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Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs

ANNUAL REPORT 2002

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Foreword

I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Dr Ian Brown who was acting Chairman of the Committee for almost a year. Dr Brown gave so much of his time and energy to leading the deliberations of a team of such eminent independent experts. He eased me into my role with much grace and he has continued to provide me with advice and encouragement.

The review of on-farm feeding practices has been one of the most ambitious projects undertaken by ACAF. The report of the BSE enquiry (October 2000) highlighted the need for guidelines on good practice and the near-completion of the review has been a successful and exhilarating start to my Chairmanship. The Committee is confident that the recommendations resulting from the review will provide farmers with a robust tool for assessing hazards and risks with a view to reducing potential contamination of human food.

The second meeting of ACAF that I chaired on 24 September 2002 was the first open meeting of the Committee. It was a clear demonstration of ACAF's intention to have constructive engagement with a wide range of interested groups. It was an encouraging start to regular open meetings as so many delegates attended the meeting and took the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on agenda items. The presentation on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) was particularly informative for the Committee and delegates. HACCP will play a significant role in ensuring safety of animal feeding practices and, thereby ensure safety of the human food chain.

The Government announced a public debate on issues relating to genetic modification (GM) in response to widely publicised concerns and anxieties about long term adverse consequences of GM food and feeds. A GM Science Review Panel under the Chairmanship of Professor David King was appointed and will help inform the debate. As a member of the panel, I have been impressed by the professionalism of the debates which are always conducted in public. A sub-group of ACAF has provided expert advice to the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE) in response to specific requests. The Committee keeps abreast of EC developments and aims to provide timely guidance for UK representatives, while at the same time, incorporating relevant matters into our deliberations.

I could not function effectively without the support of my fellow members. All of them have contributed their time and expertise cheerfully and willingly, not just at Committee meetings, but in response to additional demands which have arisen. It has been my pleasure to welcome three new members who have already contributed actively to debates and decisions. ACAF is supported by an efficient secretariat. I rely on their wise council that stems from experience and thorough preparation. The Committee is indebted to them for making our work possible and pleasurable.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chitra Bharucha". The signature is written in a cursive style. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Chitra Bharucha

Chairman of ACAF

About the Committee

1. The Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF) was set up in June 1999 to advise on the safety and use of animal feeds and feeding practices, with particular emphasis on protecting human health and with reference to new technical developments and new feed materials.

2. The decision to set up the Committee was made in the light of concern about the integrity of animal feeds, particularly over the implications of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and the use of genetically modified (GM) feed ingredients. The decision was announced in the White Paper, 'The Food Standards Agency: A Force for Change', published in January 1998 and it implemented the principal recommendation of the report of the Expert Group on Animal Feedingstuffs, published in July 1992.

3. The Committee's primary purpose is to advise on the safety and use of animal feed in relation to human health but it also covers animal health aspects. It looks at a wide range of contemporary issues such as animal feed ingredients including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), labelling and information for purchasers of animal feed, and advises on the UK negotiating line on new European Community (EC) proposals.

4. ACAF is a UK-wide advisory committee and is made up of independent experts who are appointed by UK Ministers and the Food Standards Agency. Members are appointed for their individual expertise and experience and are not representative of any sector or organisation.

Terms of Reference

5. ACAF advises the Food Standards Agency, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Ministers of the Scottish Executive, the National Assembly for Wales and the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development (Northern Ireland) on the safety and use of animal feeds and feeding practices, with particular emphasis on protecting human health and with reference to new technical developments. In carrying out its functions, the Committee liaises with other relevant advisory committees as appropriate.

The Committee advises on the safety and use of animal feed and feeding practices.

The Committee's Commitment to Openness

6. ACAF is committed to a policy of openness and engagement with stakeholders. Copies of agendas, papers, advice, reports and minutes of meetings can be found on the Committee's website at:

www.food.gov.uk/science/ouradvisors/animalfeedingstuffs.htm

ACAF is committed to a policy of openness and engagement with stakeholders. Most Committee papers are placed on the ACAF website.

7. Paper copies of these documents can be obtained by contacting the ACAF Secretariat at the address shown at paragraph 10.

8. The nature of the expertise and experience required for ACAF membership means that some members have links with the feed industry, farming and other relevant sectors. Details of members' interests can be found in the Register of Members' Interests at Annex III. These details are regularly updated in the on-line version of the Register on the website. ACAF members are required to declare all relevant interests in writing when they are appointed and update them as necessary at the beginning of each meeting. Members are also required to declare any direct commercial interests, or those of close family members, in matters under discussion at each meeting. This declaration is recorded in the minutes of meetings, which are freely available to members of the public.

9. As part of its policy of openness, the Committee held its first open meeting at the Insurance Hall in the City of London on 24 September 2002. Stakeholders were able to observe a Government advisory committee at work as well as having an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the meeting on the subjects on the agenda (or other animal feed issues). The meeting was attended by delegates from a wide range of stakeholders including consumer, environmental, farming and feed industry interests. The Committee also consults with stakeholders as part of its major reviews. In 2002 the Committee carried out consultations on on-farm feeding practice and on aflatoxins in food for wild birds. The Committee also invites organisations representative of sectors with an interest in feed issues to give presentations to the Committee on an ad hoc basis.

How to Contact the Committee

10. ACAF welcomes your views and suggestions on all aspects of its work. Please address your comments and any requests for information to:

The ACAF Secretariat
Room 415B Aviation House
London WC2B 6NH
Tel: 020 7276 8083
Fax: 020 7276 8478
e-mail: acaf@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

11. If you would like to receive ACAF documents regularly, please complete the form at Annex IV and return to the Secretariat at the address above.

