



# feedback

English Internet edition of the Product Board Animal Feed newsletter - July 2004

## Sector discusses international quality assurance

Maarsse formed the setting for the Sector Meeting GMP of the Product Board Animal Feed (PDV). Close on 200 directors and quality assurance managers from the animal feed sector gathered to openly exchange ideas on the subject of international quality assurance.

PDV general secretary Johan den Hartog opened the meeting by stating the latest international position of GMP. Worldwide there are now 4342 GMP certified business locations. The product board is actively engaged in expanding this number. Expansion of the GMP+ system will become a reality in 2006 in any case with the introduction of the IFSA standard. The PDV is also active internationally monitoring auditors around the world and upda-

ting information to auditors in the various countries through periodically organised harmonisation conferences. Attendees supported expansion of international quality assurance systems. An increased degree of cooperation in safeguarding ingredients is high on the list of priorities.

Ymte Yntema from Agrifirm also expressed a need for safeguards. But in this case, assurance driven by commitment. Yntema: "There's nothing

wrong with the GMP+ system, but commitment is lacking. When making risk inventories companies should translate the generic evaluations into company-specific demands. A GMP+ certified company should also have a clear insight into the production methods of its suppliers. Only then can you precisely define where any risks may be present." Yntema challenged the attendees and the entire chain to enforce quality assurance with a passion and to change up a gear in actively applying the underlying principles.



Carine van Vuure from Sonac BV during the closing debate at the well-attended GMP sector meeting

## IFSA: European standard for quality assurance

During the sector meeting of the GMP, Johan den Hartog, secretary general of the Product Board Animal Feed, announced the IFSA initiative. The aim is to have a common international standard for quality assurance of feed ingredients in place from the 1st of January 2006, the IFSA standard.

IFSA (International Feed Safety Alliance) is the result of co-operation between four organisations: the British AIC, the Belgian OVOCOM, the Product Board Animal Feed and the German Q&S. The FEFAC, the European umbrella organisation of compound feed manufacturers, is also working closely on the cooperative initiative. Exerted efforts are being made to get the IFSA standard on the rails.



Product Board General Secretary Johan den Hartog

The IFSA standard should facilitate European cooperation and harmonisation of assurance schemes. A common standard means certification and auditing can be carried out internationally. The arrival of the IFSA standard will replace the current four separate standards applied by the previously

### Mirror

Paul Jansen of BEST Agrifund held up a mirror to participants from the meat processing sector. "If the Dutch animal feed industry wants to develop internationally, the sector must harmonise with the European market for fresh quality produce regarding food safety. Consistent quality and risk management can help here." Jansen champions chain-wide implementation of HACCP, including for growers. He also believes that animal feed manufacturers should initiate and enforce quality standards autonomously instead of waiting to see what demands purchasers place on the products.

Wim Verbeke of the University of Gent discussed consumer perception. The information supply and demand is immense. The contrast between the space available on a label and the limitations in the consumer's mind equally. "In reality, consumers remember just four pieces of information: the appearance of the product, the weight and

# Common global GMP

In May of this year there were 4342 GMP certified business locations spread over the entire globe. The Product Board Animal Feed invests heavily in international knowledge transfer to certifying bodies and auditors to ensure the GMP system for animal feed is applied uniformly all over the world.

A Dutch auditor is not the same as a Brazilian one. German auditors have a different approach to any irregularities found on animal feed companies. To ensure that assessment and inspection is carried out in identical fashion all over the world, the Product Board Animal Feed (PDV) has been organising harmonisation conferences since February 2004 with all the certifying bodies and auditors. Venues include Europe, South America and South East Asia. During these conferences auditors are brought up to date with the details of which GMP standards are specifically important for their situation, any changes to the GMP system and amend-



Auditors from various Asian countries getting to grips with practical cases during the Product Board harmonisation conference in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)

ments in EU-legislation. Examples drawn from practical experience are used as test cases to try and bring the approach of the various auditors into line. The process of interpreting the audit report was also explained. Interpretation of the GMP standard raised quite a number of practical questions. The Dutch system is based on the situation in Dutch animal feed companies. But the situation here can't

always be compared to the situation in e.g. Brazil, where ports don't always provide permanent storage facilities for produce. Train carriages are used to store the products and transport them on the journey to the port. But what kind of GMP conditions have to be applied to these carriages? These conferences are intended to answer any questions and remove uncertainties surrounding GMP assessment and audits.

