

General News

IGFA Feed Committee – Ukraine Crisis

The IGFA Feed Committee met in Portlaoise on 8 March 2022 and the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on the feed sector was top of the agenda. The importance of Ukraine as a global supplier for the feed industry, uncertainty over the availability of feed materials and price increases were discussed. It was agreed that the situation was critical and the Committee therefore agreed a number of priorities that DAFM should focus their efforts on over the following weeks. These are

- DAFM should facilitate the unloading of Ukrainian/Russian cargoes that arrive on our shores from the region over the next few weeks. These cargoes are already paid for and are the property of European and Irish businesses. This may involve flexibility on paperwork and SPS certificates.
- DAFM should provide flexibility on EU pesticide MRLs and recognise the reduced risk where feed is concerned. The facility to derogate under article 18 (4) of 396/2005 in exceptional circumstances should also be considered.
- DAFM should provide flexibility on GM events not yet authorised in the EU but that may have a credible risk assessment available either by EFSA or another major trading region.
- DAFM should explore with the Commission all policy measures under CAP and the green deal to increase feed grain production within the EU.
- DAFM should investigate the effect on the market of a temporary moratorium on the use of feed grains for biofuel.
- DAFM should support a status quo position on the proposed undesirable regulation for a period of 24 months.
- All measures should be investigated to ensure access to fertilisers over the coming period. The availability of fertilisers will be absolutely critical to ensure an adequate supply of grass and silage.

IGFA meets with Minister McConalogue

A group of IGFA members met with Minister McConalogue after the Feed Committee meeting to emphasise the points raised and explain the current and potential upcoming challenges for the sector as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Members explained the practical difficulties associated with a lack of supplies from Ukraine, the huge impact that the increase in prices is having on our industry and the importance of fertiliser availability in the short and longer term. We also emphasised the pressure the pig industry is under at the moment and how market issues caused by the war is exacerbating problems on pig farms.

The Minister highlighted that he was setting up a new **National Fodder and Food Security Committee** to support the national response to the issues created by the war. IGFA has a seat on that Committee and will support its work over the coming weeks and months.

Pig Crisis

The crisis in the pig industry continues to devastate the sector. We are consistently emphasising to government the importance of the pig industry and that without intervention, the sector faces possible collapse. In conjunction with IFA and Meat Industry Ireland, IGFA made a submission to DAFM on 15 March proposing the

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WHAT'S ON

Teagasc April events [read more](#)

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

Apr 4 FEFAC Green labelling workshop

Apr 21 FEFAC Feed Safety Management Committee

May 6 INAP meeting

RASFF 'S March 2022

Total Food & Feed	458
Total Feed	27
Feed Materials	22
Feed Additives	1
Compound Feed	1
Pet food	3
read more	

For more information or useful links <http://igfa.ie/MonthlyFeedIssues.html>



<https://twitter.com/IGFAie>



Read Teagasc Signpost newsletter [here](#)

establishment of a **Pig Stability Fund** with the principle of joint funding from the State and pig farmers (through a statutory pig levy). The government has been slow to react and this led to a protest by farmers, feed companies and others in the supply chain outside government offices in Dublin on 29 March. Some options to help the sector were discussed at meetings that evening and the following day but as yet there is no agreed way forward. Given the extent of the pressure on the ground, we are emphasising the need for urgent action to secure the survival of the sector.

EU Measures to Support Food Security

On 23 March, the European Commission presented a range of measures to enhance food security. The aim is to build resilience into the food and feed sectors in light of rising food prices and input costs which have further accelerated as a result of the war in Ukraine.

Agriculture Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski said: “Our first priority is to make sure that Ukrainians have enough food, fuel and water. We will also help them to continue planting and growing cereals and oilseeds, much needed for themselves and for the world and facilitate their exports. The EU is an agricultural superpower and we will ensure that our farmers have the Commission's full support to respond to the global needs for food.”

The Commission has therefore adopted a number of measures including

- A support package of €500 million to support the producers most affected by the serious consequences of the war.
- More advances of direct payments to farmers.
- Market safety-net measures to support the pigmeat market in view of the difficult situation of the sector.
- An exceptional and temporary derogation to allow the production of any crops for food and feed purposes on fallow land.
- Specific temporary flexibilities to existing import requirements on animal feed will contribute to alleviating the pressure on the feed market.