<p>The Committee welcomes views and suggestions on all aspects of its work.</p>

Meet the Members

12. ACAF currently consists of a Chairman and 14 members from wide-ranging backgrounds including consumer affairs, farming, the feed industry and science. Members are appointed in accordance with the Nolan Principles, which aim to ensure fairness and transparency in appointments to public bodies. ACAF members and their main areas of expertise are listed below.



Dr Chitra Bharucha (Chairman) is a registered specialist in haematology. She is a medical member of the General Medical Council (GMC) and the Independent Television Commission (ITC). Until 2000, she was a Deputy Director of the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service and consultant Haematologist in Belfast City Hospital. She has held professional appointments in the World Health Organisation (WHO) and on a wide range of national and international panels, Councils and committees and panels. She is also currently a member of the GM Science Review Panel.



Dr Paul Brantom (toxicology) is Head of the Toxicology and Information Department of BIBRA International Ltd (an independent contract research organisation specialising in research in toxicology and chemical safety). He is currently a member of the Veterinary Products Committee and the Veterinary Residues Committee.



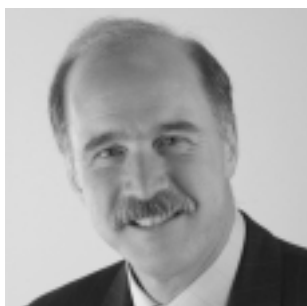
Dr Ian Brown (occupational health) is a medically qualified registered specialist in occupational medicine and toxicology. He is also a graduate in agricultural biochemistry and nutrition and has a wide range of knowledge and experience covering occupational health, toxicology, agriculture and food safety. Dr Brown is currently Director of Occupational Health and Safety to Southampton University Hospital NHS Trust and a Consultant Physician in Occupational Medicine and Toxicology. He is also Chairman of the Pesticides Residues Committee and a member of the Injuries Advisory Council.



John Cheetham (local authority enforcement) is Head of Trading Standards (Operations) at Nottinghamshire County Council. He has extensive experience of local authority enforcement with specific knowledge of the enforcement of animal feedingstuffs legislation. He is the Chairman of the Feedingstuffs and Fertilisers Focus Group of the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS).



Dr Andrew Chesson (animal nutrition) is Head of Biological Chemistry at the Rowett Research Institute. He is Vice Chairman of the European Commission's Scientific Committee on Animal Nutrition (SCAN) and a member of the GMO sub-group of the Commission's Scientific Committee on Plants. Dr Chesson is also Vice-Chairman of the OECD Task Force on Safety of Novel Foods.



Dr Bruce Cottrill (animal nutrition) is a senior research scientist at the Nutritional Sciences Research Unit of the University of Reading, as part of an ADAS/University initiative. He has 25 years experience of a wide range of farming and livestock practices and in advising government departments (MAFF/DEFRA and the Food Standards Agency) on feed-related issues. He has served on various expert national and European Community committees.



Gilli Davies (consumer) is a cordon bleu cook involved in food, food journalism and broadcasting for over twenty years. She has written eight cookery books and is a regular broadcaster on radio and television, including the BBC television series, 'Taste of Wales'. Mrs Davies also publishes 'The Red Book', the independent guide to good eating in Wales. She is a member of the Welsh Food Advisory Committee and has a strong interest in promoting quality foods, including organic food. Mrs Davies was a member of the Meat and Livestock Commission's Consumer Committee from 1996 to 1999.



Professor Julie Fitzpatrick (veterinary science) holds a personal Chair in Farm Animal Medicine and is the Head of Farm Animal Medicine and Production Division at the University of Glasgow Veterinary School. She has 20 years experience as a veterinary surgeon with a long-standing interest in farm animal medicine. She is currently a member of the Veterinary Residues Committee and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons' Research and Educational Strategy Group Committees.



Paul Foxcroft (animal by-products) is a director of Prosper de Mulder and has considerable experience of the animal feed industry, particularly the animal by-products sector. He is a graduate in Agricultural Biochemistry and Nutrition. Mr Foxcroft is active in various industry associations that represent the animal by-products sector including the UK Renderers Association and the European Renderers Association.



Dr John Heritage (novel technology) is Senior Lecturer in Microbiology at the University of Leeds. He is a Chartered Biologist with a broad based background in biological sciences. He is interested in the evolution and dispersion of genes that code for antibiotic resistance. Dr Heritage is currently a member of the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes.



Fiona Hodgson (lay person/consumer) owns her own interior design company as well as bringing up four children. She has a strong interest in animal welfare issues and consumer affairs and made a valuable contribution to MAFF's Farm Animal Welfare Council during her eight years' membership.



Robert Moore (veterinary practice) was an ACAF member until 31 May 2002. He is the managing partner of a Somerset based multi-person mixed veterinary practice. Mr Moore is a past president of the British Cattle Veterinary Association and has been active in the British Veterinary Association, serving on several committees. He has recently been elected as a council member for the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.



Andrew Peddie (farming) is a Scottish farmer with a broad range of agricultural experience involving pigs, poultry, suckler cows and dairy farming. He is Chairman of Scotlean Pigs Feed Committee and is a director of the Scottish National Farmers Union.



Dr Helen Raine (feed compounding and feed industry) is a qualified animal nutritionist with considerable experience of feed manufacturing and supply. She is Director of Food Assurance for ABNA Ltd. and is Chairman of the United Kingdom Agricultural Supply Trade Association. She also sits on the Council of the European Feed Manufacturers Federation and represents the UK on various working groups.



