



EFSA in focus ANIMALS

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Introduction

Welcome to the new EFSA newsletter, **EFSA in focus - Animal**.

This newsletter aims to keep you abreast of the latest developments from EFSA in animal health and welfare, biological hazards including TSEs, contaminants in the food chain, feed additives and data collection on zoonoses.

This easy-to-read newsletter provides a comprehensive overview of all our activities related to your work.

- > Our **key topics** section is a snapshot of what we consider to be our most important recent work.
- > In each edition, **EFSA at work**, will provide a glimpse of what EFSA does in a given area.
- > We will also include reports of past **events** and announcements of forthcoming events.
- > To encourage you to get involved with EFSA we will publish information on **public consultations, calls for data and contracts awarded**.

> To help you keep your finger on EFSA's pulse, the newsletter will list the latest **mandates and scientific opinions and other publications** published by our sector specific panels.

Please feel free to distribute this electronic newsletter to your colleagues. To subscribe, simply send your email details to newsletter@efsa.europa.eu. The newsletter will be published quarterly.

To help us improve and best cater to your needs, please send any feedback to newsletter@efsa.europa.eu.

EFSA in focus is a series of EFSA targeted newsletters. Other topics include Food and Plants. For news on EFSA's corporate activities, see our general newsletter 'EFSA News', and for news on how EFSA cooperates with Member States, see our 'Moving Together' newsletter.

> Key topics

EFSA assesses bacterial tolerance and antimicrobial resistance from four substances used to decontaminate poultry carcasses

EFSA found there is no published data to indicate that four substances used to decontaminate poultry carcasses, within the proposed conditions of use, will increase bacterial tolerance to these substances or increase resistance to therapeutic antibiotics and other antimicrobial agents. This is despite a long history of use.

The assessment followed a request from the European Commission to assess the possible development of antimicrobial resistance when chlorine dioxide, acidified sodium chlorite, trisodium phosphate and peroxyacids are used to decontaminate poultry carcasses. They are presently used in the United States to kill or reduce bacteria, such as *Salmonella* or *Campylobacter* in poultry. At present, no such substances are authorised for use in the EU but permission may be given under European Union legislation when preceded by a thorough scientific evaluation.



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However, in its Opinion, EFSA encouraged further research on the subject. In its assessment of available data, EFSA also noted that there was evidence of bacterial tolerance to other antimicrobial substances or biocides which were not the subject of this assessment. But this was either based on laboratory experiments which do not always mirror “real-life” situations or from the improper use of biocides.

In 2005 and 2006 EFSA also delivered several opinions on these four antimicrobial substances. They looked at both the safety of using them on food

and their effectiveness in killing or reducing bacteria. They found that there was no safety concern, within the proposed conditions of use and that, owing to lack of sufficient data available, including those submitted by the applicant, EFSA was unable to say if these substances effectively killed or reduced bacteria in poultry. ■

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178697425124.htm

EU-wide survey reveals *Salmonella* in slaughtered pigs

EFSA's survey of *Salmonella* in slaughtered pigs across the European Union in 2006-2007 found *Salmonella*, on average, in one in ten pigs slaughtered for human consumption. According to this EU-wide report, *Salmonella* in pigs also varied from 0% to 29% between Member States.

Among all *Salmonella* detected, *Salmonella* Typhimurium and *Salmonella* Derby (two common *Salmonella* types found in infection cases in humans) were detected in 4.7% and 2.1% of pigs slaughtered for human consumption, respectively. In addition to *Salmonella* Typhimurium and *Salmonella* Derby, some countries also reported high levels of other types of *Salmonella*.

These results will now help the European Commission set targets to reduce *Salmonella* in pigs across the EU.

Salmonella is the second most reported cause of food-borne diseases in humans in Europe with 160,649 people suffering from *Salmonella* infections in 2006 (approximately 35 people in every 100,000).

Testing of slaughter pigs across the 25 Member States participating in this survey was based on a randomly selected sample drawn from slaughter-



houses representing 80% of the pigs slaughtered in each Member State.

EFSA has already published a series of other baseline surveys on *Salmonella* in poultry, see below. In the future EFSA will publish further surveys on both *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in animal populations and food. ■

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178713190037.htm

EU-wide survey reveals *Salmonella* levels in turkeys

EFSA has published a survey on *Salmonella* levels detected on commercial turkey farms across the European Union in 2006-2007. The full range of *Salmonella* types was estimated on average to be present in almost one third of turkey flocks reared for human consumption (30.7%) and in 13.6% of turkey flocks kept for breeding purposes, according to an EU-wide report from an EFSA Task Force. Amongst the full range of *Salmonella* types, *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium (the two *Salmonella* types responsible for the majority of *Salmonella*-related food infections in humans) were detected in 3.8% of flocks reared for human consumption and in 1.7% of breeding flocks.

These results will now help the European Commission set targets to reduce *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium in turkey flocks across the EU. The EFSA Task Force is also recommending action at national level to reduce other serious types of *Salmonella* which often cause human infections.

Levels for the full range of *Salmonella* types detected in turkey flocks varied quite significantly between Member States. Three Member States reported no cases at all in flocks reared for human consumption, while others detected levels as high as 78.5%. In the case of breeding flocks, more than half of the countries also reported no cases at all in their flocks, while others detected levels as high as 82.9%. In addition to *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium, the two *Salmonella* types responsible for the majority of *Salmonella*-infections in humans, some countries also reported high levels of other types of *Salmonella*.

