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Dates

March events	Teagasc events see link
10 th March	IGFA Workshop on Sustainable Soy in Livestock Products
9-11 th March	Internet of Things 4 Food
10 th March	Fefac Premix & Mineral Committee
11 th March	Fefac Animal Nutrition Committee
3-5 th June	Sustainability Congress

Consultations/ Websites

Crop Forecast	DAFM Reg. & App. FBO's
Protein Balance Sheets	Iqfa.ie
DAFM FBO Forms	DAFM Brexit
DAFM AMR	DAFM Trader Notices
FSAI AMR	Pig Innovation

General News

European Green Deal

In 2019 EU leaders made a political commitment to be climate neutral by 2050 and on March 4 the European Commission presented a legislative proposal to enshrine this commitment into law. Commission president Ursula von der Leyen described the new Climate Law as 'setting us irreversibly on the path to a more sustainable future'.



The Climate Law sets the 2050 target and will underpin all future EU policy. It is one aspect of the European Green deal – a wider plan to make the EU economy more sustainable and to ensure that all sectors of society play their part. Over the next few months a number of far-reaching strategies will be published under the umbrella of the European Green Deal including one this Spring on ensuring more sustainable food systems. Known as 'From Farm to Fork', this strategy will cover all the stages of the food chain. It is likely to make climate and environmental measures more prevalent in the new CAP and propose measures on reducing significantly the use and risk of chemical pesticides, as well as the use of fertilisers and antibiotics. It will also consider ways to increase organic production, propose action on food waste and look at ways to identify new innovative food and feed products. For more information on the Green Deal, please contact maeve.whyte@eorna.ie

Nitrates Derogation 2020

DAFM has announced that applications for the 2020 Nitrates Derogation can now be submitted to the Department using the [on-line portal](#). The online system which is aimed at simplifying the application process and assisting farmers to avoid penalties. Farmers can also remain compliant with the Regulations by managing their livestock to farm below the limits, exporting enough slurry/farmyard manure or renting additional land but these farmers are also subject to additional requirements this year. Over 6,800 farmers availed of the derogation in 2019. For more information see [link](#)

Seanad Nominations



The two successful IGFA nominations for the Seanad

- [Maria Byrne](#)
- [Dominic Hannigan](#)

Nomination paper lodged and recorded on Friday, 21st February. We wish the candidates the best in the rest of the campaign

Tesco UFAS Approved Mill Audits

The number of mills audited to date is thirteen
The results were as follows

Brag Award Status	Green	(7 mills)
	Amber	(6 mills)
	Red	0% (0 mills)

HACCP Training

An online training course delivered by the Irish Grain and Feed Association, working with Macra Agricultural Skillnet is now available. The course is comprised of four modules. Module 1 is suitable for everybody working in the agri. industry as it explains the background and development of feed legislation. Modules 2-4 are suitable for personnel in a quality/manufacturing role. Participants will be required to complete an assessment in order to receive their certification. To book the course visit <https://www.macra.ie/macra-skillnet>.

GMP in Animal Feed Milling

JPD Management and Consultancy Services
"Adding Value to your Business"



Due to continued interest from members, and following a number of successful training sessions, classroom and onsite-visits, the IGFA in association with Carlow Kilkenny Skillnet will host another round of training and skills development Tuesday the 28th of April 2020 Maldron Hotel Portlaoise, 10am to 1pm. This half-day classroom workshop will focus specifically on Plant Efficiencies and Utilisation, and will include an insight into Fire & ATEX Awareness. An on-site day will also be to be arranged between Participants and Tutor – (May / June 2020). Cost €295/person. Tutor JPD Management & Consultancy Services. Lunch and refreshments included. **For bookings and payment contact** Carlow / Kilkenny Skillnet on 059 913 2152 or info@carlowkilkennyskillnet.ie

Avian Influenza



DAFM would like to remind feed business operators (FBOs) of the risk that Avian Influenza (AI) poses to the poultry sector in Ireland. The current investigation into the suspected presence of Avian Influenza in a layer flock in County Monaghan, serves to highlight to FBOs the measures they should take to reduce the risk of introducing this disease when transporting feed to poultry farms. They have issued a trader notice (01/2020) "**Biosecurity Measures to Reduce the Risk of**

Introduction/Spread of Avian Influenza (AI) in Ireland" see [link](#)

African Swine Fever (ASF)

