



EFSA in focus **ANIMALS**

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> Key topics

EFSA issues scientific advice on Q fever



Following a significant increase of human cases of Q fever in The Netherlands, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has provided scientific advice on this animal disease which can also be transmitted to humans. The opinion addresses the significance of Q fever in animals and humans, different risk factors involved in the occurrence and spread of the disease,

and the effectiveness of possible control measures at the EU level.

EFSA's advice states that infection with *Coxiella burnetii*, the bacterium which causes Q fever, is widespread in cattle, sheep, and goats in the EU. Several factors can affect the spread of the infection between these animals, but the overall impact on

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> STOP PRESS

EFSA provides scientific advice on the spread of common ragweed

EFSA has published a scientific opinion on the possible effects on public health, animal health and the environment of the further spread of weeds from the *Ambrosia* species (including *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, or common ragweed) in the European Union. As requested by the European Commission, the opinion pays particular attention to the role of animal feed, especially birdseed, in helping to spread the weeds.

[For more information.](#)

their health is limited as they rarely develop the disease itself. The opinion suggests that a combination of measures could be used to control Q fever in the long-term and short-term, with preventive vaccination of animals considered to be the most effective long-term option.

The available information indicates that Q fever also has a limited impact on public health, although it can be significant for some risk groups. Humans generally become infected through air-borne transmission of the bacterium. There is no evidence that people can become ill by consuming contaminated milk or meat.

The Chair of EFSA's expert Panel on Animal Health and Welfare, Philippe Vannier, said: *"Cooperation across animal and public health disciplines is key in addressing the risks and challenges posed by a disease such as Q fever. EFSA has therefore worked in close collaboration with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control to provide decision-makers with integrated European-level advice on Q fever covering both human and animal health, as well as the transmission of the disease from animals to humans."*

"We need early exchange of information between veterinarians and human health practitioners to better identify the origin of outbreaks in humans and to implement preventive measures when possible. Importantly, we need to all speak the same language and record data in the same way. Harmonisation of data collection is critical in order to define a more accurate picture of the situation in Europe and how it is evolving over time."

EFSA's opinion states that infection with *Coxiella burnetii*, the bacterium which causes Q fever, is widespread in cattle, sheep, and goats in the EU. Infection with *Coxiella burnetii* can be present in a wide range of different farming systems, but the overall impact on the health of animals is limited as they rarely develop the disease itself. When it occurs, notably in sheep and goats, it may cause reproductive disorders, including abortion.

A number of factors – including proximity to sheep and goats (especially when giving birth) and dry, windy weather – can affect the risk of human infection. However, there is considerable uncertainty about the relative importance of these risk factors, and it is likely that there is often more than one factor involved. No clear link was demonstrated between the spillover of infection from farms to humans and either the size of the farms involved or the virulence of different strains of infection.

The opinion identified a number of measures which could be used to control *Coxiella burnetii* infection in sheep and goats, but stressed that a combination of measures may be needed to deal with both farm-based and environmental routes of infection. Vaccination could be considered as a long-term control option, as it may not be effective in the short term. Some options, including the culling of pregnant animals, were not considered suitable for long-term control but may have a role in the face of an outbreak. Antibiotic treatment of infected animals was not recommended.

The EFSA opinion included a number of recommendations, including the harmonisation of data collection on Q fever in animals so as to enable comparisons over time and between countries. It also stressed the importance of the rapid identification and reporting of Q fever cases in animals, as well as the early exchange of information between veterinarians and public health practitioners.

EFSA has also published a separate report which includes proposals for the development of a harmonised monitoring and reporting scheme for Q fever in animals in the EU Member States and which was referred to extensively in the EFSA opinion. The report was funded by EFSA, in line with Article 36 of its founding regulation, and was prepared by a consortium of scientific institutions from different Member States, led by the French Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments (Afssa). ■

[For more information.](#)

EFSA evaluates parasites in fish

EFSA was asked by the European Commission to assess food safety concerns resulting from possible allergic reactions to parasites in a range of fish products and to assess methods to reduce risks of infection. In its opinion, EFSA's Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ) Panel concludes that the only parasite in fish products for human consumption likely to cause allergic reactions is *Anisakis*, a parasitic worm whose larvae can be found in fish flesh. The opinion of the BIOHAZ Panel gives details on the effectiveness of freezing and heating treatments to kill or inactivate the *Anisakis* larvae.