Although there was a lower level of *Salmonella* in breeding flocks compared to flocks reared for consumption, *Salmonella*-infected chicks from breeding flocks which are sold to turkey-rearing farms for consumption can spread *Salmonella* amongst these flocks.

Salmonella was the second most reported cause of food-borne diseases in humans in Europe with 160,649 people suffering from *Salmonella* infections in 2006 (approximately 35 people in every 100,000). Infections can range from a mild to severe gastroenteritis and in some vulnerable groups, such as children and the elderly, can be fatal. Risks for consumers are from under-cooking of turkey meat or cross-contamination to other foods. Thorough cooking and strict kitchen hygiene will prevent or reduce the risk posed by *Salmonella*-contaminated turkey meat.

In the future, EFSA will also publish a series of other baseline surveys on *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* which are carried out based on sampling and reporting from Member States, see above. A baseline survey on *Salmonella* in pigs reared for human consumption was also published. In the case of *Salmonella* in animal populations, baseline surveys will assist the European Commission set reduction targets. ■

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178706575685.htm

Cross-contamination of coccidiostats in non-target animal feed

Chemicals used to control coccidia parasites in animals sometimes inadvertently end up in the feed of animals that are not the intended target. The European Commission asked EFSA to assess the risks of 11 such coccidiostats. In May, EFSA completed the last of its 11 risk assessments, which the Commission is using to start discussions on fixing levels of coccidiostats as contaminants in animal feed.

Coccidiostats are authorised for use in certain target animals. Yet despite the requirements set for feed business operators in EU Regulations, it is generally acknowledged that under practical conditions during the production of mixed feeds, a part of a feed batch remains in the production circuit and these residual amounts can contaminate the subsequent feed batches. This cross-contamination may result in the exposure of non-target animal species. Hence EFSA evaluated the potential health risks for non-target animal species, as well as for humans, resulting from potential residues in foods derived from these non-target animal species.

EFSA looked at the coccidiostats salinomycin, monensin, narasin, lasalocid, nicarbazine, semduramicin, maduramicin, diclazuril, decoquinate, halofuginone and robenidone.

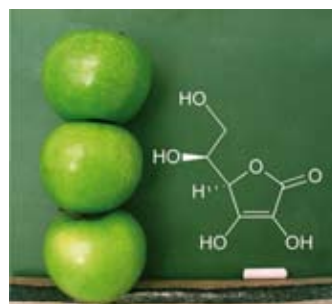
For all 11 substances EFSA found that cross-contamination of feed is unlikely to adversely affect consumers' health. Regarding animal health, risks to non-target animals from cross-contamination are unlikely except



in the case of salinomycin and monensin in feed for horses. However, if non-target animals are accidentally exposed to feed for target animals, risks were identified from several of the coccidiostats.

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/ScientificPanels/CONTAM/efsa_locale-1178620753812_opinions.htm

Sign up to EFSA's online database of scientific experts



- Want to make a difference to EU food safety?
- Contribute to EU risk assessment?

EFSA's database of scientific experts was officially launched on 5 June 2008. It will serve as a valuable tool to harness the wide scientific excellence that is available in the European Union, and beyond, and to further enhance EFSA's high quality scientific advice.

The database will become a 'pool' of expertise from which EFSA will select the best scientific experts to provide support to its Scientific Committee and Panels, corporate networks (e.g. Advisory Forum and Focal Points) and respective Working Groups. The expert database will also be available to all EU Member States who may use it to identify experts for their own scientific activities.

This expert database has been set up to further reinforce EFSA's capacity to deliver high-quality independent scientific advice and to assist the Authority with its growing workload. It will also contribute to re-

- Value high profile networking with peers?
- Driven by excellence?

inforcing EFSA's responsiveness in providing risk assessment advice to Europe's decision-makers.

Experts from Europe and worldwide, in a wide range of scientific and expert fields, such as food and feed safety, nutrition, toxicology, chemistry, animal health and welfare, are invited to apply. The full list of expertise being sought is indicated in the online application form.

This open invitation to scientific experts is being made within the context of EFSA's strengthened policy on transparency and independence for selecting experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work.

For more, and to sign up, see:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/AboutEfsa/WhoWeAre/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178712806106.htm

First Meeting of the EFSA Advisory Forum Representatives on Animal Health

27-28 May 2008 - Parma, Italy

To foster the essential exchange of information and ideas between EFSA and Member States, and to strengthen animal health and welfare cooperation, the Animal Health Representatives of the Advisory Forum met for the first time in Parma in May.

It was an opportunity for EFSA to inform the representatives on past and current activities of its Animal Health and Welfare Scientific Panel. Participants discussed EFSA's role in risk assessment for animal health

and welfare. The results of EFSA's questionnaire on the need for networking and information sharing on animal diseases and welfare topics, recently distributed to Member States, was also presented.

At the meeting, representatives shared their views and interests in this subject, and discussed risk assessment approaches, and related procedures for efficient scientific collaboration and networking with Member States.

