

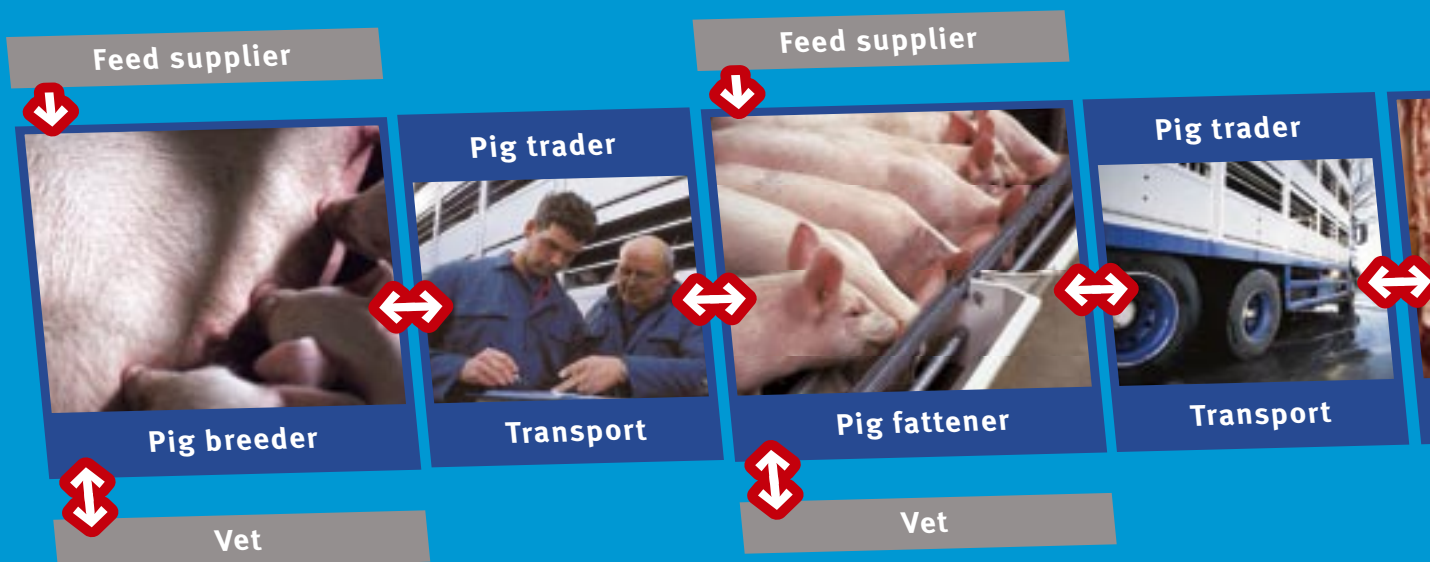
# The best quality assurance for meat and animal feed comes from the Netherlands



The Dutch mark  
for quality meat



The Dutch livestock and meat sectors have a worldwide reputation to uphold as reliable suppliers of quality produce. To safeguard this reputation, each link in the production chain applies the strictest quality principles. Integrated Chain Control (IKB) is the system control that guarantees this quality. IKB is internationally recognised as the most convincing national quality assurance system in Europe for pork production - this equally applies to traceability and animal welfare. Within the framework of this level of quality assurance, the feed given to animals in the IKB chain must also comply with the very highest standards.



The system in operation in the Netherlands to assure animal feed quality is the internationally recognised GMP+ code (Good Manufacturing/Managing Practice). It covers the entire animal feed chain, from producers and suppliers of raw materials, pre-mixes and animal feed at home and abroad to storage and transshipment companies, transporters and farmers. This system's requirements extend beyond those enforced by national and European legislation. GMP+ aims to completely eliminate any possible risks to humans, animals and the environment. The GMP+ motto is 'Safe Feed Safe Food'.

### FEED WITH GMP+-LABEL OBLIGATORY

Livestock farmers producing under the IKB certificate are required to use only animal feed originating from suppliers with GMP+ certification.