Full details available [here](#)

Sustainability

Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) Finalised

On 11 March [Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme \(NAP\)](#) was finalised and comes into effect from that date. The statutory instrument (SI 113) was also published and the key articles for the feed industry are as follows

- Article 15(6) - *From 11th March 2022, on holdings with grassland stocking rates of 130 kg nitrogen per hectare from grazing livestock manure (dairy cows and other bovines two years old and over) 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 15th April and 30th September. Records of crude protein content of concentrate feedstuff shall be kept in accordance with Article 23(1)(j).*
- Article 23 (1) (j) - *Records shall be maintained for each holding which shall indicate the quantities and types of concentrated feedstuff fed to grazing livestock on the holding.*

The programme runs until 2025 and there will be an interim review in 2023. DAFM has informed us that further guidance is being developed and IGFA will circulate the relevant information when available.

Webinar on Circular Feed



FEFAC CHARTER 2030
Experts in Animal Nutrition WEBINAR SERIES

**WEBINAR ON CIRCULAR FEED:
THE FUTURE POTENTIAL OF
NUTRIENT RECOVERY
THROUGH ANIMAL NUTRITION**

webinar event on
zoom

**31
MARCH
15:00-
16:45 CET**

Fefac hosted a webinar on circular feed on 31 March. FEFAC President Asbjørn Børsting pointed to the current Ukraine crisis situation, which demonstrates the vulnerabilities in the EU food and feed system and the importance of exploring the potential for harnessing alternative nutrient sources from the European circular economy.

Speakers from the insect, phosphorous recovery, algae and former foodstuffs industries presented emerging technologies with the potential to safely recover nutrients from untapped resources with a potential feed use. Legislation, access to finance,

energy requirements and market access were noted as being critical factors for upscaling activities. Watch the full video <https://youtu.be/hcv90Jungq8> or you can also download individual presentations here.

Asbjørn Børsting (FEFAC President) | Martin Scholten (Wageningen University) | Christophe Trespeuch (Chairman of the IPIFF Working Group on Feed Hygiene and Animal Nutrition) | Floris Schoeters (Thomas More University) & Peter Bleyen (Province of Antwerp – Experimental Poultry Centre) | Sara Stiernström (Easy Mining) | Chris Thornton (ESPP) | Alexander Romme (Vice President of EFFPA)

Animal Health

Avian Influenza

There have been no further outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in poultry or captive birds since 18 December 2021. Ireland's self-declared disease-free status for avian influenza was published by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on 31 January 2022. Maintenance of this status, which is important for international movements and trade of poultry and poultry products, will remain dependent on the absence of any further outbreaks of avian influenza in poultry in Ireland. Eleven cases in wild birds were confirmed since the last Avian Influenza Update (10 February 2022). The continued detection of avian influenza positive cases in wild birds indicates that there is still a significant risk from circulating virus in wild birds and the environment and poultry owners should continue to implement stringent biosecurity measures to prevent further outbreaks. Read more here [DAFM Avian Influenza Update No. 4 of 2022](#)

Medicated Feed

It has been a busy month in the area of medicated feed. IGFA have been involved in the testing of the National Veterinary Prescription System (NVPS). Meetings have also been held with medicated feed members and DAFM to discuss NVPS and the requirement to sign a self-declaration form committing to adherence to the new medicated feed regulation (EU 2019/4) which came into force across the EU on 28 January 2022.

Completion of a self-declaration form is required before 4 May 2022 in accordance with Article 15 of EU 2019/4 in order for medicated feed businesses to continue to hold a licence to manufacture medicated feed. This declaration states that your business can meet the requirements for approval in accordance with the new Regulation. All licences will now be of an indefinite length. There will be no renewal process and monitoring of compliance will be done through risk-based inspections. Standard operating procedures in feed mills should be updated to contain the information as required in the self-declaration form and the Regulation as necessary.

The NVPS is due to go live from 1 April. IGFA held a meeting with their medicated feed members on 23 March and a series of questions were compiled and submitted to DAFM by Cornelia O'Connell on behalf of members. DAFM animal feed division and veterinary medicine division held a follow-on meeting with IGFA on 29 March. A demonstration of the NVPS system was given and questions answered.

Maximum levels of cross contamination for active substances in non-target feed which will have to be adhered to will be set at an EU level by January 2023. These levels will be established based on a scientific risk assessment carried out by the European Food Safety Authority in conjunction with the European Medicines Agency. Until the completion of this work, and the establishment of these levels, national maximum levels of cross-contamination shall apply. A draft delegated act is expected to be presented by the EU Commission for consultation in May 2022. IGFA is on the FEFAC Medicated Feed Taskforce and will be meeting in May to review and discuss this draft. We will keep members updated.