EFSA holds technical meeting with stakeholders on animal welfare of farmed fish

4 March 2008 - Parma, Italy



On 4 March 2008, EFSA held a technical meeting in Parma on the animal welfare of farmed fish. The meeting was organised for EFSA experts to exchange views with stakeholders as well as experts from Member States on general issues relevant to all finfish species, in particular Atlantic salmon.

At the meeting various aspects of fish farming practices which may have an impact on fish welfare were discussed. These include high stocking density, feeding distribution, handling and grading and inadequate disease treatment. General issues, such as the concept of welfare as applied to all animals including fish, the biology and functioning of farmed fish at different life stages, production systems in the fish farming industry, major factors affecting fish welfare and risk assessment approaches for assessing welfare were also touched upon.

Discussions focused particularly on EFSA's draft scientific report on Atlantic salmon which led to a Scientific Opinion on this species. The results of the meeting, together with the comments received on the Draft Report, were taken into account and reviewed by EFSA as it finalised its opinion.

It was proposed that the question of transport, due to the importance of this management practice on farming, should be addressed. Participants also agreed that veterinary therapeutics and vaccines are important considerations, as they have a major impact on fish welfare.

Experts shared information on current salmon farming practices, which, although not available in peer reviewed literature, should be considered when evaluating exposure to the potential welfare hazards indicated in the report.

This meeting will help feed EFSA's response to the Commission's request for advice on the most common farmed fish species: Atlantic salmon, trout, carp, sea bass, sea bream and European eel.

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178689911445.htm

Assessing silage additives in the EU: EFSA stakeholders conference

25 April 2008 - London, UK

On 25 April 2008 EFSA held a Stakeholders Conference on the 'Assessment of silage additives in the EU', hosted by the UK Food Standards Agency.

The conference gathered around 60 participants, including producers of silage additives, industry associations (FEFANA, BAFSAM), Member States' Representatives and the Community Reference Laboratory. The main objective was to achieve a better understanding of the fundamental administrative and scientific issues related to the risk assessment of silage additives in light of the EU Regulation that establishes the rules governing the Community authorisation of additives for use in animal nutrition. One of the novelties of the Regulation is that for the first time silage additives are classified as feed additives, which means they must go through an authorisation process to be placed on the European market.

The objectives of the meeting were:

- > To explain the general procedure for the authorisation process of silage additives in the framework of the EU Regulation, with emphasis on the EFSA's administrative handling of applications;
- > To give information on how to perform the assessment of safety and efficacy of silage additives;

- > To clarify any doubts regarding the preparation/presentation of the dossiers and their assessment by EFSA;
- > To gather information on the needs and expectations of silage additives' producers.

The conference gave EFSA the opportunity to present in detail its tasks and responsibilities as a risk assessor in the process of authorisation of silage additives on the EU market. The industry associations FEFANA and BAFSAM presented their views and expectations of EFSA's procedures. The Community Reference Laboratory for Feed Additives also actively participated in the conference.

EFSA is very pleased with the participation and the positive responses of the different sectors encountered, as well as the recommendations and suggestions from the stakeholders that will contribute to enhance administrative procedures and provide further guidance, on different issues identified by the participants.

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178686820950.htm

Animal cloning: EFSA consults stakeholders on its draft Opinion

7 February 2008 - Brussels, Belgium

On 7 February 2008, EFSA held a technical meeting in Brussels with its Stakeholder Consultative Platform on its draft Opinion on animal cloning. The meeting gave an opportunity for experts to brief stakeholders face-to-face on the draft Opinion, to have an exchange of views and receive feedback, as part of EFSA's public consultation on the draft Opinion that closed on 25 February 2008. These comments helped shape thinking about the opinion, adopted by the Scientific Committee in July.

A report of the meeting is available online.

EFSA's Stakeholder Consultative Platform, composed of EU-wide stakeholder organisations working in areas related to the food chain, meets to assist EFSA in the development of its overall relations and policy with stakeholders.

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178685288301.htm

Public consultation on foodborne antimicrobial resistance as a biological hazard

EFSA held an open consultation on its draft Opinion on foodborne antimicrobial resistance as a biological hazard. The draft opinion resulted from EFSA taking the initiative to identify, qualitatively, the extent to which food is a source of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria or bacterial antimicrobial resistance in humans, and then to rank the identified risks and identify potential control options for reducing exposure. The consultation has since closed.

Antimicrobial resistant bacteria are biological hazards that increasingly result in humans dying. The use of antimicrobial agents in animals, plant production and the production of other sources of food and feed has adverse public health consequences. They create a reservoir of resistant bacteria and of bacteria-borne resistance genes that can be passed on to humans, both directly or indirectly. In addition, food handlers can contaminate food during preparation, and the presence of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria in food may be the result of environmental contamination, e.g. from water sources, in the case of aquacultural and horticultural produce in particular, or from bacteria intentionally added to the food chain.

The opinion was adopted and published in August 2008.

The consultation is now closed.

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178700895856.htm

Assessing the health benefits of controlling *Campylobacter* in the food chain

Pre-announcing EFSA's 12th EFSA Scientific Colloquium

4 December 2008 - Rome, Italy

Assessing the health benefits of controlling *Campylobacter* in the food chain is the subject of the 12th Scientific Colloquium, to be organised by EFSA on 4-5 December 2008 in Rome. International experts will gather in Rome for an open scientific debate on key questions related to health impacts of *Campylobacter*.