Allergic reactions are most likely to occur when a person eats fish infected with live larvae. The role and extent to which allergens from *Anisakis* can trigger allergic reactions is still not completely clear; but the risk of allergy is considered to be higher in fish products containing live *Anisakis* larvae than in those containing dead larvae. Allergic reactions to *Anisakis* include gastroenteritis, rheumatological and dermatological symptoms.

The Panel also says that, based on current knowledge, for fish caught in the wild no sea fishing areas can be considered free of *Anisakis* larvae. For the only farmed fish for which sufficient data

are currently available – Atlantic salmon – the Panel concludes that when reared in floating cages or onshore tanks and fed feedstuffs not containing live parasites, the risk that this fish may become infected with *Anisakis* is negligible.

Allergy cases are more frequently recognised in some European regions, and rarely, if at all, reported in other areas in Europe; this may be due to different monitoring systems and consumption habits. It is recommended that the surveillance and diagnosis of allergic reactions to parasites in fish products should be strengthened throughout the EU. The Panel encourages further studies on the disease, including the life cycle of the parasites, their geographic distribution and the role of farming practices in parasite propagation.

The Panel adds that in order to reduce cases of allergies it is important to provide health professionals, people working in the fish industry and the general public with information on the risks resulting from these parasites, as well as on best methods to eliminate them. ■

[For more information.](#)

EFSA evaluates factors contributing to MRSA in pigs

EFSA has published an evaluation of factors that may contribute to the spread of MRSA (Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) in pig holdings in the European Union, following on from the publication of the first EU-wide survey on the occurrence of this bacterium in pigs.

Most MRSA infections are transmitted through direct or indirect human-to-human contact. People can also be exposed to MRSA through contact with infected animals; this is in particular the case for farmers, veterinarians and their families. There is currently no evidence that MRSA can be transmitted to humans through the consumption or handling of contaminated food.

EFSA's survey shows that bigger pig holdings are more likely to be contaminated with MRSA. This was found to be the case for both breeding and production holdings. As an example, the study says that a breeding holding with more than 400 breeding pigs is twice more likely to be contaminated with MRSA compared to one with less than 100 breeding pigs.

In addition, EFSA's analysis highlights that animal movement may play a role in the contamination of breeding pigs' holdings with MRSA: both through the trade of breeding pigs between Member States and the movements of pigs between breeding and



production holdings within the same Member State. The data also show a positive correlation between the number of cases found in breeding holdings and those found in production holdings. This finding suggests that MRSA is transmitted through the movement of animals between the two types of holdings.

EFSA recommends that more information is gathered at national level on those factors that put pig holdings at risk of infection with MRSA and on the measures that can prevent its spread. ■

[For more information.](#)

EFSA publishes technical report on veterinary drug residues in animals and food

Following a request for assistance from the European Commission, EFSA has published a technical report on the occurrence of residues of veterinary drugs in live animals and animal products.

The report's results are included in the 2008 European Commission annual report on the implementation of national residue monitoring plans in the EU Member States.

EFSA's technical report, which also covers other substances such as contaminants, compares reported levels with limits set out in EU legislation in order to protect consumers.

It is based on data provided by the 27 EU Member States for 2008. A total of over 750,000 targeted samples were reported, of which less than 2,000 (0.27%) results were found to be over the legal limits. The frequency of non-compliant results (i.e. those which exceeded maximum limits) was similar to that found in previous years for most regulated veterinary medicines.

Anti-bacterials accounted for the highest proportion of the non-compliant results (46%), followed by hormones (19%) and substances categorised as "other veterinary medicinal products" (18%).