Dr Desmond Rice (feed compounding and veterinary background) is a veterinarian who is recognised by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons as a specialist in livestock nutrition. He has sat on several industry committees, is a past president of the Northern Ireland Grain Trade Association and the Northern Ireland Veterinary Association. He has worked in veterinary practice, veterinary research and is currently a consultant to the veterinary profession and the animal feed and human food industries.



Dr Michael Stringer (microbiology) is Director of Food Technology at Campden and Chorleywood Food Research Association. His expertise lies particularly in food microbiology and food processing. He is also interested in conventional and novel processing technologies, quality management systems and risk assessment.

Current Terms of Office of ACAF Members

13. To ensure continuity, re-appointments to ACAF, usually for periods of one to three years, are staggered so that only a proportion of the membership falls vacant each year. The current terms of office of ACAF members expire as follows:

Until 31 May 2003

- Ms Gilli Davies (consumer)
- Mr Andrew Peddie (farming)
- Dr Michael Stringer (microbiology)

Until 31 May 2004

- Mr John Cheetham (local authority enforcement)
- Mr Paul Foxcroft (animal by-products)
- Dr John Heritage (novel technology)
- Mrs Fiona Hodgson (lay person/consumer)
- Dr Desmond Rice (feed compounding and veterinary background)

Until 31 March 2005

- Dr Chitra Bharucha (Chairman)*

Until 31 May 2005

- Dr Ian Brown (occupational health)
- Dr Andrew Chesson (animal nutrition)
- Dr Helen Raine (feed compounding)

Until 30 September 2005

- Dr Paul Brantom* (toxicology)
- Dr Bruce Cottrill* (animal nutrition)
- Professor Julie Fitzpatrick* (veterinary science)

*first term of office

ACAF Secretariat

14. The secretariat of the Committee is staffed by officials from the Food Standards Agency and DEFRA.



Top row from left to right – Raj Pal, Mick Merry and Christine Elmer.
Bottom row from left to right – Keith Millar and Karen Dell.

Summary of the Main Topics Considered by ACAF

Review of On-farm Feeding Practice

15. Following discussions at its Open Forum held in July 2001, the Committee decided that a review of on-farm animal feeding practice should be included in its forward work plan as a priority issue. The Committee noted that the BSE Inquiry's report in October 2000 concluded that the chain of animal feed manufacture, distribution, on-farm mixing and on-farm use was complex, and that the ease with which cross-contamination occurred within it was one of the most concerning issues in the BSE outbreak.

16. The Committee undertook to carry out a review of on-farm feeding and mixing to identify current practices and hazards with a view to issuing recommendations on 'best practice' for farmers. The first stage of the review, in December 2001, consisted of a consultation with relevant stakeholders seeking information on current practice and problems. In April 2002, the Committee visited a range of farms carrying out differing methods of on-farm mixing to increase its understanding of the subject. The Committee considered relevant codes of practice and assurance schemes as part of its review, receiving presentations from the United Kingdom Agricultural Supply Trade Association (UKASTA) and the National Farmers Union (NFU) on their respective schemes and code.

17. The Committee considered the first draft report of its review at its sixteenth meeting on 24 September 2002. The Committee agreed that the first draft should be significantly re-structured to include sections on practices specific to individual livestock species, and that the drafting should be taken forward by a sub-group, representing a cross section of the Committee's expertise, with the assistance of an independent consultant. At its seventeenth meeting on 4 December 2002 the Committee considered a framework document drafted by a consultant on the instructions of the drafting sub-group. The Committee was generally content with the framework document and agreed that it represented a useful way forward for the eventual ACAF Report. It agreed that the final Report should be intended primarily as a tool to help farmers, but thought that it would also be of interest to the feed industry, consumers and others. The final Report will be published in 2003.

GM Issues

Traceability and Labelling of GMOs and GM Food and Feed

18. The Committee was kept informed of progress in negotiations on proposed EU measures on the Traceability and Labelling of GMOs and on GM Food and Feed. Agreement at Ministerial level was reached on both proposals at the end of 2002 and, after further consideration by the European Parliament, they are expected to take effect at the end of 2003 or the beginning of 2004. The Committee noted that the labelling provisions in the proposed GM Food and Feed Regulation, namely the labelling of all GM derived products regardless of whether they contain detectable GM material, were in line with the majority view of ACAF. The Committee supported the principle of transparency to allow consumers to make choices about food produced using GM technology and advised the Food Standards Agency Board accordingly.

<p>The Committee supports the principle of transparency to allow consumers to make choices about food produced using GM technology.</p>

T25 GM Maize

19. The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE) reviewed written representations against the national listing of Chardon LL (T25 maize variety) and it asked for ACAF's advice specifically on the safety of this variety for use in animal feed. The original application made under Directive 90/220 was considered by ACAF's GM sub-group. As part of its review, ACRE called an open meeting on 20 February 2002. Witnesses and independent experts were invited to speak on scientific issues associated with the risk assessment of T25 maize. Three members of ACAF attended the open hearing.

20. The ACAF GM sub-group was content that T25 maize grain and its products posed no more risk to animals or humans than non-GM varieties if used in animal feed. However, the data was not sufficient to conclude that T25 silage was 'substantially equivalent' to that of other maize varieties. It was considered unlikely that T25 silage was unsafe to feed to animals but that its equivalence to conventional varieties should be confirmed.