The Colloquium will be structured in a way to provide for in-depth discussion in break-out groups, alternated by short plenary sessions, with a view to making recommendations for *Campylobacter* risk assessments.

The announcement and registration will be published shortly on the EFSA website.

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178716893972.htm

Article 36 calls

Article 36 of EFSA's Founding Regulation allows the Authority to financially support projects and activities that contribute to EFSA's mission. This financial support is exclusively given to a list of competent organisations capable of assisting EFSA in its work. The list was drawn up on the basis of nominations made by Member States. Calls awarded will soon be published on the web.

For the list of Article 36 calls, please visit:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/1178622332239/efsa_locale-1178620753812_call_for_proposals.htm

Animal welfare risk assessment guidelines on transport

About 360 million animals (excluding chicken and fish) are transported in the EU each year, often on journeys, thousands of kilometres long. It has been widely reported that such transportation – including the handling, loading and unloading of animals - may stress the animals.

Although EU legislation exists to improve the enforcement of animal transport rules in Europe to help safeguard animals, there are no specific standardised methods for conducting animal welfare risk assessments. As a result EFSA launched a call for proposals to define Risk Assessment Guidelines for assessing the welfare of transporting animals including fish.

The call is now closed.

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178699685153.htm



Harmonised monitoring and reporting of rabies and Q fever in EU animals

Although the EU-wide system for monitoring and collecting information on zoonoses requires Member States to collect, evaluate and report relevant data to the European Commission each year, there are currently no detailed harmonised rules or recommendations for reporting and monitoring of rabies and Q fever. This makes data often difficult to analyse and interpret at EU level.

EFSA is responsible for examining the data and for publishing the Community Summary Report from the results in close collaboration

with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). Therefore EFSA launched a call, now closed, to obtain proposals for harmonised monitoring and reporting schemes for rabies and Q fever in animals. The schemes should eventually be applicable in all EU Member States and comply with the relevant Community legislation.

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178699796166.htm

Development of harmonised survey methods for food-borne pathogens in foodstuffs in the European Union

The European Community system for monitoring and collecting information on zoonoses is established by an EU Directive on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents. This Directive requires Member States to collect, evaluate and report data on zoonoses, zoonotic agents, antimicrobial resistance and food-borne outbreaks to the European Commission each year. The monitoring and reporting system used is based on that of Member States, and in a few cases it is harmonised by the Community legislation to the extent that the results from the monitoring are directly comparable between Member States.

According to the Directive, Member States have to send their report on zoonoses to the European Commission each year by 31 May. The Commission is asked to submit this information to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), who is responsible for examining the data

and for publishing the Community Summary Report from the results. The report is prepared by EFSA, in close collaboration with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), and EFSA's Zoonoses Collaboration Centre. In the Community Summary Report on zoonoses, the information received from Member States is analysed and summarised specifically to identify trends in the occurrence of the zoonotic agents and the sources of human infections.

In practice, Member States report the information on zoonotic agents in animals and food through a web-based reporting application run by EFSA. Starting from 2006, information on some non-zoonotic food-borne pathogens, such as histamine, staphylococcal enterotoxins and *Enterobacter sakazakii*, has also been collected in this zoonoses framework.

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All EU Member States submit annually data on the occurrence of zoonotic agents in food. The main part of this data appears to derive from sampling undertaken by the competent authorities in the framework of the official controls or related monitoring of food. Most Member States coordinate the sampling centrally through annual control and monitoring plans that define, to varying level of details, what food items should be sampled and analysed, and sometimes also the number of samples taken. Some Member States apply regularly or occasionally specific surveys to examine the agents in foodstuffs. These surveys are often well designed and limited in duration, and are likely to provide data of better quality.

The objective of the call is to obtain proposals for a project, which will develop harmonised survey methods for food-borne pathogens in foodstuffs in order to collect data under the EU Directive. The methods shall be applicable in all EU Member States and compatible with relevant Community legislation.

Deadline: 22/08/2008.

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178712356729.htm

Towards a better understanding of the epidemiology of infectious agents in aquatic animals

When assessing the risks of infectious agents in aquatic animals, it was found that strain pathogenicity of fish viruses, for example, varied widely. Non pathogenic strains were also found to be widely distributed, potentially resulting in difficulties in terms of pathogen identification and diagnosis. For regulators and risk managers this creates a challenge when trying to determine which strains should be subject to control measures and which should not. Therefore EFSA launched a call

to help better understand the taxonomy and epidemiology of different strains of disease-causing microbes, particularly *Bonamia* spp. and the Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia virus. The call is now closed.

