the Croatians that this was mostly because of high demand internationally and from China. However he stressed the encouraging outlook for the EU 2021/2022 cereal harvest which is projected to be up 3.7% at 288.7 million tonnes and noted that prices for wheat, barley and maize crops have therefore started to decrease modestly. He also noted the generally positive pasture conditions. Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski didn't commit to introducing any new measures to deal with the situation saying that he expected the burden on the livestock to ease but committed to keep an eye on the situation.

### Import / Export Issues

Members are advised that the EU Commission has commenced work on a guidance document to assist businesses to develop exports of product into India. The document will be available on the market access part of the DG Trade website. Member states authorities have access to the development of the booklet. Although feed is not covered in the scope of the guidance members may request through IGFA to have it included.

### Brexit

DAFM & revenue have recently held a webinar on lessons learned for Agri food importers and exporters available [here](#). On a positive note, the authorities clarified that work was ongoing between the agencies to improve cooperation and coordination of controls. The ultimate aim is to have a one stop portal to handle all export and import documentation. The authorities stressed that, import and export systems are complex. The starting point for all information was the accuracy and detail contained on the initial paper work (INVOICE). Businesses should understand their delivery terms (IMCO terms) as this determined who was responsible for paying the VAT and customs if applicable. The health certificates must be loaded to TRACES and the DAFM system in a timely manner, the details in each system must be the same in order to avoid delays at the border.

Finally, the authorities stressed that businesses should not expect the October 1 2021 deadline to be pushed back and to prepare now for exporting to the UK. In preparation the authorities have organised/held webinars available here see [Link](#).

In addition, the UK authorities has organised a series of workshops on IPAFF and Health Certs for moving product to the UK.

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### RASFF 'S JULY 2021

Total Food & Feed	409
Food	358
Food Contact Materials	29
Total Feed	22
Feed Materials	12
Feed Premixtures	0
Feed Additives	1
Compound Feed	3
Pet food	6

[read more](#)

### WHAT'S ON

- Teagasc events [read more](#)
- Aug 23 Green labelling task force
- Sept 14 IGFA Feed committee
- Oct 20 FEFAC Premx committee
- Oct 21 FEFAC Feed committee



For more information or useful links visit [www.igfa.e](http://www.igfa.e)

## Commission To Propose Phasing Out of Cages

At the end of June the European Commission committed to table a legislative proposal by the end of 2023 on phasing out and prohibiting cages for poultry (including laying hens) rabbits, sows and calves. The move is in response to the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) "End the Cage Age" which was supported by over 1.4 million citizens across the EU and will be part of the ongoing revision of the animal welfare legislation under the Farm to Fork Strategy. There are a number of steps to follow before the proposal is published including a public consultation on the issue in early 2022. An impact assessment which will consider the socio economic, environmental, trade and animal welfare issues associated with the proposal will be completed by the end of 2022. The aim is for new legislation to enter into force from 2027.

## Sustainability

### IGFA Sustainable Soy Survey – Please Respond



Huge thanks to all of those who have already responded to the IGFA Sustainable Soy Survey. As you know IGFA is conducting this survey to find out whether the needs of the market and Irish customers are changing in relation to certified sustainable soybean meal (SBM). This survey is one of the commitments agreed under the IGFA Sustainability Action Plan.

We are extending the deadline to ensure we get responses from as many members as possible. If you have not already completed the survey, please can you do so by 12 August 2021. The link to the survey is <https://forms.gle/ihcKFgEpdF3V1i8Q8>. We will prepare a general summary of responses but your specific answers/comments will not be shared outside IGFA.

### EU Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions

MEP activity on the EU strategy to reduce methane continued in June and the Agriculture Committee highlighted in its [position](#) the need for improvements in the measurement, reporting and verification of methane emission and the need for research into developing new diets and new feed additives for ruminants to reduce methane emissions. The lead MEP on the committee highlighted at a recent FEFAC event that his preference would be for future strategies on reducing methane to not involve reducing livestock numbers. The Environment Committee is leading on the EU methane strategy in the Parliament and has also called on the Commission 'to ensure that proven effective and cost-efficient innovations are quickly implemented in the EU and integrated into EU agriculture policies' and 'points especially to the need for multigenerational studies on feed additives. The whole parliament will vote on its final position on the EU methane strategy in September.

### Reducing Methane Emissions From Ruminants



Reducing methane emissions from ruminants is one of a series of Teagasc webinars focused on addressing the challenges and opportunities in the agri-food sector. The panellists on this webinar which took place on 14 July 2021 focused on research currently being undertaken in Teagasc to reduce enteric methane emissions from ruminant livestock. To view a video of the webinar click here <https://youtu.be/tOAXc9FX9ZA>. Or download the presentations below.