The highest proportion of the non-compliant results were found in pigs (39%), followed by cows (31%) and poultry (17%). However, these animal groups also accounted for the highest number of samples taken. ■

[For more information.](#)

EFSA evaluates possible reduction of *Salmonella* in laying hens



EFSA was asked by the European Commission to evaluate the impact on public health of different reduction levels of *Salmonella* in laying hens. The presence of *Salmonella* in laying hens is considered a risk for humans, as consumers can become infected with the bacterium through eating eggs or meat from these animals. EFSA's work will support any

consideration by the Commission of setting new targets to control *Salmonella*.

EFSA's Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ) Panel said that concerning eggs from laying hens, the type of *Salmonella* most frequently associated with human illness is by far *Salmonella* Enteritidis.

Based on scientific estimates, the Panel found a linear relationship between the number of *Salmonella* Enteritidis positive flocks in the different Member States and the number of eggs contaminated with this micro-organism. This implies

that a reduction in the number of positive flocks would result in a proportional reduction in the number of contaminated eggs.

The Panel also said that it is difficult to give a precise estimation of the impact that a reduction of *Salmonella* positive flocks may have on public health. This is due to the lack of information on the number of *Salmonella* contaminated eggs that may be produced by an infected flock, as well as on the number of human salmonellosis cases linked to the consumption of eggs.

For egg products, the Panel added that technologies commonly used to reduce the number of microorganisms (mainly through pasteurisation) may not be an absolute barrier to *Salmonella* contamination.

Regarding risk of salmonellosis associated with consumption of fresh meat from laying hens, the Panel concluded that there are insufficient data to make a quantitative evaluation.

A series of recommendations on data gathering and surveillance measures are also listed in the opinion in order to improve future assessments.

[For more information.](#)

EFSA assesses risk of *Salmonella* from pig meat

EFSA has assessed the public health risks from *Salmonella* in pigs and the impact of possible control measures. The assessment suggests that pigs and pig meat may be responsible for 10 to 20% of all human cases of salmonellosis in the EU - but with differences between countries - and that controlling *Salmonella* more effectively within the pig meat food chain would have a direct impact on reducing the number of human cases. This work by EFSA's Biological Hazards Panel (BIOHAZ) was at the request of the European Commission and will support the setting of any targets for the reduction of *Salmonella* in pigs across the European Union. To support the Panel opinion and in line with EFSA's strategy on cooperation and networking with Member States, a consortium of institutes from across the European Union was established for the first time. This consortium developed an EU level model to quantify the public health risk of *Salmonella* in the pig meat food chain, from farm to fork.

The Panel found evidence suggesting that the human cases attributable to *Salmonella* in pig meat will mainly depend on the levels of *Salmonella* in pigs and pig meat, as well as on consumption patterns and the relative importance of the other sources of *Salmonella*.

The Panel evaluated a series of measures to reduce the number of human cases of *Salmonella*. These included ensuring pigs in breeding holdings are free from *Salmonella*, ensuring that the feed is also free from *Salmonella*, adequate cleaning and disinfection of holdings, avoiding contamination during slaughter, and decontaminating carcasses. The Panel indicated that these measures should be used in combination and based on the individual situation of each Member State; and that a hundredfold reduction of the number of *Salmonella* bacteria



on contaminated carcasses would result in a 60-80% reduction of the cases of human salmonellosis originating from pig meat consumption.

The experts also indicated that in order to reduce *Salmonella* in pigs going to slaughter, decreasing the levels of *Salmonella* in holdings where pigs are bred would result in highest reduction. In Member States which have high levels of *Salmonella* this would lead to the greatest reduction. The Panel also says that ensuring feed is *Salmonella*-free could lead to further reductions, and, in Member States with lower levels of *Salmonella*, this approach would have the highest impact.

The opinion also recommends that information on the temperature at which the pig meat is kept during transportation and how consumers store it at home is important to further understand the factors that lead to risks for *Salmonella* in humans.