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178699683470.htm

Article 36 calls awarded

CFP/EFSA/AHAW/2007/01

Project to develop animal welfare risk assessment guidelines on stunning and killing (Acronym: WRAPSTUN)

BENEFICIARIES: Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet (Swedish University of Agricultural Science - SLU), Faculdade de Medicina Veterinaria - Universidade Tecnica de Lisboa (TULisboa), Osterreichische Agentur fur Gesundheit und Ernahrungssicherheit GmbH (AGES)

CFP/EFSA/AHAW/2007/02

Scientific reviews on Classical Swine Fever (CSF), African Swine Fever (ASF) and African Horse Sickness (AHS), and evaluation of the distribution of arthropod vectors and their potential for transmitting exotic or emerging vector-borne animal diseases and zoonoses

BENEFICIARIES: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale" (IZSA&M), Centre de Recerca en Sanitat Animal CReSA, Centre de Cooperation Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement CIRAD, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health, FLI, Universidad Complutense. Facultad de Veterinaria, UCM, Centre d'Etude et de recherches Vétérinaires et Agronomiques, VAR, Agence Française de la Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments, AFSSA, Faculdade de Medicina Veterinaria, Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, FMV-UTL

CFP/EFSA/BIOHAZ/2007/01

Quantitative microbiological risk assessment on *Salmonella* in slaughter and breeder pigs

BENEFICIARIES: Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu (RIVM), (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment), Danmarks Tekniske Universitet (DTU), (Technical University of Denmark)

CFP/EFSA/ZOONOSES/2007/01

Development of harmonised schemes for monitoring and reporting of *Echinococcus*, *Trichinella*, *Cystercicus* and *Sarcocystis* in animals and foodstuffs in the European Union

BENEFICIARIES: Central Science Laboratory, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (CSL-DEFRA) National Diagnostic Centre of Food and Veterinary Service (NDC FVS), The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, acting through the Veterinary Laboratories Agency of New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB (VLA-DEFRA), Agence Française de la Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments (AFSSA), (French Food Safety Agency), Unit of Gastroenteric and Tissue Parasitic Diseases, Department of Infectious, Parasitic and Immune-Mediated Diseases, Istituto Superiore di Sanita (ISS), Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu (RIVM), (National Institute of Public Health and the Environment), Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung (BfR)

Calls for data

EFSA is an organisation committed to openness, transparency and dialogue. As a result EFSA regularly publishes calls for data on a number of scientific subjects specific to its remit where interested parties are asked to submit relevant information and data. This information is then reviewed and can feed into EFSA's work and outputs such as guidance documents and opinions.

More data needed on acrylamide in food

Despite acrylamide posing a low level of risk to human health, it is still a genotoxic and carcinogenic compound that requires continued monitoring in the diet. Efforts should also continue to lower the levels found in food. This was EFSA's view in 2005. Consequently EFSA seeks specific data on acrylamide levels in food for all EU Member States.

This follows a European Commission Recommendation to Member States in 2007. It contains detailed sampling requirements and specification of products to be tested in respective Member States. Results should be reported to EFSA by 1 June each year for three years.

In 2005 EFSA endorsed a risk assessment from the Joint Food and Agriculture Organisation/World Health Organisation Expert Committee on Food Additives on acrylamide in food which partly led the Commission to issue this Recommendation. EFSA also recently organised a scientific colloquium on acrylamide.

Deadline: 31/07/2010

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178656289168.htm

Call for data on the prevalence of antimicrobial resistant bacteria in food

The lack of available data on antimicrobial resistant bacteria in food necessary for carrying out a quantitative risk assessment, led EFSA to launch a call for data. This call coincided with EFSA's public consultation on its draft opinion on foodborne antimicrobial resistance as a biological hazard.

The call for data is now closed.

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178700895490.htm

Call for more data on furan in food and drink

The current limited availability of data about furan in food, a possible carcinogen, does not allow a sound dietary exposure assessment. EFSA has therefore issued a call for more information.

Furan is found in some food that undergoes heat treatment such as canned and jarred foods. EFSA reviewed the existing limited data on methods of analysis, occurrence, formation, and exposure toxicity. Its analysis suggested that there is a relatively small difference between possible human exposure and the doses in experimental animals that produce carcinogenic effects.

The data will feed EFSA's furan database on actual levels of furan in food so a sounder risk assessment can be made. Based on the risk assessment the European Commission will discuss appropriate management measures.

Complementing this general call EFSA is also looking at furan and influence of cooking methods and the potential problem of furan inhalation during cooking. In 2004 it also reported its provisional findings on furan in food.

Deadline: 01/01/2009

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178620771259.htm

Calls for tender

Call for tender to analyse and report on EU zoonoses

EFSA has published an open call for tender to analyse and report on zoonoses, their agents, antimicrobial resistance and foodborne outbreaks in the EU. The tender is divided into two lots.

The first lot will collect data and analyse antimicrobial resistance in *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *E.coli* and *Enterococcus* from 2004 till 2007. The second will focus on *Salmonella* serovars and phage types.

The closing date is 31 August 2008.