Reducing Methane Emissions(PDF)

Methane emissions in grazing dairy systems(PDF)

Breeding strategies to reducing methane emissions from ruminants(PDF)

## Technical News

### Latest on PAP

IGFA reported last month that the Environment Committee in the European Parliament had voted on a 'resolution' opposing the European Commission proposal to reauthorise PAP in pig and poultry feed. The resolution was rejected by the committee but only by a small majority - 39 voted against, 35 in favour (including Irish MEPs Grace O'Sullivan and Mick Wallace) and there were 5 abstentions. As the resolution was not supported by the committee the proposal will move forward and is likely to be published in the Official Journal in September. This will mean that it enters into force in early October.

### New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) timetable

NGTs have been defined by the Commission as 'techniques capable to change the genetic material of an organism and that have emerged or have been developed since 2001, when the existing GMO legislation was adopted'. According the EU researchers' techniques have been developed over the past number of years that are capable of changing the genetic

material of an organism. These techniques have 'become more precise and the genetic changes introduced have become so subtle that sometimes they cannot be distinguished from modifications that occur in nature'.

The European Commission published a study on NGTs at the end of April 2021 which concluded that the current GMO legislation, adopted in 2001, was "not fit for purpose for these innovative technologies". In general it is considered that EU GM legislation is over burdensome for regulating these techniques and the Commission wants to propose new rules for NGTs to ensure there is a proper regulatory framework in place. This is a controversial topic as many environmental NGOs and anti GM groups think that NGTs should remain under EU GM legislation, believing it is a more rigorous and strict process. A consultation on an impact assessment on NGTs will be launched after the summer and a broader public consultation will take place in the second quarter of 2022. The plan is for the final Commission proposal to be published in the second quarter of 2023.

## GM Maize MON 810 - Post Market Monitoring Indicates no Adverse Effects.

The only GM maize approved for cultivation in the EU is MON 810. Mon810 it is planted primarily in Portugal and Spain. The variety is bred to have resistance to the European corn borer and the Mediterranean corn borer, both are important insect pests of maize fields in Europe. The cultivated area in 2019 exceeded 120,000 hectares. Growers must adhere to an insect resistance plan; **this involves planting a refuge are of maize susceptible to the pest close to the resistant maize.** The idea is that resistant insects will mate with sensitive individuals coming from the refuge areas. The progeny of those insects will not survive after feeding on GM plants, thus preventing the spread of resistance in the insect population. Every year, the authorisation holder (Bayer Agriculture BVBA) monitors the development of resistance. Following a request from the European Commission, EFSA assessed the 2019 post-market environmental monitoring (PMEM) report on the cultivation of maize event MON 810. Like previous years, there was full compliance with refuge requirement in Portugal and partial compliance with refuge requirements by Spanish farmers growing MON 810 varieties. European and Mediterranean corn borer populations collected from north-eastern Spain during the 2019 maize growing season show no symptoms of resistance to maize MON 810. The assessment of farmer questionnaires and relevant scientific publications does not indicate any unanticipated adverse effects on human and animal health or the environment arising from the cultivation of maize MON 810. **Overall, EFSA concludes that the evidence reported in the 2019 PMEM report does not invalidate previous EFSA evaluations on the safety of maize MON 810**

## Insecticides - Neonicotinoids

Members are reminded that in 2020, large populations of aphid vectors of yellowing viruses invaded beet crops. To keep producers and the sugar industry (the largest in the EU) from having to deal with the economic damage, the reintroduction of Neonicotinoids as a seed dressing for beet was authorised in France. Under the waiver the French authorities (ANSES) were asked to review and report on possible alternative controls measures. **ANSES identified 22 solutions for controlling aphids and yellowing disease in sugar beet crops. These alternative solutions, whose effectiveness is good but insufficient when they are used alone, will require an integrated control approach or even a change in cultivation practices to be sufficiently effective.** These practices consist of mulching and organic fertilisation, with the aim of controlling nitrogen inputs. In addition to these solutions available for immediate use, **18 other control measures** should become available within the next **two to three years**. The marketing authorisations for certain plant protection products used for other crops may also be extended. Most of the alternative solutions considered as potential replacements for neonicotinoids have good but insufficient effectiveness, when used alone, to reduce levels of damage to an acceptable economic threshold. Given the increased push to integrated pest management and reduced pesticide use the risk of crop loss is pushed back down the chain to the farmer. How growers will react to this potential increased crop loss risk will be interesting.

# Animal Health

## Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Addressing AMR through a One Health approach is a priority for the EU Commission. The European Commission published its 6th progress report on the implementation of the European One Health Action Plan against AMR on the 26 July 2021. This report shows that a number of initiatives taken at EU level have progressed over the last six months. At a regulatory level, the Commission established tertiary legislation to implement the EU Regulations on Veterinary Medicinal Products and on Medicated Feed, which will support reaching the target, set in the EU Farm to Fork Strategy, to reduce overall EU sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals and in aquaculture by 50% by 2030. To view the report click here Full report. The next progress report is planned to be published at the end of 2021.