[For more information.](#)

EFSA publishes survey on *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in chicken in the EU

The European Food Safety Authority has published the results of a survey on *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in chicken at slaughterhouses in the European Union. In most EU Member States, a high prevalence of *Campylobacter* was found in chickens, whereas *Salmonella* was less frequently detected. These zoonoses are the cause of the two most reported food-borne diseases in humans in the EU: campylobacteriosis and salmonellosis. This was EFSA's sixth baseline survey on food-borne bacteria carried out at EU level and the first to directly investigate the presence of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in chickens at slaughter.

All Member States participating in the survey carried out in 2008 reported *Campylobacter* in the chickens they sampled. The samples were taken at the beginning and at the end of the slaughter line, that is respectively when the chickens arrive at the slaughterhouse and when their carcasses are chilled after slaughtering. On average, the bacterium was found in the intestines of 71% of chickens, indicating that they were already infected when alive, and on 76% of sampled carcasses, which suggests some further contamination during slaughtering. The survey shows that these figures varied greatly between

Member States. The survey follows a recent opinion of EFSA's Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ) Panel which confirmed that poultry meat appears to be a major, if not the largest, source of campylobacter infection in humans.

The survey also says that 22 Member States reported *Salmonella* in the chicken carcasses they sampled. On average, 15.7% of sampled carcasses were found to be contaminated, although figures varied between Member States. Of the various types of *Salmonella*, 17 Member States reported the types Enteritidis and Typhimurium, which are responsible for most *Salmonella* infections in humans.

The aim of the survey was to provide comparable figures for all participating Member States in order to give an overview of the prevalence at slaughter of *Campylobacter* in chickens and of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in chicken carcasses. The survey also sets out recommendations, in particular for further research on factors affecting the spread of *Campylobacter* in chicken meat production and on best methods for surveillance and control of *Campylobacter*.

[For more information.](#)

EFSA re-assesses the analytical sensitivity of two BSE rapid tests

In 2009, EFSA's Biological Hazards Panel (BIOHAZ) was asked to evaluate the results of a study on the analytical sensitivity of all approved TSE rapid tests. In the resulting opinion, the Panel concluded that some tests cannot be recommended for TSE monitoring in small ruminants.



In addition, the Panel concluded that more data were needed to determine whether some tests, used to test for BSE in cattle, fulfilled the requirements foreseen in terms of analytical sensitivity. In February 2010, new data on those BSE rapid tests were submitted to EFSA for re-assessment. Based on these additional data, in April 2010, the Panel concluded that those BSE tests performed within the range for analytical sensitivity set out in the EFSA protocols for evaluating TSE rapid post mortem tests.

TSE rapid tests are used to detect Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies, such as BSE and scrapie, in animals. The BIOHAZ Panel is involved in preparing the protocols for evaluating new tests, including ante and post mortem tests. Moreover, the Panel is involved in the different steps of this evaluation procedure, in collaboration with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre's Institute for Reference Material and Measurements.

[For more information.](#)

Be part of Europe's network of top food safety scientists



- Make a difference to European food safety
- Deliver scientific advice to Europe's risk managers
- Be considered for EFSA's Scientific Committee and Panels

The role of EFSA

EFSA is the European Union's scientific risk assessment body on food and feed safety, nutrition, animal health and welfare, and plant health and protection, tackling issues all along the food chain. Its Scientific Committee and Panels consist of independent scientists from universities, research institutions and national food safety authorities. They deliver high-quality scientific advice for Europe's decision-makers to act on and protect consumers, animals and plants.

EFSA currently seeks independent experts for its Scientific Committee and Panels.

EFSA's Scientific Committee and Panels

- Experts sought to join the Food Additives & Nutrient Sources and the Food Contact Materials, Enzymes & Flavourings Panels, starting in 2011. Experts can sit on Panels for up to 3 years, renewable.
- Experts also sought to join a reserve list for all Panels to cover plant health and plant protection, GMOs, feedstuffs, animal health and welfare, toxicology, contaminants in the food chain, biological hazards, dietetic products, allergies, novel foods and nutrition, and may be called any time.
- Selected through an open procedure based on proven scientific excellence and independence.