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178713253445.htm

Mandates received per unit: January-May 2008

Information on all other on-going requests is available in EFSA's register of questions:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/ScientificOpinionPublicationReport/efsa_locale-1178620753812_RequestsAndMandates.htm

Animal health and welfare (AHAW)

Request for a scientific opinion on susceptible species with regard to the diseases listed in Annex IV part II to Directive 2006/88/EC

Requestor: **European Commission**
Reception date: **22 Feb 2008**
Deadline: **15 Sep 2008**
Question number: **EFSA-Q-2008-074**

Biological hazards (BIOHAZ)

Use and mode of action of bacteriophages in food production

Requestor: **European Commission**
Reception date: **28 May 2008**
Deadline: **31 Oct 2008**
Question number: **EFSA-Q-2008-400**

Technical guide for the scientific data collection on antimicrobial resistance within the framework of the use of AMTs for the decontamination of poultry carcasses

Requestor: **European Commission**
Reception date: **16 May 2008**
Deadline: **30 Jun 2008**
Question number: **EFSA-Q-2008-341**

TSE infectivity in milk products from small ruminants

Requestor: **European Commission**
Reception date: **28 Apr 2008**
Deadline: **01 Jul 2008**
Question number: **EFSA-Q-2008-310**

Assess the public health significance of meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)

Requestor: **EFSA**
Reception date: **01 Apr 2008**
Deadline: **28 Dec 2008**
Question number: **EFSA-Q-2008-300**

Technical assistance with regard to the link between *Salmonella* criteria at different stages of the poultry production chain

Requestor: **European Commission**
Reception date: **07 Apr 2008**
Deadline: **01 Sep 2009**
Question number: **EFSA-Q-2008-294**

Quantitative estimation of the public health impact of setting a new target for the reduction of *Salmonella* in broilers

Requestor: **European Commission**
Reception date: **07 Apr 2008**
Deadline: **01 Mar 2011**
Question number: **EFSA-Q-2008-293**

Quantitative estimation of the public health impact of setting a new target for the reduction of *Salmonella* in laying hens

Requestor: **European Commission**
Reception date: **07 Apr 2008**
Deadline: **01 Mar 2010**
Question number: **EFSA-Q-2008-292**

Quantitative estimation of setting a new target for the reduction of *Salmonella* in breeding hens of *Gallus gallus*

Requestor: **European Commission**
Reception date: **07 Apr 2008**
Deadline: **01 Mar 2009**
Question number: **EFSA-Q-2008-291**

Further consideration of age-related parameters on the risk for human and animal health related to the revision of the BSE monitoring regime in some Member States

Requestor: Member State - Belgium
Reception date: 31 Mar 2008
Deadline: 31 Oct 2008
Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-266

Risk for human and animal health related to the revision of the BSE monitoring regime in some Member States

Requestor: European Commission
Reception date: 25 Jan 2008
Deadline: 31 Jul 2008
Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-007

Maintenance for the QPS list for microorganisms used for feed and food production

Requestor: EFSA
Reception date: 18 Jan 2008
Deadline: 31 Dec 2008
Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-006

Contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)

Fatty acid esters of 3-chloro-1,2 propanediol (3-MCPD esters)

Requestor: European Commission
Reception date: 08 Feb 2008
Deadline: 31 Mar 2008
Date of publication: 31 Mar 2008
Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-258

Additives and products or substances used in animal feed (FEEDAP)

FINASE L and P (phytase) for laying hens, turkeys for fattening, sows, ducks for fattening, pheasants and other game birds

(Enzymes. Application for authorisation under Regulation (EC) N°1831/2003 (Art. 4 and Art. 10) on additives for use in animal nutrition)

Requestor: European Commission
Petitioner: Roal Oy
Reception date: 28 May 2008
Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-378

MLB (*Lactobacillus acidophilus*) for dogs and cats

(Micro-organism. Application for authorisation under Regulation (EC) N° 1831/2003 (Art.10) on additives for use in animal nutrition)

Requestor: European Commission
Petitioner: CHR HANSEN
Reception date: 27 May 2008
Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-377

Bioplus 2B (*B. licheniformis* and *B. subtilis*) for turkeys for fattening

(Micro-organisms. Application linked to Regulation (EC) N° 1831/2003)

Requestor: European Commission
Reception date: 20 May 2008
Deadline: 28 Nov 2008
Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-332

035/GalliPro (*Bacillus subtilis*) for chickens for fattening

(Micro-organisms. Application linked to Regulation (EC) N° 1831/2003)

Requestor: European Commission
Reception date: 20 May 2008
Deadline: 28 Nov 2008
Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-331

AveMix XG 10 (endo-1,3(4)- β -glucanase and endo-1,4- β -xylanase) for chickens for fattening

(Enzymes. Application for authorisation under Regulation (EC) N° 1831/2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition)

Requestor: European Commission
Petitioner: Aveve NV
Reception date: 21 Apr 2008
Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-308

Miya-Gold S (*Clostridium butyricum*) for chickens for fattening

(Micro-organisms. Application for authorisation under Regulation (EC) N° 1831/2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition)

Requestor: **European Commission**
Petitioner: **Miyarisan Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.**
Reception date: **24 Apr 2008**
Deadline: **11 Dec 2008**
Question number: **EFSa-Q-2008-303**

Biosprint (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) for sows

(Micro-organisms. Application for authorisation under Regulation (EC) N° 1831/2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition)

Requestor: **European Commission**
Petitioner: **Prosol spa**
Reception date: **07 Apr 2008**
Question number: **EFSa-Q-2008-302**

Bonvital (*Enterococcus faecium*) for chickens for fattening

(Micro-organisms. Application for authorisation under Regulation (EC) N° 1831/2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition)

Requestor: **European Commission**
Petitioner: **Lactosan GmbH & Co KG**
Reception date: **14 Apr 2008**
Question number: **EFSa-Q-2008-289**

Xylanase (Endo-1,4-beta-xylanase) for turkeys

(Enzymes. Application for authorisation under Regulation (EC) N° 1831/2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition)

