



feedback

English Internet edition of the Product Board Animal Feed newsletter - July 2003

Obligatory risk assessment

From now on only 'approved feedstuffs'

From the 1st of January 2004, companies may only use feedstuffs that have been approved according to HACCP risk assessment procedures. For this purpose, the Product Board Animal feed has set up a special databank at www.pdv.nl.

Risk assessment offers better insight into the composition of animal feeds and any possible risks. This measure is a direct result of the lessons learnt from the MPA affair in 2002. It will prevent GMP-certified companies buying products on special offer without having the required risk assessment documents.

Obligatory risk assessment has been included in the GMP+ regulations. Certified companies may only use ingredients listed with a generic risk assessment in the Databank Risk Assessment Feedstuffs (DRV) of the Product Board Animal Feed. For inclusion in the databank, the product must comply with the standards demanded by national and European legislation. In addition, any product-related risks must have been assessed according to the criteria contained in the HACCP Manual animal feed sector and must be controllable. A transitional period lasting until December 31st 2003 applies for GMP-certified companies using products where the risk assessment has not yet been included in the DRV.

Second opinion

During the course of 2003, risk assessment procedures will be outlined in the databank for all normal raw materials. At the present time, the DRV contains risk assessments for more than one hundred ingredients. To submit a product for inclusion in the DRV, companies should send a form to the Product Board Animal Feed. The form



lists the name, composition and risk assessment of the product. The risk assessment covers the following aspects:

- the hazards per production phase (cultivation, harvesting/storage, transport/storage and/or processing);
- classification of the risk as chemical, physical, microbiological or emotional/ethical;
- the element of hazard and whether risk probability is slight, moderate or serious
- determination of the risk level according to HACCP-manual Product Board Animal Feed ;
- the applicable legislative norms or limits for the hazard.

The Product Board will then gain a second opinion from external experts for the risk assessment. The proposal will subsequently be submitted to the Animal Feed Sector College of Experts. When approval has been granted, the Product Board will include the product in the database. This inclusion procedure will be completed within three months after receiving request. For more information, visit www.pdv.nl.

Enabling Legislation Animal Feed

PDV: prevent double work

The Product Board Animal Feed (PDV) agrees with the general details contained in the proposal for Enabling Legislation Animal Feed, which has been accepted in the intervening period by the Second Chamber. Nevertheless, the PDV warns for the danger of double work.

The Product Board welcomes this move to place political accountability for animal feed safety with the government. The proposal is expected to become law within a year, following approval by the Senate. Accepting the proposal will mean a shift in the relationship between the government and the product board. According to the PDV, however, the proposal is not entirely clear about how this responsibility is to be interpreted.

The proposal favours a 'supervised

supervision'-model: the government supervises the PDV's inspection system. The proposal recognizes the Product Board's current quality assurance system GMP. Johan den Hartog, secretary general of the PDV, calls for the government to bring its supervision in line with the existing quality and safety assurance procedures based on GMP in the animal feed sector. "The measures must be supplementary,

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Kienhuis says farewell to the 'dynamic sector'

After a period of fourteen years as chairman of the Product Board Animal Feed (and the other arable product boards), Mr. Kienhuis is laying down the chairman's hammer. How does he reflect on this period and what is his vision of the future for the animal feed sector?



Jan Kienhuis

"I can close my term of chairmanship with a great feeling of satisfaction. I have been fortunate to work in a sector that has recently experienced immense changes, such as up sizing in the sector and consolidation of cooperation between parties in the chain. This created a strong sense of dynamic energy. For the Product Board Animal Feed this meant a huge emphasis on quality assurance in the animal feed sector and cooperation with animal production chains and other product boards."
"The past years have witnessed

several crises, but giant steps have also been taken. The first one I can recall was the decision taken in 1992 by the animal feed sector to allocate a pivotal role to the board regarding quality assurance and quality control. The implementation of the GMP system dates from that period, the first in Europe. An essential subsequent development was extending the system in 1999 by adding risk assessment HACCP to create the GMP+ system. This involves all stages in animal feed production, from raw materials to the final product.

Assurance of the entire raw material chain was chosen. In a reaction to last year's MPA affair, the intensification of individual responsibility for the quality of products from each company in the animal feed chain followed. All these successive changes took place in good harmony and cooperation, both within the animal feed chain itself and in later years with all the subsequent links in the chain."

