

General News

Brexit - New SPS Requirements

Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures are measures to protect humans, animals, and plants from diseases, pests, or contaminants. On 14 September, the UK government announced a postponement of the new UK import control requirements for EU agri-food products that were originally due to commence on 1 October 2021. This postponement pushed out the application of the new requirements to 1 January 2022 and 1 July 2022. DAFM has asked us to circulate the details of these new requirements to IGFA members see [link](#).

Pig Sector Challenges

Ahead of the October Farm Council, FEFAC sent a letter to Ministers addressing, among other topics, the situation in the Pig Sector. Belgium, with the support of others, informed the Council about the challenges faced by this sector as a result of high feed prices, reduced demand and the impact of African Swine Fever on European pig meat prices outside the EU. Some national delegations called on the Commission to activate the provisions of the Common Market Organisation concerning exceptional market measures in this sector. IGFA has followed up with articles in the press and regularly updates DAFM on the market difficulties for the sector. In addition, while supporting the removal of tariffs and export quotas on feed materials, the association continues to push DAFM to adopt a more proactive and transparent approach to these discussions.



EU-US agree to suspend steel and aluminium trade disputes tariffs

In 2018, the Trump administration-imposed tariffs on steel (25%) and aluminium (10%) imports, mainly targeting cheap imports from China, but also affecting European exporters. In response, the EU imposed tariffs on US imports (25% tariff on sensitive US goods such as whiskey, orange juice, motorcycles and also US corn) and started a case against the US tariffs at the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The EU and US have now agreed to end their trade dispute on steel and aluminium leading to a suspension of tariffs, including the 25% duty on US corn. The agreement will go into effect on 1st January 2022. The US will therefore, remove Section 232 tariffs on EU steel and aluminium exports **up to past trade volumes** while the EU has announced that it will take the steps to suspend its rebalancing measures against the US including the 25% duty on US corn. IGFA will continue to press for clarification from DAFM on the effective date for the removal of the 25% tariff on maize. During the past year, the entire EU feed chain has repeatedly called on the Commission and the EU Council for suspension of tariffs on US corn, mainly to relieve pressure on the EU feed grain market following the global market rally.

Deferral For Anti-Parasitics - Veterinary Medicines Regulations



Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Mr Charlie McConalogue TD, has set out a roadmap for the implementation of the new EU Veterinary Medicinal Regulation 2019/6, which will come into effect on the 28th January 2022 as follows



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RASFF 'S Nov 2021

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Total Food & Feed | 426 |
| Total Feed | 21 |
| Feed Materials | 14 |
| Feed Premixtures | 0 |
| Feed Additives | 0 |
| Compound Feed | 2 |
| Pet food | 2 |
| Other | 3 |

[read more](#)

WHAT'S ON

Teagasc Dec events [read more](#)

Colleagues at the Brazilian embassy are hosting a "Virtual Business Match with Brazilian Food & Drink companies" between **6th and 10th December**. It is an opportunity to meet food and drink suppliers in Brazil supplying a range of products including cereals and grains, corn products and starch products. Register [here](#)

Dec 7 IGFA Feed Committee

Dec 13 New Genomic Techniques workshop [read more](#)



Read Teagasc Signpost Nov. newsletter [here](#)

- ⇒ Veterinary Medicinal Regulation 2019/6 and Medicated Feed Regulation 2019/4 will come into effect on 28th January.
- ⇒ The new requirements regarding the prescribing of antimicrobials, including antibiotics and medicated feed, will come into effect on that date.
- ⇒ The requirement to only supply anti-parasitic medicines on foot of a veterinary prescription is **deferred for a four-month period** – until 1st June 2022.
- ⇒ The mandatory requirement to use the National Veterinary Prescription System (NVPS) is deferred until 1st June 2022. Veterinary practitioners can continue to issue paper-based prescriptions in the current format until then.
- ⇒ The NVPS will be available for voluntary use by vets from the end of January onwards to ensure that prescribers and dispensers are familiar with the system when its use becomes compulsory.
- ⇒ Prescriptions issued by vets for anti-parasitic medicines after 1st June will be valid for a maximum period of 12-months. Antiparasitic medicines can then be purchased by the farmer from his preferred supplier at the appropriate time throughout the period that the prescription is valid.
- ⇒ From 1st June 2022, the Regulations will be applied in full.

The full press release is available [here](#)

Sustainability

Sustainable Agriculture Training Webinar Series

Teagasc have been running a series of webinars on sustainable agriculture under the Signpost Programme. You can register to get notification of these webinars and view previous ones [here](#).