Requestor: **European Commission**
Petitioner: **Lyven**
Reception date: **14 Apr 2008**
Question number: **EFSa-Q-2008-288**

Toyocerin (*Bacillus cereus* var. *toyoi*) for rabbits breeding does

(Micro-organisms. Application for authorisation under Regulation (EC) N° 1831/2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition)

Requestor: **European Commission**
Petitioner: **Rubinum, S.A.**
Reception date: **14 Apr 2008**
Question number: **EFSa-Q-2008-287**

Phyzyme XP 10000 TPT/L (6-phytase) for chickens for fattening, laying hens, ducks for fattening, turkeys for fattening, piglets (weaned), pigs for fattening and sows

(Enzymes. Application for authorisation under Regulation (EC) N° 1831/2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition)

Requestor: **European Commission**
Petitioner: **Danisco Animal Nutrition**
Reception date: **09 Apr 2008**
Question number: **EFSa-Q-2008-272**

Avatec 150 G (lasalocid A sodium) for pheasant, partridges, quails, guinea-fowl, ducks and geese/poultry

(Coccidiostats. Application for authorisation under Regulation (EC) N° 1831/2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition)

Requestor: **European Commission**
Petitioner: **Alpharma Belgium BVBA**
Reception date: **17 Mar 2008**
Question number: **EFSa-Q-2008-080**

BioKey Zinc (Zinc chelate of amino acids hydrate) for all species

(Nutritional. Application for authorisation under Regulation (EC) N° 1831/2003 (Art. 10) on additives for use in animal nutrition)

Requestor: **European Commission**
Petitioner: **Biochem Zusatzstoffe Handels-und Produktionsgesellschaft mbH**
Reception date: **30 Jan 2008**
Question number: **EFSa-Q-2008-015**

Rovimix Hy D (25-hydroxycholecalciferol) for; chickens and turkeys for fattening, laying hens, poultry and pigs

(Nutritional. Application for authorisation under Regulation (EC) N° 1831/2003 (Art. 4 and Art. 10) on additives for use in animal nutrition)

Requestor: **European Commission**
Petitioner: **DSM Nutritional Products Ltd. Switzerland**
Reception date: **30 Jan 2008**
Question number: **EFSa-Q-2008-014**

Natugrain TS (endo-1,4- β -xylanase and endo-1,4- β -glucanase) for piglets(weaned), laying hens, chickens and turkeys for fattening and ducks.

(Enzymes. Application for authorisation under Regulation (EC) N° 1831/2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition)

Requestor: European Commission
Petitioner: BASF
Reception date: 30 Jan 2008
Deadline: Clock stopped
Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-013

Clinacox 0.5% (Diclarizul) for rabbits for fattening and breeding

(Coccidiostat. Application for authorisation under Regulation 1831/2003 (Art. 25) on additives for use in animal nutrition.)

Requestor: European Commission
Petitioner: Janssen Animal Health
Reception date: 28 Jan 2008
Adoption on: 16 Apr 2008
Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-011

Biosaf Sc 47 (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) for dairy buffaloes

(Micro-organisms. Application for authorisation under Regulation (EC) 1831/2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition)

Requestor: European Commission
Petitioner: Société Industrielle Lesaffre
Reception date: 28 Jan 2008
Deadline: 22 Oct 2008
Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-010

Yea-Sacc (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) for horses

(Micro-organisms. Application for authorisation under Regulation (EC) 1831/2003 (Art. 4 and Art. 10) on additives for use in animal nutrition)

Requestor: European Commission
Petitioner: Alltech
Reception date: 28 Jan 2008
Deadline: 18 Dec 2008
Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-009

Update of breakpoints for the assessment of antimicrobial resistance in the evaluation of feed additives

Requestor: EFSA (self-task)
Reception date: 17 Jan 2008
Adoption on: 18 Jun 2008
Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-004

Animal diseases transmissible to humans (Zoonoses)

Report on specifications for harmonised monitoring and reporting of VTEC in food and animals

Requestor: EFSA (self-task)
Reception date: 20 Feb 2008
Deadline: 31 Mar 2009
Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-265

Report on statistical analysis of temporal trends and spatial distribution of zoonotic agents in animals and food

Requestor: EFSA (self-task)
Reception date: 20 Feb 2008
Deadline: 31 Dec 2009
Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-264

Report on specifications for following trends over time in zoonotic agents in foodstuffs and animal populations

Requestor: EFSA (self-task)
Reception date: 20 Feb 2008
Deadline: 31 Mar 2009
Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-263

List of opinions and other documents per Unit: January-May 2008

Disclaimer: This is not the full list of all EFSA opinions but only those considered relevant to this newsletter. For the full list please visit: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/ScientificOpinionPublicationReport/efsa_locale-1178620753812_ScientificOpinions.htm

Animal health and welfare (AHAW)

Tuberculosis testing in deer

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2006-179**

Adopted on: **03 Jan 2008**

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178692527398.htm

Animal health and welfare aspects of avian influenza and the risk of its introduction into the EU poultry holdings

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2007-179**

Adopted on: **07 May 2008**

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178713016506.htm

Biological hazards (BIOHAZ)

Consumption of beef tongue: Human BSE risk associated with exposure to lymphoid tissue in bovine tongue in consideration of new research findings