Europe



The outbreak in domestic pigs in Greece on 5th Feb. brings the total number of ASF affected EU Member States to 11. Since 1st January 2020, Bulgaria and Romania have reported ASF in both domestic pigs and wild boar and Greece have reported ASF outbreaks in domestic pigs only. The remaining 8 Member States have confirmed ASF cases in wild boar only

ASIA

ASF currently affects 10 countries in Southeast Asia

DAFM advice

- Although live pigs and germinal products are not imported from ASF affected regions of EU or ASF affected countries worldwide, pig owners are advised to implement **biosecurity**
- Pigs should not be allowed to come into contact with contaminated clothing, vehicles or equipment and they should never be fed or have access to food waste
- It is illegal for people travelling from countries outside of the EU to bring meat or dairy products into Ireland (with minor exceptions for EEA countries)
- People travelling to Ireland from ASF affected areas of the EU are advised not to bring back pork or pork products such as salami, cured hams, pates, ham sandwiches, wild boar products etc.

For more information visit

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/asf/>

African Swine Fever and Animal Feed

Last year, EFSA postponed the adoption of their opinion on the risk of transmission of ASFV from different products or materials (including feed) "due to the weakness of the data and the high uncertainty around some aspects of the assessment." The new deadline for submission of the EFSA's "Risk assessment of the ability of products and materials to present a risk to transmit ASFV" is due for December 2020. The information gathering is taking place in first half 2020 and is based on 2 main actions:

1. Collection of public scientific information on survival of ASFV and effectiveness of treatments
2. Collection of expert information on trade in "at-risk materials" and the flow from imports from non-affected regions into pig farms in ASFV free countries

Technical News

Coronavirus 2019-nCoV in feed

The risk assessments performed by reference scientific bodies conclude at this stage that there is no evidence of a potential risk with food or feed as carrier of 2019-nCoV virus. The following links will take you directly to pages with information on 2019-nCoV virus.

- [ECDC](#) European Center for Disease Control
[EFSA](#) European Food Safety Authority
[CDC](#) US Centre of Disease Control and Prevention
[WHO](#) World Health Organisation
[OIE](#): World Organisation for Animal Health

RASFF Feb 1st-29th

Total	274	Feed Premixtures	1
		Feed additives	0
Food	248	Feed material	11
		Fats and Oils	0
Food contact materials	11	Compound Feed	0
		Herbs & Spices	0
Feed Total	15	Pet food	3
		Nuts, nut products & seeds	0

International Feed Regulators Meeting

A record attendance of more than 110 delegates, of which 35 feed regulators, attended the 13th International Feed Regulators meeting organised by International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF) held in Atlanta on 27th-28th January 2020.

FAO finally published the expert report on "FAO/WHO report on Hazards associated with animal feed" and organized an additional workshop on feed safety risk assessment on 29 January 2020, for feed regulators and industry. The opening session on CODEX work on feed-related standards provided updates on the Task Force on AMR, developing two specific guidance documents which include reference to **adequate nutrition for food producing animals in any AMR prevention programme**. IFIF agreed to do further work on a more precise definition on adequate nutrition ahead of the finalisation of the 1st CODEX guideline covering the prudent use of antibiotics in farm animal production, expected at the next session of the CODEX Task Force on AMR in December 2020. IFIF will also seek further clarification on the definition of

antimicrobials, to safeguard use of non-antibiotic antimicrobial substances in feed (zinc oxide, copper, organic acids).

SCoPAFF update

SCoPAFF is a European Commission regulatory committee that was established by Regulation 178/2002, general food law a regulation. Meetings of the committee are chaired by European Commission officials, and attended by member states' representatives.

The Committee can vote, on certain proposed measures, prior to their possible adoption by the Commission. The following is a summary update of some of the key topics discussed at the last meetings held.

Mycotoxins

- Currently in European feed legislation, see [link](#) there are guidance levels only as risk management measures (as opposed to maximum permitted levels) on the presence of deoxynivalenol, zearalenone, ochratoxin A, T-2 and HT-2 and fumonisins in products intended for animal feeding.
- For several months, SCoPAFF have been discussing a revision of the risk management measures for fusarium toxins in feed, based on EFSA opinions, especially for DON and its modified forms but also to a minor extent Zearalenone, Fumonisin and T2/HT2. The direction the discussions at the moment are for a significant reduction of the guidance values for DON Zearalenone and Fumonisin. For T2+HT2, intention is to replace the present indicative levels for feed by guidance values.
- The concept of guidance values introduced in 2006 and was meant to reflect the fact that the risk with fusarium toxins and trichothecenes in feed concerns animal health & welfare only and there is no exposure of consumers via animal products due to absence of transfer for feed to animal tissues. An increasing number of Member States challenge now this "softer" approach and ask to move towards maximum limits for compound feed, considering that animal health is important enough to justify the same risk management measures as human health. On the other side, in order to avoid wasting feed resources, the EU authorities would maintain guidance values for feed materials. This issue will be discussed in depth at the upcoming meetings of the Animal Nutrition and the Feed Safety Management Committees.