Government Climate Action Plan 2021

The [Climate Action Plan 2021.pdf](#) was published by government at the start of November and focuses on how the government plans live up to its commitment to halve greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2050. The Plan sets ranges for emission reductions for each sector of the economy and for agriculture this is set at a reduction of 22-30%. The agriculture chapter mentions a number of measures that will be required to improve environmental performance on farms but specifically for the feed sector it talks about improving animal feeding by reducing 'the crude protein content of livestock feeding stuffs to minimise nitrous oxide and ammonia loss, while utilising feed additives during the housing period'. It notes that the constituents of the animal's diet are an important part of the outputs from our food system, with the level of crude protein fed in dairy and pig rations having a direct impact on emissions. The document outlines 40 planned actions on agriculture including

- **304** - Increase focus on selection for traits that lead to lower methane production in the beef breeding programme
- **306** - Reduce the crude protein content of livestock feeding stuffs to minimise nitrous oxide and ammonia loss
- **307** - Progress the development on feed additives on methane emissions for use during the housing period
- **318** - Continue to invest in research to develop novel feed additives to reduce biogenic methane during the grazing season
- **324** - Upskill farmers and advisors to ensure they have the knowledge and tools to implement climate mitigation, biodiversity enhancement and adaptation practices.

Renewable Energy Directive (REDII)

FEFAC submitted its feedback on the Commission's proposal to amend REDII in an online [public consultation](#). The continued maximum limit of 7% of food and feed crops contributing to renewable energy production is good news as well as sustainability criteria being strengthened, including recognition of the waste hierarchy and its cascading principle. The EU feed industry currently uses up to 20 million tonnes of coproducts from the food industry that would be otherwise wasted. The usage of those feedstocks is contributing to reducing food waste in the EU which is an EU Farm to Fork objective. Therefore they should not be considered in any way as wastes/residues suitable for the production of advanced biofuels.

It is however regretful that the EU Commission kept the possibility to revise Annex IX every two years which may put pressure on the feed sector to defend the value of co-products used in feed if they are targeted as potential advanced biofuels. It is also regretful that there is no possibility to remove a feedstock from Annex IX once it is introduced (e.g. molasses inclusion in 2017). The next important date is [2 December 2021](#) when EU energy ministers will discuss the [proposal on REDII](#).

COP26 Delivers Deforestation and Methane Pledges

A "Glasgow leaders' declaration on forests and land use" was published, committing 131 countries (representing over 85% of the planet's forests) to ending and reversing deforestation and land degradation by 2030. The signatories include EU member states, Brazil, Argentina and China. The EU Commission announced a €1bn 5-year support package to help

partner countries sustainably manage forests worldwide and also published its proposal for deforestation-free supply chains as another means of supporting the pledge (see below).

There was also the launch of the Global Methane Pledge, committing 103 countries (excluding China, Russia and India) to a collective goal of reducing global methane emissions by at least 30% from 2020 levels by 2030. Commission President Ursula von der Leyen highlighted that the Commission will introduce regulatory rules to measure, report and verify methane emissions. She pointed to the increasing focus on tackling methane emissions within the CAP and the recent establishment of an International Methane Emissions Observatory.

The EU Commission Publishes A Proposal for a Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products

On 17 November, the European Commission published a new proposal aimed at regulating commodities such as soy imported into the EU to ensure they do not contribute to deforestation. The regulation proposes new rules for companies that want to place these commodities on the EU market. The feed industry has highlighted its support for the EU to take a leading role in the fight against deforestation but have emphasised that deforestation can only be tackled in partnership with producing countries. There are also concerns that the obligations on operators and traders to comply with the proposed regulation will translate into detailed requirements for traceability, including geo-localisation of the farm or plot of production, transmission of information and physical segregation of products. This will inevitably add huge extra burden and costs. There is also a provision to benchmark producer countries according to a low, standard or high level of risk and FEFAC is concerned that “If sourcing from countries that are considered high-risk gets too complicated, the supply chain will adjust to risk-avoidance. This will reduce the EU’s leverage to positively influence the situation in those countries”.

The proposal will now move to the European Parliament and Council for their consideration and likely amendments and the French Agriculture Minister said that it will be a key priority of the French EU Presidency (January-June 2022).

Animal Health

Avian Influenza (Bird flu)



Trader Notice 04/2021 – Biosecurity Measures to reduce the spread of Avian Influenza (AI) in Ireland

[Download](#)

On 20 November 2021 DAFM confirmed test results that identified evidence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 in samples from a turkey flock in Co. Monaghan. Restriction zones are in place around the area where additional

movement controls and surveillance measures will apply. A trader notice was issued to all feed business operators outlining the measures that need to be taken see [link](#)

African Swine Fever (ASF)

This month ASF has been detected in domestic pigs in north east Germany. This represents a big leap westward from all previous cases, which had been confined to two states near the Polish border – Brandenburg and Saxony. The vast majority of cases, now more than 2,000, are in wild boar. The source of this latest outbreak is not yet known. Control measures have been put in place, including the removal of all animals on the farm. The market situation does not change as Germany is already banned from exporting pork to many third countries. However, another federal state is now affected and restriction zones have to be expanded or re-designated. Ireland is free of ASF but all pig farmers should continue to meticulously comply with the biosafety measures in and around their farms.



Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR)

A large group of Green MEPs supported a proposal calling for the ban on the use of antimicrobials for animals if they are used for human medicine, especially any new antimicrobials coming to the market. They want to do this without any scientific back up, that using them in animals would cause a problem. The proposal was eventually defeated as a result of an intensive lobbying campaign coordinated by veterinarians and the animal health industry, with the support of the European Platform for the Responsible Using of Medicines in Animals (EPRUMA), who managed to convince the majority of Environment Committee MEPS to vote on science and evidence. IGFA members should note that EPRUMA was set up to communicate and support the dissemination of information on the prudent use of antibiotics. The use of antibiotics in animals is a particularly contentious issue for MEPs and others in Brussels.

Medicated Feed - Maximum Levels Of Cross-Contamination in Non-Target Feed

The new medicated feed regulation ([EU 2019/4](#)) states that maximum levels of cross-contamination for active substances in non-target feed should be established. This will be based on a scientific risk assessment performed by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). The methodology being used by EFSA is been challenged by Feed Industry representatives, in particular the lack of attention paid to the fact that animals are rarely exposed to batches of feed containing detectable residues of antibiotics resulting from carry-over from medicated feed (usually less than once in the lifetime of a fattening pig) and for a short period (no longer than 3 days on average according to a non-published TECALIMAN study ordered by Animal Health Europe). EFSA results will be discussed at a meeting of the [Expert Animal Nutrition Group](#) on 15 December 2021. ↓

Technical News

Expert Animal Nutrition Group – First Meeting

The Expert Group Animal Nutrition will hold its first meeting on 15 December 2021. This group is composed of national member state experts and 5 stakeholders: FEFAC, FEFANA, Copa-Cogeca, FEDIAF (pet food) and Animal Health Europe. Its purpose is to advise the EU Commission on delegated acts and regulation modifications. The agenda includes proposals for amendment of maximum limits for undesirable substances, the evolution of the risk management approach for mycotoxins (max. limits vs. guidance values) and the establishment of max. limits for antibiotics in non-target feed.

Campden BRI Salmonella Project

The purpose of this project is to create a validation protocol for feed mill kill steps (using either steam processing or bactericide) using a validated bacterial surrogate organism. The project has been running for a few months now and is due to finish at the end of January 2022.

Genetically Modified Micro-Organisms (GMMOs) – Conclusion of Recent Legal Study

The detection of recombinant DNA in fermentation products triggered several RASFF alerts in recent years, in particular for feed (vitamin B2) and also more recently, food enzymes. The interpretation from the Commission was that the presence of a fragment of rDNA in a feed or food product automatically puts the product in the scope of the GM feed and food legislation i.e. requires a specific authorization as GM feed and food, which none of the GMMOs used these days for fermentation hold. However, a key conclusion of a legal study ordered by a coalition of EU organisations of the fermentation industry and FEFANA recently showed that residues of recombinant DNA from GMMOs **should not** be regarded as falling under the scope of the GM food and feed legislation. This legal opinion is now under intense discussion with SCoPAFF experts and industry.

Pesticides Update - Import Tolerances

The issue of how and when to set import tolerances (IT) for non-EU authorised active ingredients found in feed or food imported to the EU continues to cause problems for the Commission.

- EU primary producers object strongly to the setting of Import tolerances (MRLs) to permit the flow of food produced to a “lower standard” from outside the EU.
- Third countries on the other hand object to the situation whereby an IT may be refused for a pesticide that has been refused EU authorisation due to environmental concerns. Under WTO rules countries are bound to abide by scientific SPS rules and only refuse entry where there is a risk to food/feed safety.

The Commission is faced with the problem of persuading other countries that EU environmental concerns (on pesticides) are justifiable concerns. A practical example of this discussion can be seen in the Ethylene oxide (ETO) debacle, whereby the Indian authorities have so far provided no indication they intend to remove ETO from the marketplace. This is despite registering a large number of alerts in the EU RASFF portal for Indian sourced products. As the list of contested active ingredients grows, the problem will only get worse. The active of concern presently for the feed industry is the downward revision of the MRL for glufosinate ammonium sulphate. On the positive side EFSA has supported keeping the existing MRL for glyphosate at 20 ppm. At the September SCoPAFF meeting the pesticide experts decided to pause the discussion on a harmonised approach to applying processing factors along the chain (publication of a guidance). IGFA’s objection to the guidance centred around the fact that member states could choose to use the guide if they wished and that is not a harmonised approach. IGFA will continue to monitor the pesticide discussion at SCoPAFF level.