21. ACRE's response to concerns raised in written representations associated with the Chardon LL Public Hearing and ACRE's open hearing on T25 was issued on 16 December 2002. This response incorporated ACAF's views. For further information on ACRE's response please contact:

The ACRE Secretariat
3/G9 Ashdown House
123 Victoria Street
London SW1E 6DE
Tel: 020 7 944 3409
e-mail: gm@defra.gsi.gov.uk
web: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/acre/advice/advice20/htm

The ACAF GM Sub-Group was content that T25 maize grain and its products posed no greater risk as animal feed than non-GM maize varieties.

Feed Additives

Proposed EC Regulation on Feed Additives

22. The Committee considered the provisions of a proposed EC Regulation on Feed Additives. These included categorising additives by function, the role of the European Food Safety Authority, authorisation of new feed additives, re-evaluation of existing additives, and labelling of additives and pre-mixtures. The Committee was concerned that some dossiers might not be submitted for authorisation or re-authorisation under the proposed Regulation, as some additives were not primarily intended for use in animal feed. It was also suggested that the scope of the proposal was too wide as it regarded trace elements as additives.

23. A provision to phase out the four remaining antibiotic growth promoters (AGPs) permitted in the EU – sodium monensin, sodium-salinomycin, flavophospholipol and avilamycin – by 2006 was a key element of the proposals. The Committee acknowledged concerns about the effect of regular use of antibiotics in feed on antimicrobial resistance in both animals and humans. However, the Committee was concerned that banning the use of the AGPs as feed additives could result in increased use of antibiotics for therapeutic purposes under prescription. It was suggested that (if poorly controlled) this could potentially have a greater impact on antimicrobial resistance than continued use of AGPs in feed. The Committee also thought that the period proposed for phasing out AGPs was insufficient to allow for the development of alternative products or husbandry methods, and that this could have adverse implications for animal welfare and livestock production in the UK.

The Committee was concerned that banning the use of the four remaining antibiotic growth promoters (AGPs) could result in more antibiotics being given to animals for therapeutic purposes under prescription. If poorly controlled this could potentially have a greater impact on antimicrobial resistance than continued use of AGPs in feed.

Feed Additive Residues

24. The Committee considered the roles and responsibilities of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate and the Food Standards Agency in monitoring and controlling the levels of feed additive residues in meat and other animal products. It was noted that husbandry systems, including feeding practices, would have an impact on residue levels. The Committee agreed that there should be closer liaison between ACAF and the Veterinary Residues Committee (VRC) to ensure the completeness of advice to Government in this area. Two of the new ACAF members appointed in 2002 are also members of the VRC and it is expected that this cross-membership will improve communication between the two committees.

Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding

25. At its fourteenth meeting on 1 May 2002 the Committee considered a paper outlining the main areas for likely discussion at the third meeting of the Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding in June 2002, including a draft Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding. The Committee received progress reports at its subsequent meetings before discussing the draft Code of Practice in more detail at its seventeenth meeting on 4 December 2002.

26. At its seventeenth meeting, the Committee discussed a number of issues due to be considered at the fourth meeting of the Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding in March 2003. The Committee raised concerns about the parts of the draft Code dealing with ingredient listing and blending down of undesirable substances in feed ingredients. The draft Code recommended the 'full' listing of feed ingredients in descending order of incorporation. The Committee was disappointed that the word had been dropped from the latest version of the text. It thought that this could allow the use of very broad categories and highlighted the need for consistency in labelling terms.

27. The Committee was informed that the EC was pressing for a world-wide ban on the systematic blending down of undesirable substances, where these are present above maximum permitted levels. The Committee recalled that it had expressed concerns about the introduction of EC legislation banning this practice in the EU. The Committee had been concerned that the EU ban would move the dilution or use of such materials to countries outside the scope of EC regulation. The Committee therefore agreed that a world-wide ban on blending down would be more effective than just an EU one.

28. The Committee also thought that the draft Code could be improved by focusing more on hazards to feed safety. The Committee's views will help inform the UK's negotiating position both in the EU and at the Task Force meeting in March 2003.

The Committee thought that the draft Codex Code on Good Animal Feeding could be improved by focusing more on hazards to feed safety.

Intra-species recycling

29. The Committee discussed the feeding of own species materials to livestock, with particular regard to the use of tallow, gelatin and hydrolysed protein. It considered current and intended legislative controls on these materials and the results of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee's (SEAC's) assessment of the risks of transmitting spongiform encephalopathy via these products. The Committee agreed that safe sourcing was critical and that extra controls were not necessary in the EU. However, concern was expressed about the import of meat and other animal products from countries where feed and feeding practices were not subject to equivalent controls. An ACAF position paper on the import of meat and other animal products can be found on its website.

The Committee was concerned about the import of meat and other animal products from countries where feed and feeding practices were not subject to controls equivalent to those in the EU.

Use of Tallow in Animal Feed

30. The Committee considered this issue, particularly in relation to the use of tallow in calf-milk replacers. It agreed that any decision by ACAF would have to remain provisional pending the opinion of the European Commission's Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) on the use of ruminant fat in animal feed. The Committee also discussed the likelihood and risks of animal fats in surplus food products such as cakes, bread and biscuits being fed to animals. It was agreed that the likelihood and risks of animal fats being fed to animals from surplus food manufacture in the UK or surplus food from UK retail outlets were minimal. However, it felt that there was a possibility that animal fats being used in feed in other countries, particularly non-EU countries, could present a higher risk via meat and other products from these animals being imported into the UK. However, this risk was expected to be less than the risk from the continued use of processed animal proteins in such countries. The matter will be discussed again in 2003, following the publication of the SSC's opinion.

