

December 2018

Secretariat updates on the Activities of the Food Standards Agency's Scientific Advisory Committees

Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)

Last met on the 28th June and the agenda included;

- Summary of visit to the Dairy Unit at the University of Liverpool on 27th June.
- Update on the EU proposal on medicated feed: A representative from VMD provided Members with an update on the European Commission proposals on revising the medicated feedingstuffs regulation.
- Animal Feed Official Control Delivery Strategy: following a presentation by an FSA official, Members were asked for their views on the Agency's recently published 4-year official control delivery strategy.
- Feed Additives: Members were provided with an update from Tim Riley, chair of the sub-group on feed additives and over-supplementation on the outcomes of the sub-group's second meeting held on 19th April.
- Raw pet food: The Committee was provided with an update on work carried out since the February 2018 meeting on the issues surrounding raw pet food.

Next meeting: 27th February 2019

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

Last met on the 14th November and the agenda included:

- An update on the experience of the traditional foods authorisation process under 2283/2015 EU and the handling of the way forward for recent applications seen by the Committee.
- An update on the future arrangements for risk assessment of regulated products.
- Consideration of the committee's future ways of working in light of the changing context for novel food and GM food and feed risk assessment. A risk assessment framework for the UK document was discussed.
- Consider the latest overview document of action taken by the FSA following ACNFP advice.

Next meeting: 13th February 2019

Advisory Committee on Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)

Last met on 18th October 2018. Agenda included:

- Review for the FSA on the risk from Shiga toxin producing *E.coli* (STEC) in raw and ready-to-eat foods.
- Update on current evidence on vacuum and modified atmosphere packed chilled foods and ongoing work taking place on this subject.
- Presentation on the FSA's revised food surveillance system.
- Update on the outcome of the Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group meeting held on 27th July 2018.

December 2018

- Discussion on how to take forward outputs from the January 2018 horizon scanning workshop

The committee currently has the following subgroups:

- Changes to pesticides maximum residue levels: potential impact on food safety.
- *Ad Hoc* Group on *Campylobacter* (group's report expected to be issued for public consultation early in 2019).
- Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance has resumed its activities following the publication of the fixed-term task and finish report¹ that was presented to the FSA Board in September 2018).
- *Ad Hoc* group on risk assessment (group setup in May 2018 has agreed its terms of reference and its approach. Next meeting planned for February 2019)
- Working Group on New Emerging Pathogens (currently considering the FSA's literature review on risks of consuming human placenta).

Next meeting: TBC

Committee on Toxicity (COT)

COT met on the 4th December with the following agenda:

- Risks from a veterinary product in the diet - Reserved Business
- Potential toxicological risks from electronic nicotine (and non-nicotine) delivery systems (E(N)NDS – e-cigarettes):
 - a) A review of data relating to developmental toxicity in offspring following parental exposure to nicotine
 - b) Additional information on developmental toxicity studies of E(N)NDS aerosols
 - c) Paper for information on COM and COC consideration of genotoxicity and carcinogenicity risks
- Draft overarching statement on the potential risks from contaminants in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years
- Folic acid – statement on the tolerable upper level (TUL)
- First draft statement on the potential risks from energy drinks in the diet of children and adolescents.
- Review of potential risks from 4, 15-diacetoxyscirpenol in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years.

Next meeting: TBC

Advisory Committee for Social Science (ACSS)

The ACSS met on the 4th of December to discuss continuous development and future opportunities, as well as updates from the chair and the working groups.

The ACSS currently has the following Working groups:

- *Food and You:* Interviews were held with stakeholders to investigate their use of food and you data, this was used by the chair to make recommendations.

¹ <https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/amrtaskandfinish2.pdf>

December 2018

- *Risk Communications*: The Risk Communications working group met in October to review a draft risk communications framework and make recommendations to the board based on this.
- *Behavioural Insights*: The Behavioural Insights group met and created a specific work plan that agreed to provide advice on relevant, current frameworks and interventions, as well as work with FSA to prioritise the issues that are forthcoming and help to identify which would benefit most from a behavioural science approach