No room for fraudulence

"The GMP+ system is now reasonably defined and recognized. It is also very

important that the board has placed responsibility for certification and inspection in the hands of independent certifying bodies. The next most important step in my opinion is filling in the details of cooperation with central government based on the Enabling Legislation Animal feed. I would have loved to make my own contribution, but I have full confidence in my successor's abilities. The animal feed sector occupies an important place within the food chain. The last years have been characterised by hard work to create a transparent and honest animal feed sector, where there is no room for fraudulent practice. I'm convinced the sector will do everything possible to uphold these principles. The product board will undoubtedly continue to make a significant contribution in this respect."



Theo Meijer new chairman Product Board Animal Feed

Theo Meijer will succeed Jan Kienhuis as chairman of the Product Board Animal Feed and the other arable product boards. Meijer has been a member of the Second Chamber for the CDA since 1996 and in 1998 and 1999 he was chairman of the Parliamentary Inquiry Commission for the Bijlmermeer Air Disaster. He is currently chairman of the Permanent Chamber Commission for Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries. In the period preceding his time as a member of parliament his activities included 22 years at the Department of Housing, Regional Development and the Environment, where his specialism was environmental hygiene. Theo Meijer will be taking over the chairmanship from the 1st of September 2003.

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and-and, not exclusionary, or-or. This also applies when carrying out the quality inspections. The proposal advises the National Inspection Service for Livestock and Meat being responsible for the inspections. This is possible, if the type and extent of inspection conforms to the existing procedures followed by the product boards and companies. The government must first examine how our quality system works, to prevent double work. Which can obviously not be their intention."

Government intervention

The enabling act also means that

precautionary principles will apply in the animal feed sector. This means that the government can intervene in the event of possible threats to food safety, even if the threat has not actually been fully identified scientifically. The PDV backs up this principle, on condition that the steps taken by the government comply with European legislative guidelines, with no national exceptions. The European Food Law governs much of existing animal feed legislation. In the board's opinion, the precautionary principles should be covered by identical conditions as valid international legislation.

Limits for mycotoxin values

The Product Board Animal Feed has incorporated rejection and action limits for mycotoxin values in GMP+ regulations. Research funded and initiated by the Product Board Animal Feed shows that the mycotoxin levels present in animal feed form no risk for public health. Certain mycotoxins can, though, have a negative effect on the performance of farm animals.

Mycotoxins are compounds formed by moulds in agricultural produce. They sometimes occur in crops caused by wet weather; others occur if grain is stored too wet. To safeguard food safety, the product board has drawn up an action plan to outline mycotoxin limit values. These limits are per portion and apply for mycotoxins DON, Zearalenon and Ochratoxin A. Studies show that of all mycotoxins, only these may have a negative effect on farm animals. For example, they can inhibit growth and cause reduced fertility.

Analysis methods

To effectively safeguard action and rejection limits, good insight into the levels of mycotoxin in animal feed is essential. The current monitoring system will be modified in accordance. In future, raw material suppliers and compound feed producers must be able to supply mycotoxin details. The



type of raw material, the nature of the risks and origin determine the analysis frequency. Within the animal feed sector there is also a need for unambiguous analysis methods to trace mycotoxins in animal feed. A group of

experts will document the available analysis methods and test their suitability. In order to implement the intended measures, the reliability of the various methods needs to be guaranteed as quickly as possible.

Quality in the chain

The time that the Dutch agri and food business was a successful player on the world market based on a (cost) price advantage has passed. The focus for marketing products from our meat sector continues to shift towards European channels, where our products can be sold on the fresh market. Markets where we can and must be able to distinguish ourselves in aspects such as category management, logistics, freshness, quality and food safety.

For the agri and food sector - and related sectors like the animal feed industry - this means a huge u-turn from bulk-directed thinking towards a strategy of added value. From quantity to quality. A difficult process that often takes too long. The disaster surrounding the details of the IKB Pigs is a sad example. In the animal feed sector we are also confronted by the fact that the "polder model" sometimes results in the rate of change being determined by the slowest player. But, no matter how difficult it is, the food and feed sector has no choice but to make the change. There is simply no other imaginable alternative.

The food sector will be forced to translate the demands of its customers to links further down the supply chain. Including product traceability. For an adequate traceability procedure it is absolutely essential that animal feed suppliers can guarantee both the quality and the origin of all raw materials used. In the light of demands in the

feedstuff industry, the discussion within the animal feed sector concerning this demand for proof of origin is a rearguard action.