The Committee agreed that the likelihood of, and risks from, animal fats being fed to animals from surplus food such as cakes, bread and biscuits in the UK, whether from food manufacturers or retail outlets, were minimal.

Aflatoxins in Wild Bird Food

31. As animal feed and wild bird food are governed by the same legislation, the Committee discussed whether the maximum permitted levels (MPLs) for aflatoxin B₁ in animal feed were also appropriate for wild bird food. The Secretariat wrote to interested parties seeking further views and scientific data on this subject. The results of the consultation were considered by the Committee and it agreed that, despite the lack of data to assess fully the risk to wild birds, there was sufficient concern expressed by respondents to justify the UK asking the European Commission for a review of MPLs for aflatoxins in wild bird food. It was also proposed that a provision should be included for wild bird feeds to be labelled to indicate they were not suitable for human consumption.

The Committee urged the Food Standards Agency to ask the European Commission for a review of maximum permitted levels for aflatoxins (naturally-occurring toxicants produced by certain moulds) in wild bird food.

Salmonella newport

32. Multi-drug resistant strains of *Salmonella enterica* serovar Newport (previously called salmonella newport) appeared to have caused illness in a large number of people in the USA and there was concern that these strains could reach the UK through various routes, including animal feed. The Committee noted that DEFRA was working closely with the Department of Health, the Public Health Laboratory Service, the Food Standards Agency, Veterinary Laboratories Agency and devolved administrations to ensure that a cross-Government approach was taken to address the issue. The Committee was informed that DEFRA was preparing a contingency plan in the event of the particular strain being identified in the UK. The Committee asked to be kept informed of developments on this issue and that it be consulted over any contingency plan for the UK.

Feed Law Enforcement

33. The Committee started a major review of animal feed law enforcement. This review will look at the whole system of enforcing feed law and standards, including inspections, penalties and the audit arrangements for relevant assurance schemes. Enforcement bodies and assurance scheme inspectors will be invited to give presentations on their respective work areas at the Committee's April 2003 meeting. The review will continue throughout 2003 and the Committee aims to publish its report in 2004.

Food Standards Agency Review of Scientific Advisory Committees

34. On 18 April 2002 the Food Standards Agency issued a report on its review of scientific advisory committees. The report was of great significance to ACAF and other committees that advise the Agency. The objective of the review was to ensure that the Agency had access to the best possible scientific advice, and that scientific committees operated in an effective and transparent manner. The Report made a total of 50 recommendations. Further information on this review can be obtained from:

Food Standards Agency
Chemical Safety & Toxicology Division – Branch 4
Tel: 020 7276 8581
Fax: 020 7276 8514

35. The Committee fully supports the aims of the Food Standards Agency Review and will be examining its own working procedures for consistency with the recommendations in the Report. The Committee is already committed to a policy of openness as outlined in paragraphs 6-9 above. Based on feedback received from delegates at both the Open Forum held in July 2001 and the September 2002 open meeting, the Committee agreed that open fora were better at engaging stakeholders. It concluded that the most effective mechanism for achieving inclusiveness was to hold open meetings at regular intervals and has opted for a mix of open and closed meetings in the future. The Committee will be keeping this policy under review.

ACAF is committed to a policy of openness.
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Annex I: Abbreviations

ACRE	Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment
AGPs	Antibiotic Growth Promoters
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EC	European Community
EU	European Union
GM	Genetically modified
GMO	Genetically modified organism
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
MPLs	Maximum Permitted Levels
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SSC	Scientific Steering Committee
SEAC	Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee
UK	United Kingdom
VRC	Veterinary Residues Committee

Annex II: Papers Considered by ACAF in 2002

NO. OF PAPER	NAME OF PAPER	MEETING INFORMATION	
		NUMBER	DATE
ACAF/02/1	Feed Materials for Farm Livestock	13th Meeting	26th February 2002
ACAF/02/2	On-farm Mixing of Livestock Feed – Current Legislative Controls	13th Meeting	26th February 2002
ACAF/02/3	ACAF Annual Report 2001	13th Meeting	26th February 2002
ACAF/02/4	Written Responses to ACAF Consultation Letter On-farm Feeding Practices	13th Meeting	26th February 2002
ACAF/02/5	Traceability	13th Meeting	26th February 2002
ACAF/02/6	EC and Codex Developments	13th Meeting	26th February 2002
ACAF/02/7	Update on the Progress of Feed Additive and Bioprotein Dossiers	13th Meeting	26th February 2002
ACAF/02/8	Update on the Work of other Advisory Committees and the Food Standards Agency	13th Meeting	26th February 2002
ACAF/02/9	On-farm Mixers: Compliance with Legislative Controls	14th Meeting	1st May 2002
ACAF/02/10	Role of the Farmer in Administration	14th Meeting	1st May 2002
ACAF/02/11	Feed Additive Residues	14th Meeting	1st May 2002
ACAF/02/12	Proposed EC Feed Additives Regulation	14th Meeting	1st May 2002
ACAF/02/13	Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding	14th Meeting	1st May 2002
ACAF/02/14	EC Developments	14th Meeting	1st May 2002
ACAF/02/15	Update on the work of other Advisory Committees and the Food Standards Agency	14th Meeting	1st May 2002
ACAF/02/16	Report of the Food Standards Agency Review of Scientific Advisory Committees	14th Meeting	1st May 2002
ACAF/02/17	Multiresistant <i>Salmonella</i> Newport in the United States	14th Meeting	1st May 2002
ACAF/02/18	On-Farm Feeding Practice – Hazards, Risks and Controls	15th Meeting	4th July 2002
ACAF/02/19	Proposed EC Regulation on Feed Additives – Antibiotic Growth Promoters	15th Meeting	4th July 2002
ACAF/02/20	EC Developments	15th Meeting	4th July 2002
ACAF/02/21	Update on the Progress of Feed Additive and Bioprotein dossiers	15th Meeting	4th July 2002
ACAF/02/22	An Update on the Work of other Advisory Committees and the Food Standards Agency	15th Meeting	4th July 2002
ACAF/02/23	An Update on the Food Standards Agency's Implementation of ACAF's Recommendations on Feed Labelling	15th Meeting	4th July 2002
ACAF/02/24	Use of Tallow in Animal Feed	16th Meeting	24th September 2002
ACAF/02/25	Draft Report on ACAF's Review of On-Farm Feeding Practice	16th Meeting	24th September 2002