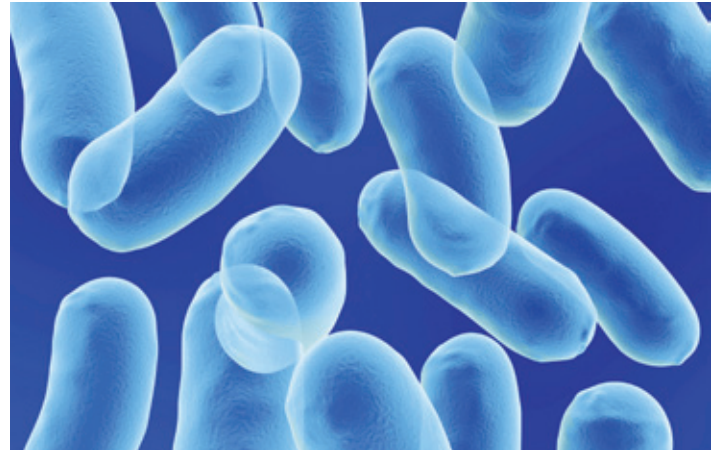
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EFSA reports on antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic bacteria over 2004-2007

EFSA has published a report which says that resistance to antimicrobials is found among the most common zoonotic bacteria originating from animals and food in the EU, such as *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*. The zoonotic bacteria that are resistant to antimicrobials are of concern since they might compromise the effective treatment of diseases in humans.

Resistance to antibiotics such as ampicillin, sulphonamide and tetracycline was commonly found among tested zoonotic bacteria. In addition, several Member States reported resistance to fluoroquinolones, macrolides or third generation cephalosporins, which are important antibiotics in treating diseases in humans. In particular, high levels of fluoroquinolone resistance were recorded in *Salmonella* in poultry and in *Campylobacter* in poultry, pigs and cattle, as well as in broiler meat.

During the years 2004-2007, 26 Member States sent their data to EFSA's Zoonoses unit for the report, which is the third and final part of EFSA's annual "Community Summary Report on Trends and Sources of Zoonoses and Zoonotic Agents in the European



Union in 2007". This Report also covered zoonotic agents and food-borne outbreaks in the EU.

[For more information.](#)

EFSA publishes review of data collection activities

EFSA has published a report outlining its current activities and future priorities in the area of data collection. The report underlines that accurate, comprehensive and comparable data on the occurrence of different substances or microorganisms in food, as well as on food consumption habits, are essential for EFSA to be able to deliver high-quality risk assessments and advice on nutritional and health concerns. This, in turn, helps to provide the best possible protection to European consumers.

EFSA bases its scientific advice on the most comprehensive and up-to-date data which are available and, working closely with EU Member States and other partners, the Authority has made considerable progress in recent years. The report highlights in particular EFSA's annual Community Zoonoses Report and the Annual Report on Pesticide Residues in Food, as well as ad-hoc reports on the occurrence of *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* and chemical contaminants including acrylamide and dioxins.

EFSA is currently in the process of extending its European food consumption database. However, EU Member States use different methods to collect food consumption data, which makes it difficult to carry out EU-wide analyses or country-to-country comparisons. In close cooperation with the EU Member States, EFSA is therefore supporting harmonised food consumption data collection. This should allow more efficient and accurate exposure assessments to be carried out.

In line with Article 33 of EFSA's founding regulation, this report on EFSA's activities in the area of data collection has been sent to the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers.

[For more information.](#)

EFSA to strengthen cooperation with its Stakeholder Platform



Members of the European Food Safety Authority's Stakeholder Consultative Platform met on 13 and 14 April 2010 to discuss a number of scientific topics as well as the strengthening of EFSA's relationship with the representatives of consumer, industry and environmental groups in order to boost cooperation.