A second challenge facing the sector is improved interpretation of responsibility for the product. An unimpressive model declaration in which 'the directors accept liability for an adequate quality policy' will not get us very far. In my opinion, improvements in maintaining the formulated policy should be organised via the wallets of individual companies in the animal feed sector. Eventual risks should be covered at company level, so that any claims for product responsibility can be lodged there. This type of insurance coverage is possible for an acceptable premium. However, the company concerned must be optimally organized. A large number of animal feed producers are working hard to make this a success. I wish them luck!



Paul Jansen
Vice President Supply Chains
Bestmeat Company

Separate code for each load

Closing your eyes to quality is a step in the wrong direction," says Pieter Theeuwes, when explaining how his company applies the intensified GMP regulations.

Pieter Theeuwes of compound feed producers Theeuwes in Ulicoten, is unworried about the changes. The newly implemented measures for the improved Tracking & Tracing system, such as registering the customers' Unique Farm Numbers, just mean a few changes to his existing computer system. "Our system already contains other information about our customers. Farm manure numbers for example. It's no trouble to simply add the Unique Farm Numbers as well."

Theeuwes doesn't expect any problems. "The only thing we can't do at the moment is access the Unique Farm Number databank."

Theeuwes is one of the first group of GMP companies. "We started with the system back in 1992. If you don't embrace new developments from the offset, you're in trouble, because sooner or later customers will demand it," says Pieter, head of Quality Assurance at the company. Pieter Theeuwes is a grandson of the founder, and joint owner with his brothers Christ and Henk.

Theeuwes (25 employees) produces 97,000 tons of compound feed annually, of which nearly eighty percent is destined for pigs and the remaining twenty percent for cattle. "We also produce poultry feed, pellets for horses and pheasant feed." The



Pieter Theeuwes

company mixes 250 different recipes. The Belgian market accounts for more than half the turnover. In 1988, Theeuwes took over two compound feed producers there. Production is now centred in Ulicoten. In Belgium a GMP+ system is also being set up. "The standards there are just as exacting as in the Netherlands."

Minimum of manual activities

In view of tracking & tracing, the production process at Theeuwes has been automated wherever possible. Manual activities are kept to a minimum. This reduces the risk of errors and mistakes. "We don't add a lot manually. Only medication is weighed and added by hand."

"In September, we're getting a new

C O L O P H O N

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Vincent Schepman

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Marcel Bekken, Hans Dijkstra



Product Board Animal Feed

P.O. Box 29739
2502 LS Den Haag
The Netherlands
T +31(0)70 370 85 03
F +31(0)70 370 82 90
E pdv@hpa.agro.nl
www.pdv.nl

computer program," continues Pieter. "Each load can then be entered using a separate code. This will make it even easier to see which products are in which silos. We're trying to organize a system where silos don't hold products from more than two or three different suppliers. Too many more just makes it too complicated."

Raw materials can only be unloaded if they have an unloading number. Pieter: "You have to know where the products come from. You sometimes get two or three suppliers delivering wheat at the same time. But if there's a problem with the wheat, how do you know who supplied it? A system with unloading numbers makes this much easier."

Owner always responsible

Concessions to quality are unthinkable, believes Theeuwes. "Closing your eyes to quality is a step in the wrong direction." He has no problems with the introduction of a declaration of responsibility for an adequate quality policy. "As the owner of a company, you're always responsible. The worst thing that can happen is having your GMP certificate suspended for a few months. How can you explain that to your customers?"

Product Board Animal Feed: lower levies in spite of shortfall

The Product Board Animal Feed has a structural shortage of € 500.000,- per year. This is caused by falling income from levies, which is in turn linked to a drop in feed sales resulting from declining livestock numbers. In 2003, the board awaits an extra financial setback of € 600.000,- caused by the outbreak of A.I. To balance the budget, the board has taken certain economy measures and is investigating the possibilities for more efficient operational management. In addition, the independence of the Project Bureau for Manure Management, the transfer of GMP certification activities to independent certifying bodies and the planned closure of the Information and Knowledge Centre for the Animal Feed Sector (2004) will result in lower structural overheads. A combination of these factors means that the board will be able to lower rates for levies, commencing in 2004. The board hopes this action will help support the animal feed sector, which is currently still suffering from the spate of recent outbreaks of animal diseases.