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NO. OF PAPER	NAME OF PAPER	MEETING INFORMATION	
		NUMBER	DATE
ACAF/02/26	EC Zoonoses Proposals	16th Meeting	24th September 2002
ACAF/02/27	EC and Codex Developments	16th Meeting	24th September 2002
ACAF/02/28	An Update on the Work of other Advisory Committees and the Food Standards Agency	16th Meeting	24th September 2002
ACAF/02/29	An Update on the Progress of Feed Additive and Bioprotein Dossiers	16th Meeting	24th September 2002
ACAF/02/30	Update on the Import of Meat and Other Animal Products	16th Meeting	24th September 2002
ACAF/02/31	Aflatoxins in Wild Bird Foods	17th Meeting	4th December 2002
ACAF/02/32	Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding	17th Meeting	4th December 2002
ACAF/02/33	Enforcement of Animal Feed Law	17th Meeting	4th December 2002
ACAF/02/34	EC Proposals on the Traceability and Labelling of GMOs and GM Food and Feed	17th Meeting	4th December 2002
ACAF/02/35	ACAF Open Meeting	17th Meeting	4th December 2002
ACAF/02/36	EC Developments	17th Meeting	4th December 2002
ACAF/02/37	An Update on Research into the Detection of Mammalian Protein	17th Meeting	4th December 2002
ACAF/02/38	An Update on the Work of the other Advisory Committees and the Food Standards Agency	17th Meeting	4th December 2002
ACAF/02/39	On-Farm Feeding Practice Review	17th Meeting	4th December 2002

Annex III: Register of Members Interests

PERSONAL			NON-PERSONAL	
MEMBER	COMPANY/ ORGANISATION	NATURE OF INTEREST	COMPANY/ ORGANISATION	NATURE OF INTEREST
Dr C Bharucha	General Medical Council Independent Television Commission	Member Member	None	None
Dr P Brantom	None	None	Amersham Health AS, Astra-Zeneca, Generics UK, GlaxoSmithkline, Janssen, Novartis, Phytopharm, Monsanto, Dow Agro, Danisco.	Consultancy, training and information services.
Dr I Brown	None	None	None	None
Mr J Cheetham	Feedingstuffs and Fertilisers Focus Group of the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services	Chairman	None	None
Dr A Chesson	Various scientific advisory committees	Member	Range of companies, including some in the food sector, on a non-profit basis (e.g. support for studentships)	Head of Biological Chemistry at Rowett Research Institute (RRI). The RRI has a commercial subsidiary, Rowett Research Services, which undertakes work for profit for a range of companies including some in the food sector.
Dr Bruce Cottrill	None	None	A range of companies from the agricultural and food industries. Government departments including the Food Standards Agency.	Senior Research Consultant with ADAS Consulting Ltd and the University of Reading.
Mrs G Davies	Welsh Food Advisory	Member	None	None
Prof. J Fitzpatrick	Boehringer-Ingelheim Milk Development Council	Consultancy Research Projects	Boehringer-Ingelheim Pfizer	Support for PHD student within her university department. Support for clinical residency in her university department.
Mr P Foxcroft	Prosper de Mulder	Executive Director (non- shareholding)	None	None

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PERSONAL			NON-PERSONAL	
MEMBER	COMPANY/ ORGANISATION	NATURE OF INTEREST	COMPANY/ ORGANISATION	NATURE OF INTEREST
Dr J Heritage	Ray A. Krok Foundation	Visiting Professorship in Pediatrics, East Virginia Medical School, USA Member	None	None
	Medical Research Council Advisory Board			
Mrs F Hodgson	Conservative Women's National Committee	Vice-Chairman	None	None
Mr A Peddie	National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS)	Director	None	None
	Scotlean Pigs	Director		
	Scotlean Pigs Feed Committee	Chairman		
	Pig Disease Eradication Fund	Board Member		
	Pig and Poultry Committee	Chairman		
Dr H Raine	ABNA Ltd	Director of Food Assurance	None	None
	United Kingdom Agricultural Supply Trade Association (UKASTA)	Chairman & Director		
Dr D Rice	Nutrition Services, Vistavet Ltd, Agri Research Ireland, Agra Food Consultants	Director and Shareholder	None	None
	Jordan Bros, R Hoey, Hutchinsons, R Craig & Son, R Clarke, Daleside Feeds, Corby Rock Mills	Consultancy	None	None
	NIGTA, UKASTA, Greenpeace	Member	None	None
Dr M Stringer	European Food Safety Inspection Service	Director	A range of companies from the food and drink industry.	Director of Food Technology at Campden and Chorleywood Food Research Association. A portion of the RA's work is funded by the food and drink industry.
	Campden & Chorleywood Food Research Association Technology Ltd	Director		

Annex IV: Request for Information on ACAF

Information on ACAF can be found on its website. If you do not have internet access and you would like to receive further information *free of charge* about the work of the Committee please complete and return the form below:

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

.....