This responsibility covers pig farmers (IKB Pig), cattle farmers (IKB Cattle), veal calf farmers (IKB Calf), broiler (IKB Chicken) laying hen (IKB Egg). Dairy farmers must use GMP+ feed if they are covered by the Chain Quality Milk project (KKM). IKB inspectors verify that animal feed actually originates from GMP+ certified companies. Companies awarded GMP+-certification must be able to prove at any given moment to buyers and inspection agencies that the quality assurance system procedures have been implemented.

### FEED INSPECTION BASED ON THE HACCP SYSTEM

With GMP+ the Netherlands applies the same internationally recognised, pro-active assurance system as the food industry. GMP+ is a quality assurance system based on the protocol contained in ISO-9001 for the supply and production of animal

### Dutch pig feed

The pig feed produced by the Dutch animal feed industry mainly consists of grain, grain substitutes and dry or dried by-products from the food industry. Virtually all the compound feed produced in the Netherlands is made by GMP+ certified animal feed manufacturers. The majority of pigs are fed dry, pressed pellets. However, moistured feed is becoming more popular. Moistured feed contains moist by-products from the human food industry. The quality regulations of GMP+ animal feed also apply to producers who supply moist by-products from the food industry directly to pig farmers. Compound feed for pigs is labelled with the most important information about use and ingredients. (By)-products consisting of a single ingredient are also labelled according to specific labelling demands.

feed. The systematic methods of HACCP (Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Points) have been integrated in GMP+. All suppliers of single and compound feeds must base their GMP+ system on the principles outlined in HACCP. A risk analysis of the production processes must be made and the critical points determined. Quality assurance is subsequently based on the results of this exercise. Each manufacturer must be able to prove that feed safety has been guaranteed through a quality assurance system and a controlled production process.

All raw materials are subjected to a risk analysis. GMP+ animal feed companies may only use raw materials that can meet the sector's demands. These ingredients are included in a list of authorised raw materials. GMP companies must not process or trade any other ingredients.

### ADDED SECURITY

The HACCP system is an addition to the established quality assurance system GMP (Good Manufacturing/Managing Practice). The combination of the quality assurance systems GMP+ animal feed, HACCP and IKB offers added security regarding quality assurance throughout the entire production chain and maximum safety for humans, animals and the environment.

The Dutch animal feed industry was the first in Europe to implement the HACCP system.

### Quality assurance laboratories

Within the scene, animal feed testing may only be carried out by laboratories that comply with the Product Board Animal Feed's own laboratory code for internal testing. This Lab code outlines regulations for analysis methods and quality assurance in company laboratories. The aim of the Lab code is to ensure that measurements are carried out effectively and reliably.



Slaughterhouse



Meat processing firm



Meat retailer

The Product Board Animal Feed, a public-law corporate body that represents all levels of the animal feed sector, drafted GMP+ certification requirements. The quality assurance regulations were developed in close collaboration with the feed processing sectors (meat, dairy, poultry and eggs). The first GMP+ certification scheme was established in 1992. Since that time certification requirements have been revised and adapted to suit continually changing concepts of food safety and recent developments. Individual players in the animal feed sector often implement their own, additional quality policy alongside GMP.

### **AUTHORISED RAW MATERIALS ONLY**

In the EU a number of substances are listed as undesirable and their use is forbidden as raw materials in animal feed, for example household waste and certain animal proteins. In The Netherlands certain products have been added to this European list. The ban of substances contained in the list applies to all Dutch animal feed companies. GMP+ companies however, go even further. A positive list of more than five hundred animal feed raw materials applies for these companies. Raw materials are only added to this list after they have been subjected to a rigorous risk analysis. If this analysis raises any doubts whether quality assurance can be adequately applied, the substance will not be placed on the list. Substances, which pass the risk assessment, are listed in the Database Risk Assessments Feed Materials of the Product Board Animal Feed.