During these meetings, the Co-ordinating Office for Animal Feed Certification and Monitoring (BCD) represents the board. The interaction between theory and practice shows just how important harmonisation conferences are to achieve unequivocal interpretation of the GMP system. The product board will therefore continue to strive towards unanimous interpretation and ensure that all audits are fair and uniform. Individual companies are free to choose a certifying body, but the audits carried out by the various certifying agencies must apply identical criteria. For this reason, the BCD trains

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## IFSA: European standard for quality assurance

cost and the best before date. Plus the general public demands the highest level of traceability precisely at the point where it is the most difficult to realise: when products contain a blend of meats. An example is mince in sausage rolls. Indicating the origin of the ingredients can go a long way to answering the needs of consumers", says Verbeke.

This meeting supplied a wealth of information for both the sector and the product board. There was a parting piece of advice for the PDV: simplify GMP, but increase its effectiveness and crack down on infringements of the regulations. PDV chairman May promised to rise to the challenge. "Not an easy task, but not impossible either."



Wim Verbeke



Ymte Yntema

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## IFSA: European standard for quality assurance

listed organisations. However, this will only be phased in after the standard has been presented and attuned to the animal feed chain this summer.

### Part of GMP+

In the Netherlands the IFSA standard is set to become an integral part of GMP+. The IFSA standard will replace the GMP 05 and QC standard for

assurance of feed ingredients safety. The board underlines the fact that the IFSA standard is the sum of the strongest points from the standards of each of the four participating organisations. The board is convinced that adoption of this standard will allow the sector to better meet the increasing demand for feed ingredients covered by safety guarantees.

## Towards a sing

Companies operating globally in the trade of animal feed raw materials must offer more than simply buying and selling commodities. Over the years, aspects such as service, logistics and quality assurance have come to represent an increasingly integral part of the process of trading in animal feed raw materials. It is paramount that traders are vigilant and implement quality inspections, including during the transport of products. The industry operates various quality assurance systems. The participating companies are fully aware of their responsibilities, and are ready to assume them. Quality assurance of animal feed goes beyond risk management within your own company - it extends to the safety of the entire subsequent chain.



# Healthier without dust

Dust can cause many problems in the agricultural sector. The particles are often contaminated by endotoxins. Inhaling these bacterial residues can result in health problems. The Product Boards for Grains, Seeds and Pulses, Horticulture and Livestock, Meat and Eggs have joined forces to combat this problem.

In many sectors of agriculture, including the animal feed and flour and meal industries, dust is released and employees work with recirculating process water. Employees risk exposure to the endotoxins that may be contained in this dust. Together with the other boards, the Product Board Animal Feed (PDV) has drawn up an action plan to reduce exposure to endotoxins.

The aim of the plan is to stimulate the creation of a good, safe working environment in the animal feed sector. Preventing health problems is the most important aspect. Spearheading this campaign is information designed to increase knowledge and awareness of the endotoxin problem and bring improvements at work floor level. The

boards will investigate if changes to working processes can help reduce the amounts of dust released. For example, sucking up the dust instead of blowing it away. The program also includes a health and hygiene study. The product boards want a far better indication of the actual risks of exposure to endotoxins

This campaign is planned to run for three years and will cost € 530,000. The joint contribution of the products boards involved in the study is € 280,000. The remainder of the money is expected to be funded by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment. One of the conditions for the subsidy was a concrete plan of action - a decision made when the ministry



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.

decided to revoke the exposure standards for endotoxin exposure, the so-called Maximum Allowable Concentration (MAC) values.

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## The added value of collective research

"The government is showing more interest in economy, competitive strength, knowledge expansion and research into welfare. And if welfare and economy go hand in hand, as is often the case with breeding animals and free-range hens, the interests of the government, society and the business sector are parallel. In such

a densely populated country as the Netherlands, social acceptance of livestock husbandry is vital. If collective research can play a role in achieving greater acceptance, it will benefit the entire sector."

The joint research commissioned by the Product Board Animal Feed is coordinated by the Central Bureau for Livestock Feeding (CVB) in Lelystad. Research will only be carried out into areas specified by the animal feed sector. The CVB is also carries out activities concerning the composition, digestibility and nutritional value of feedstuffs for livestock. The CVB publishes the collected knowledge in publications such as the Animal Feed Table and Tables of Animal Feed Composition. The offices also manage the extensive PDV databanks for 'Undesirable Substances and Products' and the 'Feed Materials Risk Assessment Database'.

## GSP-certificate recognised as equal to GMP+

From 2005 grain, seeds and pulse crop (GSP) growers must also be certified for food safety. The processing industry demands hard and fast guarantees for food and feed safety. The basis for the GSP-certificate is the directives of the Dutch Grain, Seeds and Pulses Product Board. The animal feed industry accepts the standards as being equal to GMP+. This move means that quality and safety assurance surrounding the cultivation of grains, seeds and pulses for human and animal consumption will be on equal footing. An advantage for growers of GSP crops is that a single certificate is sufficient, irrespective of the final destination of the produce

For more information, visit [www.gzp.nl](http://www.gzp.nl), 'voedselveiligheid', 'certificering teelt'.



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