Company/Organisation:

e-mail address:


(if you would prefer to receive papers by e-mail)

Please send me the following ACAF papers as they become available:
(tick as appropriate)

Minutes of meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annual & other reports	<input type="checkbox"/>
News Releases	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consultation documents	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACAF recruitment exercises	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other information (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please return your completed form to:

The Food Standards Agency
ACAF Secretariat
Room 415b
Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London WC2B 6NH
Tel: 020 7 276 8083
Fax: 020 7 276 8478
Email: acaf@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

 PLEASE CUT HERE

Annex V: Membership of ACAF Sub-groups

GM Sub-group

Dr Chitra Bharucha (ex officio)
Paul Brantom
Dr Ian Brown
Dr Andrew Chesson (Chairman)
Dr Bruce Cottrill
Dr John Heritage

On-farm Feeding Practice Drafting Sub-group

Dr Chitra Bharucha (Chairman)
John Cheetham
Fiona Hodgson
Andrew Peddie
Dr Helen Raine
Dr Des Rice

Annex VI: Code of Practice for Members of the Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs

Public service values

1. Members of the Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs must at all times:

- observe the highest standards of **impartiality, integrity** and **objectivity** in relation to the advice they provide and the management of this Committee;
- be **accountable** through Ministers, to Parliament and the public for its activities and the standard of advice it provides; and
- in accordance with the Government policy on **openness**, comply fully with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

2. The Ministers of the sponsoring departments (the Food Standards Agency, DEFRA, Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland, Scottish Executive and National Assembly for Wales) are answerable to their respective Parliaments for the policies and performance of this Committee, including the policy framework within which it operates.

Standards in Public Life

3. All Committee members must:

- follow the Seven Principles of Public Life set out by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (see Appendix I);
- comply with this code, and ensure they understand their duties, rights and responsibilities, and that they are familiar with the function and role of the Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs and any relevant statements of Government policy. New Committee members should consider the need for relevant training;
- not misuse the information gained in the course of their public service for personal gain or political purpose, nor seek to use the opportunity of public service to their private interests or those of connected persons, firms' businesses or other organisations;

- not misuse the influence gained in the course of their public service for personal gain, political purpose or promoting personal views; and
- not hold any paid or high-profile unpaid posts in a political party, and not engage in specific political activities on matters directly affecting the work of this Committee. When engaging in other political activities, Committee members should be conscious of their public role and exercise proper discretion. These restrictions do not apply to local Councillors.

Role of Committee members

4. Members of the Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs have collective responsibility for the operation of the Committee. They must:

- engage fully in collective consideration of the issues, taking account of all relevant factors, including any guidance issued by the sponsor departments or the responsible Ministers;
- ensure that the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information is adhered to;
- agree an Annual Report and, where appropriate, provide suitable opportunities to open up the work of the Committee to public scrutiny;
- not divulge any information that is provided to the Committee in confidence;
- respond appropriately to complaints, if necessary with reference to the sponsor departments; and
- ensure that the Committee does not exceed its powers or functions.

5. Communication between the Committee and Ministers will generally be through the Chair, except where the Committee has agreed that an individual member should act on its behalf. Nevertheless, any Committee member has the right of access to Ministers on any matter, which he or she believes raises important issues relating to his or her duties as a Committee member. In such cases the agreement of the rest of the Committee should normally be sought.

6. Individual members can normally be removed from office by Ministers if they fail to perform the duties required of them in line with the standards expected in public office.

Role of the Chair

7. The Chair has particular responsibility for providing effective leadership on the issues above. In addition the Chair is responsible for:

- ensuring that the Committee meets at appropriate intervals, and that the minutes of meetings and any reports to Ministers accurately record the decisions taken and, where appropriate, the views of individual members;
- representing the views of the Committee to the general public; and
- ensuring that new Committee members are briefed on appointment (and their training needs considered), and providing an assessment of their performance, on request, when members are considered for re-appointment to the Committee or for appointment to the Committee of some other public body.

Handling conflicts of interests

8. The purpose of these provisions is to avoid any danger of Committee members being influenced, or appearing to be influenced, by their private interests in the exercise of their public duties. All Committee members should therefore declare any personal or business interests which may, or may be *perceived* (by a reasonable member of the public) to influence their judgement. Members' interests will be recorded in a register of interests which should be kept up to date and open to the public. A guide to the types of interest which should be declared and how to declare them is at Appendix II.

