EU feed safety system

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1. Definition and types
2. Actors and responsibilities
3. EFSA and its Panels
4. Main legislative sectors
5. RASFF
6. EU Reference Laboratories
FEED IS

also called ‘feedingstuff’ means any substance or product, including additives, whether processed, partially processed or unprocessed, intended to be used for oral feeding to animals.

Types

- feed materials
- feed additives
- compound feed including pet food
- medicated feed
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KEEPING FEED SAFE IN THE EU

Risk Management

Risk Assessment

Risk Communication

European Commission and Parliament and Member States

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
EFSA was established under **EU law in 2002** following a series of food crises as part of a programme to:

- **improve** the EU food safety system
- **help ensuring** a high level of consumer protection
- **restore and maintain** confidence in the EU food supply
- **clearly separate** risk assessment and risk management functions
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WHAT EFSA DOES

- Provides independent scientific advice and support for EU risk managers and policy makers on food and feed safety

- Provides independent, timely risk communication

- Promotes scientific cooperation
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

EU Commission

EU Parliament

Member States

EFSA self mandate

EFSA receives a question

EFSA’s scientists evaluate, assess, advise

Adoption and communication
SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE

Scientific Committee

• Ensures consistency
• Issues guidance
• Assesses emerging risks

Scientific Panels

• Draft and adopt scientific outputs on general health issues and regulated products

Staff

• Support panel work e.g. data collection
• Produce scientific and technical advice
• Communication
EFSA seeks out **high-calibre experts** to serve on its Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels

- Open call to scientists from EU Member States and beyond
- EFSA chooses candidates with proven excellence in one or more scientific fields within its remit
- Open, transparent selection procedure
ROLES

The work of the Panel and its WGs

Mandate

Panel

Draft Opinion

Working Group (WG)

Question?

Opinion Adopted
The Panel on Additives and Products or Substances used in Animal Feed (FEEDAP) provides scientific advice on the safety and/or efficacy of additives and products or substances used in animal feed. The Panel evaluates their safety and/or efficacy for the target species, the user, the consumer of products of animal origin and the environment. It also looks at the efficacy of biological and chemical products/substances intended for deliberate use in animal feed.

- **Safety of vitamin D$_3$ addition to feedingstuffs for fish**
- **Safety evaluation of ractopamine**
The Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain (CONTAM) provides **scientific advice on contaminants in the food chain** and undesirable substances such as natural toxicants, mycotoxins and residues of unauthorised substances:

- **Risk for animal and human health related to the presence of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in feed and food**
- **Scientific Opinion on the risks to human and animal health related to the presence of beauvericin and enniatins in food and feed**
The Panel on Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ) provides scientific advice on biological hazards in relation to food safety and food-borne diseases. This covers animal diseases transmissible to humans; transmissible spongiform encephalopathies; food microbiology; food hygiene and associated waste management issues. One of the BIOHAZ Panel’s tasks is to advise risk managers on TSE/BSE issues, including the scientific factors underpinning EU rules on the materials banned from inclusion in animal feed.

Opinion on the assessment of the health risks of feeding of ruminants with fishmeal in relation to the risk of TSE.
The Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) provides independent scientific advice on food and feed safety, environmental risk assessment and molecular characterisation/plant science.

Scientific Opinion on application EFSA-GMO-BE-2013-118 for authorisation of genetically modified maize MON 87427 × MON 89034 × 1507 × MON 88017 × 59122 and subcombinations independently of their origin, for food and feed uses, import and processing
RESPONSIBILITIES OF RISK MANAGERS

- Establish policies and legislation
- Governance
- International relations
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Regulation 1831/2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition

- Prohibits dilution of contaminated feed
- Maximum limits for relevant contaminants: heavy metals, arsenic, dioxin, aflatoxins, in feed materials, feed additives and feedingstuffs
OUTLINE

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Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed

- Ensures the flow of information to enabling swift reaction when risks to public health are detected in the food chain.
- EU-28 national food safety authorities, Commission, EFSA, ESA, Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland and Switzerland
- Ensure that urgent notifications are sent, received and responded to collectively and efficiently
Aim to ensure high-quality, uniform testing in the EU and support Commission activities on risk management and risk assessment in the area of laboratory analysis.

- **EU Reference Laboratories** coordinate a network of **National Reference Laboratories (NRLs)** to obtain high quality results by providing:
  - reference methods
  - reference materials
  - proficiency testing schemes
  - training to laboratory staff.

They support the creation of a well performing network of laboratories throughout the European Union. The work of the EURLs leads to better implementation of EU legislation, e.g. by enforcing legislative limits and reducing the need to repeat testing.
Thank you for your attention!

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