

COMMITTEE ON TOXICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Paper for Information:

FSA Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs) update – April 2016 meeting

This paper provides Members with an update on the work of the Food Standards Agency's Scientific Advisory Committees (SAC) and other items of general interest.

Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (**ACAF**)

<http://acaf.food.gov.uk/>

ACAF met on 17 February 2016. Items that were discussed included:

- Representatives from Grain and Feed Trade Association and Environment Agency provided Members with information on the potential associated feed safety risks of, refuse derived fuels stored at ports prior to export to other Member States for recycling into energy. Members agreed that the issues raised were central to the work of the Committee and that a further discussion would take place at ACAF's June 2016 meeting, with a view to the Committee providing recommendations and potential resolution of the problems highlighted during the presentations.
- The Deputy Chairman of ACAF's 'On-farm Feeding' sub-group provided an update on the review of the Committee's 2003 report into On-farm Feeding Practices. Members of the Committee agreed to provide final comments to the ACAF Secretariat, prior to the document being sent to stakeholders for comment, with a view to the document being published prior to the Committee's June 2016 meeting.
- Professor Colin Whittemore (University of Edinburgh) provided an update on the British Society of Animal Science's Register of animal scientists and technologists since the Register's launch in 2012. The Register is an international network assuring the competence, knowledge and career development of Members. The Committee was interested to hear about future initiatives to develop the Register and the membership further.
- An official from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) provided members with an update on negotiations of the European Commission's proposal on medicated feeds. Members were informed that a third revision of the proposal of the medicated feed regulations had been produced.
- The Committee was also provided with details of a European Commission Food and Veterinary Office (now renamed as DG SANTE's Directorate F – Health and Food Audits and Analysis) fact finding study visit to the UK that took place in January 2016. The visit was not an audit and was organised to examine the

interaction between private certification schemes and official controls in the UK feed sector. The Committee requested a formal note of the outcome of the visit once it was available.

- The next ACAF meeting is scheduled to take place in the offices of Food Standards Scotland in Pilgrims House, Aberdeen on 17 June 2016.

Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (**ACMSF**)
<http://acmsf.food.gov.uk/>

The ACMSF met on 29 January in Norwich. On the day before the meeting the committee met at Norwich Research Park for a horizon scanning workshop on the microbiome.

At the meeting on 29 January the following items were discussed:

- The *Ad Hoc* Group on Eggs' draft report: An update on the microbiological risk from shell eggs and their products
- The FSA's work in relation to rare burgers
- The Food safety risk of recycled manure solids used as bedding for dairy cattle
- The outcome of the 7 December 2015 meeting of the Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group
- Changes to plant protection product Maximum Residue Levels: potential impact on food safety Committee sub-groups

The next meeting of the full Committee will be on 30 June 2016 in Aviation House.

Work of the subgroups

Ad Hoc Group on Eggs

The Group's draft report is currently the subject of a public consultation. At the end of the consultation period (1 May) the Group will meet to consider the responses. Further details can be found at: <http://acmsf.food.gov.uk/news-updates/news/2016/14899/fsa-launches-consultation-on-eggs-report>.

Antimicrobial Resistance Working Group

The Group met on 16 February. They discussed a revised draft of a risk assessment on Livestock Associated-MRSA in the food chain; an update on colistin; fluoroquinolones in poultry production; and the EFSA/ECDC report: Antimicrobial Resistance in zoonotic bacteria.

Ad Hoc Group on Campylobacter

Members of this new Group attended a conference organised by the FSA on Campylobacter on 8 and 9 March. The Group will meet to discuss its terms of reference and the scope of its work at the beginning of May.

General Advisory Committee on Science (**GACS**)

<http://gacs.food.gov.uk/gacsmeets/>

A GACS meeting was held on 24 March 2016. The agenda and papers are published¹ and the draft minutes will be available in due course. Agenda items included:

- Report on Science in the FSA
- Triennial Review of the SACs - update and discussion on implementation of the recommendations
- Report on FSA evidence portfolio and future priorities
- Report from the working group on science skills and capabilities
- Report from the working group on risk
- Update on the new cross-SAC working group on the framework for foods that present an increased risk per serving

The Committee and its working groups will continue to operate within their current remit until such time as they hand over to a new FSA Science Council which will be set up in response to Recommendation 3 of the FSA's Triennial Review of its SACs March 2016².

Social Science Research Committee

<http://ssrc.food.gov.uk/>

17th biannual meeting, 15 April 2016

The next SSRC meeting will be held on 15 April in Aviation House. Agenda items include updates on:

- Our Food Future
- Work of other SACs
- Triennial Review
- Vulnerable Groups
- Sub-Groups, Working Groups and Advisory Groups
- ACMSF-SSRC Working Group
- Strategy Sub-Group

Working groups

- New working groups on behaviour change, vulnerable groups, and regulatory strategy were discussed and agreed at the 16th SSRC meeting.
- The SSRC-ACMSF working group held its first two meetings, in order to collaborate on linked areas such as foodborne viruses. An update paper will be presented at the 17th SSRC meeting.

¹ <http://gacs.food.gov.uk/gacsmeets/>

² <http://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/triennial-review-sac.pdf>

- The Vulnerable Groups workshop was held on 6 April. Items discussed included: defining vulnerable groups, population segmentation to usefully inform policy, and areas for future research. An update paper will be presented at the 17th SSRC meeting.

Secretariat
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