Declaration of interests to the Secretariat

9. Members of the Committee should inform the Secretariat in writing of their current personal and non-personal interests, when they are appointed, including the principal position(s) held. Only the name of the company and the nature of the interest is required, the amount of any salary etc. need not be disclosed. Members are asked to inform the Secretariat of any change in their personal interests at the time the change occurs. Members will also be invited to complete an annual declaration of interests form. Where members are uncertain as to whether an interest should be declared they should seek

guidance from the Secretariat. **If members have interests that are not specified in Appendix II, but which they believe could be regarded as influencing their advice, they should declare them.** However, neither the members nor the Secretariat are under any obligation to seek out links of which they might *reasonably* not be aware. For example not being aware of all the interests of family members or not being aware of links between one company and another. **Failure to declare interests could lead to dismissal from the committee.**

Declaration of interests and participation at meetings

10. Committee members are required to declare any direct commercial interests, or those of close family members, in matters under discussion at each meeting. Having fully explained the nature of their interests, the Chair may, having consulted with other members present, decide whether and to what extent the member should participate in the discussion and determination of the issue. If it is decided that the member should leave the meeting, the Chair may first allow them to make a statement on the item under discussion. Where members are uncertain as to whether an interest should be declared they should seek guidance from the Chair.

Personal liability of Committee members

11. Legal proceedings by a third party against individual Committee members of advisory bodies are very exceptional. A Committee member may be personally liable if:

- he or she makes a fraudulent or negligent statement which results in a loss to a third party;
- he or she commits a breach of confidence under common law or a criminal offence under insider dealing legislation, by misusing information gained through their position.

However, the Government has indicated that individual members who have acted honestly and in good faith will not have to meet out of their own personal resources any personal civil liability which is incurred in the execution or purported execution of their Committee functions, save where the person has acted recklessly.

Openness and Confidentiality

12. The Government is committed to increasing the openness and transparency with which advisory committees and other public bodies operate. To further this aim, the agendas of ACAF meetings will be made available to the public and will be publicised by means of news releases.

A news release will be issued after each meeting and minutes will also be available to the public. As a general rule, individual papers for information or discussion at meetings will also be available to the public on request. An annual report will also be published, summarising the Committee's activities and advice over the year.

13. However there will be some exceptions to this general principle of openness, for example:

- where individual papers contain commercially sensitive information such as product formulations/specifications, methods of manufacture, company evaluations and safety assessments, the general principle of the common law duty of confidentiality will apply, except in cases where the information was provided under legislation which deals specifically with disclosure and non-disclosure. Papers, which are deemed to be confidential, will be marked 'For members' use only by the Secretariat and their contents should not be disclosed outside of the Committee.
- draft papers or reports which are due to be published at a later date but are not yet in the public domain should not be disclosed outside of the Committee.

14. Questions or approaches from the media should normally be directed to either the Chair who will act as official ACAF spokesman or the Food Standards Agency press office. Although members are encouraged to promote the role of the Committee in general terms, if asked for views on subjects that have been or are being considered by ACAF, members should always give the line agreed by the Committee.

Appendix I

The Seven Principles of Public Life

Selflessness

Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

Integrity

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Objectivity

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Openness

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Honesty

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interests.

Leadership

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

Appendix II

Types of Interest and their Notification

The following is intended as a guide to the kinds of interest that should be declared and indicates how they should be declared.

1. **Personal interests** – involve the member personally e.g.

	Type of interest	Notification
Consultancies:	any consultancy, directorship, position in or work for the industry, or other relevant bodies, which attracts regular or occasional payments in cash or kind.	To be notified to the Secretariat in writing on appointment to the Committee and at the time of any change to these interests. To be confirmed annually on the declaration of interests form.
Fee-paid work:	any work commissioned by industry or other relevant bodies for which the member is paid in cash or kind.	As above.
Shareholdings:	any shareholding or other beneficial interest in shares of industry. This does not include shareholdings through unit trusts.	As above.
Membership or affiliation:	to clubs or organisations with interests relevant to the work of the Committee.	As above.

Definition of “industry”

For the purposes of the Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs, “industry” means:

- companies, partnerships or individuals who are involved in the production, manufacture, packaging, advertising, supply, sale or use of animal feedingstuffs. This definition includes those involved in the supply of animal feed raw materials and any other substance incorporated or otherwise used in the production of feedingstuffs. It also includes the users of animal feedingstuffs such as farmers;
- trade associations representing companies involved in such products;
- companies, partnerships or individuals who are directly concerned with research, development or marketing of an animal feedingstuff which is being considered by the Committee.

Definition of “other relevant bodies”

Organisations (not included in the definition of “industry”) with interests relevant to the work of the Committee. This could include charitable organisations and lobby groups.

2. **Non-personal** interests – involves payment which benefits a department for which a member is responsible, but is not received by the member personally e.g.

Type of interest	Notification	
	£1000 or more from a particular company in the previous twelve months	less than £1000 from a particular company in the previous twelve months
Fellowships: the holding of a fellowship endowed by industry and other relevant bodies.	To be notified to the Secretariat in writing on appointment to the Committee. Any changes over the year should be declared on the annual declaration form and does not need to be notified at the time of change.	Does not need to be notified.
Support by industry and other relevant bodies*: e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a grant from a company for the running of a unit or department for which the member is responsible. • the grant of a fellowship or other payment to sponsor a post or member of staff in the unit for which the member is responsible. • the commissioning of research or other work by, or advice from, staff who work in a unit for which the member is responsible. 	As above	As above
Trusteeships**: any investment in industry held by a charity for which the member is a trustee.	As above	As above

* Members are under no obligation to seek out knowledge of work done for, or on behalf of, industry and other relevant bodies by departments/units for which they are responsible, if they would not normally expect to be informed. Where members are responsible for organisations which receive funds from a very large number of companies in the industry and from other relevant bodies, they can agree with the Secretariat a summary of non-personal interests rather than draw up a detailed portfolio.

** Where a member is a trustee of a charity with investments in the industry, they can agree with the Secretariat a general declaration to cover this interest rather than draw up a detailed portfolio.