Technical News

Maximum Levels For Nutritional Substances whether Added as Feed Additives or not

Further to concerns expressed by some Member States that the benefit of using red algae to reduce methane emissions from enteric fermentation could be outweighed by the fact that this algae is high in iodine, the EU Commission proposed as a general rule that the maximum levels set in authorization acts for nutritional feed additives would apply to the diet even when the substance is not added in the form of a feed additive. FEFAC and IGFA have expressed concerns as regards the direction taken by the discussion at SCoPAFF on a possible capping of the amount of trace elements/vitamins in feed even not supplemented by these substances in the form of feed additives. We welcome the fact that the discussions seem

now restricted to iodine but still consider this as a dangerous precedent. FEFAC is in the process of developing a paper presenting two case studies with iodine and iron showing the potential impacts of such an approach due to the limited margin of manoeuvre left to operators to optimize the diet via the selection of feed materials.

Undesirable Substances – Mycotoxins Excluding Aflatoxins

The EU Commission is still proposing to maintain the guidance values for feed materials and switch to maximum limits for compound feed. However currently the discussions are deadlocked between member states as guidance levels are managed differently in each country. 50% of member states want status quo and 50% agree with change. The Commission has said it will consider accompanying measures to rebalance the burden along the chain such as differentiated maximum limits depending on whether the feed includes mycotoxin binders or not and/or guidelines for the enforcement of guidance values. However, FEFAC maintains its basic opposition to the setting of maximum limits for compound feed while acknowledging that these accompanying measures may bring some relief. FEFAC is considering asking for an emergency review procedure in case of a combination of low harvest and high incidence of mycotoxins and examining the scope for the setting of maximum limits also for certain feed materials such as co-products.

In response to the current Ukraine situation, IGFA has asked DAFM and EU policy makers to support a status quo position on the proposed undesirable regulation for a period of 24 months.

Residues Of Etosum in Feed Additives

The EU Commission, in agreement with member states, set a maximum level of 40 mg/kg for the sum of ethylene oxide (ETO) and 2-chloro-ethanol (2-CE), expressed as ETOsum in choline chloride via a new footnote (footnote 7) inserted in the minutes of the meeting of the ETO crisis coordination team on 4 October 2021. This level is directly enforceable.

On the RASFF this month Ethylene oxide levels were detected in choline chloride from China which was notified on 18 MAR 2022 by Belgium. Full details available <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/rasff-window/screen/notification/537720>

Overview of Pending Re-Authorisations of Feed Additives (BHT, Ethoxyquin, Vitamin B12, Etc.)

BHT an important feed preservative –the draft EFSA opinion was presented a expert meeting in January 2022 and will require additional discussion before being adopted.

Vitamin B12 - the draft annex entry was discussed at the last SCoPAFF meeting, with only one source from a GM microorganism being considered.

Ethoxyquin – The EFSA opinion on ethoxyquin adopted on 26-27 January 2022 was published. One of the issues raised in the first opinion i.e. the potential risk with p-phenetidine, is not lifted: “owing to the presence of p-phenetidine, no safe level of the additive in feed for long-living and reproductive animals could be identified.” This means that even the planned reduction of p-phenetidine in ethoxyquin down to 2.5 ppm might not be sufficient to convince member states to re-authorise ethoxyquin. This makes the scope for re-authorisation of ethoxyquin uncertain. The re-authorisation decision must be finalized by end of 2022, meaning a vote at the SCoPAFF September meeting at the latest. FEFAC will share with the EU Commission its evaluation of the consequences of the suspension of the use of ethoxyquin, in particular the reduction of the shelf life of vitamins, premixtures and compound feed. **Ethoxyquin communication toolbox:** In order to support companies and Member Associations in case of media investigations or questions from chain partners regarding the status of ethoxyquin, FEFAC, FEFANA and IFFO updated the FAQ drafted several years ago. If you required a copy of this document contact cornelia.oconnell@eorna.ie

REFIT of Feed Additives Legislation

The Feed Additives Regulation ([EC No 1831/2003](#)), adopted in 2003, sets out rules for authorising feed additives and placing them on the market. According to the Commission, in line with the action plan of the Farm to fork strategy, it was decided this regulation needed to be revised. The main aim was to establish new criteria to promote the authorisation of feed additives with positive effects on animal welfare and on the environment and build up mechanisms to promote innovation in feed additives, particularly those contributing to reducing the use of antibiotics and mitigating climate change effects.

The roadmap was published on 14 December 2020, inviting citizens and stakeholders to provide input. The last phase of the consultation roadmap was completed with a workshop on 25 January 2022. The Commission is still planning to publish its new proposal in June 2022.