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2007-110**

Adopted on: **17 Apr 2008**

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178704312961.htm

Assessment of the possible effect of the four antimicrobial treatment substances on the emergence of antimicrobial resistance

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2007-203**

Adopted on: **06 Mar 2008**

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178697425124.htm

A quantitative microbiological risk assessment on *Salmonella* in meat: Source attribution for human salmonellosis from meat

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2006-077**

Adopted on: **24 Jan 2008**

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178686062644.htm

Biological safety of a process for the hydrolysis on-farm of dead pigs

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2007-115**

Adopted on: **23 Jan 2008**

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178684681559.htm

Biological safety of a process for the hydrolysis on-farm of dead rabbits

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2007-116**

Adopted on: **23 Jan 2008**

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178684681694.htm

Scientific and technical clarification in the interpretation and consideration of some facets of the conclusions of its opinion of 8 March on certain aspects related to the risk of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies in ovine and caprine animals

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2007-193**

Publication date: **23 Feb 2008**

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178685986247.htm

Contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)

Nitrate in vegetables

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2006-071**

Adopted on: **10 Apr 2008**

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178712852460.htm

Cross-contamination of non-target feedingstuffs by diclazuril authorised for use as a feed additive

Question number: EFSA-Q-2005-220J
Adopted on: 30 May 2008
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178712558845.htm

Cross-contamination of non-target feedingstuffs by nicarbazin authorised for use as a feed additive

Question number: EFSA-Q-2005-220K
Adopted on: 09 Apr 2008
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178704530760.htm

Cross-contamination of non-target feedingstuffs by robenidine authorised for use as a feed additive

Question number: EFSA-Q-2005-220I
Adopted on: 19 Feb 2008
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178701241379.htm

Cross-contamination of non-target feedingstuffs by decoquinatate authorised for use as a feed additive

Question number: EFSA-Q-2005-220H
Adopted on: 19 Feb 2008
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178701241928.htm

Cross-contamination of non-target feedingstuffs by halofuginone hydrobromide authorised for use as a feed additive

Question number: EFSA-Q-2005-220H
Adopted on: 19 Feb 2008
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178701242025.htm

Mercury as undesirable substance in animal feed

Question number: EFSA-Q-2005-288
Adopted on: 20 Feb 2008
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178699572768.htm

Statement on a request from the European Commission related to 3-MCPD esters

Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-258
Adopted on: 28 Mar 2008
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178696990062.htm

Additives and products or substances used in animal feed (FEEDAP)

Efficacy and safety of L-valine from a modified *E.coli* K12 for all animal species

Question number: EFSA-Q-2007-103
Adopted on: 17 Apr 2008
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178712206517.htm

Safety and efficacy of Mintrex[®]Mn (Manganese chelate of hydroxy analogue of methionine) as a feed additive for all species

Question number: EFSA-Q-2007-094
Adopted on: 15 Apr 2008
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178706515725.htm

Safety and efficacy of Mintrex[®]Cu (Copper chelate of hydroxy analogue of methionine) as a feed additive for all species

Question number: EFSA-Q-2007-097
Adopted on: 16 Apr 2008
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178706516653.htm

Safety and efficacy of Mintrex[®]Zn (Zinc chelate of hydroxy analogue of methionine) as a feed additive for all species

Question number: EFSA-Q-2007-098
Adopted on: 16 Apr 2008
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178706516708.htm

Maximum Residue Limits for Clinacox 0.5% (diclazuril) for turkeys for fattening, chickens for fattening and chickens reared for laying

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2007-191**

Adopted on: **16 Apr 2008**

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178703717487.htm

Safety of 'Clinacox 0.5%' (diclazuril) used in rabbits for fattening and breeding

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2008-011**

Adopted on: **16 Apr 2008**

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178703718409.htm

Safety and efficacy of the product Quantum™ Phytase 5000 L and Quantum™ Phytase 2500 D (6-phytase) as a feed additive for chickens for fattening, laying hens, turkeys for fattening, ducks for fattening and piglets (weaned)

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2006-025**

Adopted on: **30 Jan 2008**

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178685303625.htm

Safety of the enzymatic preparation Natuphos® (3-phytase) for sows

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2007-189**

Adopted on: **12 Dec 2007**

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178675904916.htm

Technical guidance - Compatibility of zootechnical microbial additives with other additives showing antimicrobial activity

Question number: **EFSA-Q-2007-174**

Adopted on: **05 Mar 2008**

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178692653407.htm

Guidance for applicants on the presentation of applications for the request of authorisation of additives for use in animal nutrition (updated)

Publication date: **04 May 2007**

Last updated: **21 Apr 2008**

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178625242905.htm

Animal diseases transmissible to humans (Zoonoses)

The Community Summary Report on Trends and Sources of Zoonoses, Zoonotic Agents, Antimicrobial resistance and Foodborne outbreaks in the European Union in 2006

Now available as a paper copy. To order a copy, please visit our website.

Published: **10 Jan 2008**

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178676772406.htm

Report from the Task Force on Zoonoses Data Collection including guidance for harmonised monitoring and reporting of antimicrobial resistance in commensal *Escherichia coli* and *Enterococcus* spp. from food animals

Adopted on: **11 Mar 2008**

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1178697512165.htm

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