### **EARLY WARNING & RESPONSE SYSTEM**

The Product Board Animal Feed's quality programme includes an Early Warning & Response System (EWS) the purpose of which is to identify and eliminate any potential hazards for people and/or animals that may arise despite preventative quality assurance. The excellent Tracking and Tracing system also enables the animal feed sector to rapidly (sometimes even within hours) recall consignments of raw materials and animal feed if they are contaminated by unwanted substances and identify the source of the contamination.

### **ADDITIVES AND VETERINARY MEDICATION**

The GMP+ certification programme is also specifically aimed at assurance of quality and processing additives and veterinary medication. Additives include items such as vitamins, trace

### **Worldwide adoption of GMP+**

GMP+ is fast being adopted as the prevailing standard by suppliers of raw materials to the animal feed industry worldwide. Currently, thousands of companies in animal feed production chains worldwide have put GMP+ or a similar quality assurance system into practice. Within the European Union this mainly concerns producers of (compound) feeds and pre-mixes. Elsewhere in the world this mainly concerns suppliers of raw materials to GMP+-certified traders and producers in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany.

### **Independent certification**

Various bodies regularly carry out audits to ensure animal feed complies with legislative demands. Independent, accredited certification bodies that have been accepted by the Product Board Animal Feed oversee compliance with GMP+-certification. As these authorities in turn comply with the European norm EN 45011, independence and quality of working procedures are also assured. These certification bodies are empowered to impose sanctions if irregularities are discovered and GMP+ regulations breached. These sanctions can range from extra audits to suspension or withdrawal of GMP+ certification.

elements and colorants. Pre-mixes contain a blend of additives. In accordance with EU legislation all producers of (compound) feed who add pre-mixes or other additives must have been granted a permit.

The use of antibiotic additives in the Netherlands will be banned from 2006, in line with European legislation. Pre-empting this measure the use of these substances has fallen by 70% since 1998. The Dutch animal feed industry makes increasing use of safe alternatives such as organic acids, which protect health in a similar way. This helps prevent increasing use of antibiotics in veterinary medicine.

Medicines will only be administered in feed on veterinary approval. Only compound feed manufacturers with a special licence from



the Product Board are permitted to produce medicated feed. IKB places extra demands on the use of veterinary medication. For medicated pig feed this means that antibiotics may only be used if they appear on the Positive List of Veterinary Medicine for IKB pig producers.

### **MONITORING SUBSTANCES**

The GMP+ quality assurance system prevents undesirable substances and products such as heavy metals, pesticides and residues entering animal feed. To prevent residue contamination and micro biological infections, the system is also aimed at hygienic production of animal feed.

All GMP+ companies have access to a central databank listing details of undesirable substances and products. This databank includes monitoring information about the participating companies and the results of annual research programmes carried out by the Product Board Animal Feed on specific parameters in relevant raw materials. One of the aims of the Product Board's monitoring programme is to provide independent verification of analysis data submitted by animal feed producers. Quality assurance of animal feed in the Netherlands is of collective, national importance. Transparency and openness during all procedures support this accordingly.

### **GMO**

The raw materials used may partly originate from imported genetically modified crops (GMOs) that have been cultivated for human consumption. In compliance with European legislation, the presence of these raw materials must be stated on the label of the animal feed. In this way, farmers have the freedom to make an informed choice and if market demands warrant, a production chain can be formed for products from animals, only fed animal feeds free of GMO.

Purchasers of meat with specific requirements regarding feed, can make additional agreements with Dutch producers and exporters, in so far as these demands are technically and financially feasible.

For further background information about the quality policy of the Dutch animal feed branch: visit the Product Board Animal Feed website: [www.pdv.nl](http://www.pdv.nl)  
Information is available in German and English.





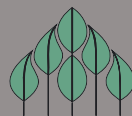
*Safe Feed  
Safe Food*

The Product Board Animal Feed uses the GMP+ system to facilitate an animal feed quality guarantee worthy of HACCP throughout the entire chain, from raw material to transport and livestock farming. Inspection and certification are carried out by independent organisations.

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