Undesirables

<http://www.igfa.ie/RegulationsMembersonly.html> has been updated with the latest consolidated version of directive 2002/32/EC on undesirable substances in animal feed.

Further discussions have taken place in the last 3 meetings on other undesirables:-

Establishment of maximum limits for nickel in feed materials from mineral origin (50 ppm) and for trace-element compounds, binders and anticaking agent (200 ppm);

Validation of a method of analysis for p-phenetidine with a LOQ of 2 ppb in fishmeal matrices, scheduled by end of 2020;

Reduction of the maximum limit for sclerotinia and introduction of guidance values for the sum of the 12 most relevant ergot alkaloids in compound feed;

Feed additives register

Discussions are still going on the status of a number of substances, with different scenarios:

- those authorised as feed additives, which will become non-authorised feed additives (e.g. carbon black),
- those which were authorised as feed additives while also included on the EU catalogue of feed materials, which will become non-authorised feed additives (e.g. sorbitol, mannitol, sodium and potassium citrates): a long transition period (7 years?) could be granted to let time to operators to apply for authorization as feed additive;
- those which were authorised as feed additives but will no longer be regarded as feed additive (e.g. tamarin seed flour)
- those which will be removed from the EU catalogue of feed materials and regarded as non-authorised feed additives (e.g. xylitol or ammonium lactate): here also a long transition period could be foreseen.

Feed materials

- The first review of the proposed updated catalogue has been completed: the following are expected to be refused (calcium and magnesium chelates, magnesium and sodium acetates), whereas some others require additional information (e.g. wood molasses, cholesterol, max levels of CBD in hemp products); the EU Feed Chain Task Force will collect and submit the requested information; and an adoption of the revised catalogue at the June SCoPAFF meeting is still possible.
- Status of *Ashbya gossypii* biomass rich in vitamin B2: a “gentleman agreement” was achieved: it will be stated in the SCoPAFF minutes that the EU Commission considers *Ashbya gossypii* biomass rich in Vitamin B2 as a feed additive but certain

Member States are from a different opinion. In parallel, authorities will not ask for the withdrawal of the product from the register of feed materials.

EFSA Scientific Assessment of GM events

Soybean A 2704-12 and Maize Mon 89788 valid. In February 2020, EFSA released its scientific opinion on the new data submitted by Testbiotech on soybean A2704 and maize Mon 89788. The opinion states, that the initial assessments were conducted in line with the EFSA guidance. Based on the original authorisation dossier and the extra information requested and submitted by the applicant, the authority found no evidence for new hazards or scientific uncertainties. In conclusion the panel states that information included in the two studies submitted by Testbiotech did not reveal any new information to invalidate the EFSA risk assessment.

Processed Animal Proteins - Lifting of the feed ban

The EU TSE Working Group met on 25th February 2020 with a large part of the agenda dedicated to the lifting of the feed ban.

General approach concerning the feed ban:

There is no intention to consider any relaxation of the ban on ruminant PAPs in non-ruminant feed and vice-versa. That means that the request from the European Animal Protein Associations (EAPA) for a re-authorisation of bovine blood red cells into aquafeed, bovine spray dried plasma into pig feed and pig spray dried plasma into calf milk replacers were all rejected. The only opening could be the re-authorisation of ruminant gelatin and collagen in non-ruminant feed, which is still subject to a risk assessment by EFSA.

The concept of re-authorisation of pig PAPs in poultry feed and poultry PAPs in pig feed and authorization of insect PAPs in both was supported informally by a very large majority of Member States.

Strict separation of compound feed production lines to control the risk of intra-species recycling is one of the criteria in the draft regulation which is at preliminary stage and will require still at least 2 TSE Working Group meetings before it can be pushed to the SCoPAFF for discussion and then vote.

According to DG SANTE, the strict physical separation rule for production lines of compound feed is a prerequisite to reach a qualified majority at SCoPAFF.