EFSA launched two new projects at the meeting aimed at stimulating further stakeholder involvement in the Authority's activities and at encouraging greater contribution to EFSA's scientific work. One project, called the Rolling Work Plan, lists all EFSA activities and events organised for, and with, the Stakeholder Platform and other stakeholder organisations throughout the year. The members also agreed to establish a Working Group to look at ways to increase the engagement of

Working together

stakeholder organisations and consumers in EFSA's activities. The Working Group will come up with proposals to bring to the Platform plenary meeting in November.

At the meeting in Brussels, the stakeholders were also informed about plans to establish a pan-European food consumption survey, called the EU Menu. Coordinated by EFSA and in cooperation with Member States, the survey will allow the collection of detailed and harmonised food consumption data from individuals of all ages across the European Union essential for EFSA's work.

Continuing EFSA's dialogue with stakeholders on its work in nutrition, the head of EFSA's Dietetic products, nutrition and allergies (NDA) unit, Juliane Kleiner, provided an overview of the Authority's activities in nutrition, such as the setting of dietary reference values that can be used across the EU for establishing nutritional recommendations. She also explained EFSA's work on food-based dietary guidelines, labelling reference intake values and the NDA Panel's latest work on health claims evaluations.

EFSA Executive Director Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle updated the Platform members on the priorities and challenges for 2010 and 2011. Stakeholders were presented with the results of target audience research in the EU and beyond, commissioned by EFSA, which triggered considerable interest and discussion. Findings indicated that EFSA has become a well-respected European body, producing independent, science-based support for its policy makers. The findings also showed that EFSA should provide more predictable timetables for its scientific work, improve the simplicity of its communications and continue to strengthen its Member State network. The research has also helped shape the review of EFSA's communications strategy for 2010-2013. Presented to the Management Board last month, the draft communications strategy was also discussed with stakeholders before the document is published for public consultation. ■

[For more information.](#)

EFSA's expert database two years on

Two years have passed since EFSA launched its database of scientific experts on 5 June 2008, a key tool for EFSA and EU Member States to draw on when searching for experts to deliver high-quality independent scientific advice. Over these two years, the database has grown to over 2,500 experts covering all the main areas of EFSA's remit.

EFSA uses the expert database to look for specialist knowledge in a given field when it is setting up working groups to support the activities carried out by the Authority's Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels, and EFSA's Networks. The database has contributed and will continue to further reinforce EFSA's capacity to deliver high-quality independent scientific advice and to assist the Authority with its growing workload.

Members States, countries in the European Economic Area/European Free Trade Association (EEA/EFTA) and the European Commission are also able to query the database in search of expertise. Around 90% of the experts have indicated their willingness to share their profiles with external users of the database.

EFSA users, national authorities in Members States and EEA/EFTA countries are very satisfied with the database, according to results from a survey carried out in autumn 2009. They encourage its further improvement and growth.

The expert database remains permanently open. EFSA encourages all experts who have not already signed up to do so. ■

[For more information.](#)

> Scientific contracts and grants

One of EFSA's priorities is enhanced cooperation and networking in Europe. In this context, EFSA uses grants and procurement to carry out scientific cooperation with organisations from across the EU and beyond.

The Authority can financially support, through grants, projects and activities that contribute to EFSA's mission according to Article 36 of its Founding Regulation. This financial support is exclusively given to competent organisations capable of assisting EFSA in its work, who have answered successfully a specific call for proposals. These are organisations on a list, drawn up and regularly updated by EFSA's Management Board on the basis of nominations made by Member States.

EFSA is committed to openness, transparency and dialogue. As a result EFSA also regularly publishes calls for tenders on a number of scientific subjects. Contracts are awarded by strictly following EU public procurement rules.

External reports published

[Toward an information system on broiler welfare: Genetic selection aspects \(TOGA\)](#)

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/57e.htm>

[Epidemiology of different agents causing disease in aquatic animals](#)

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/37e.htm>

Quantitative microbiological risk assessment on *Salmonella* in slaughter and breeder pigs<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/46e.htm>**Report of crisis simulation exercise**<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/41e.htm>**Development of harmonised schemes for the monitoring and reporting of Q-fever in animals in the European Union**<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/48e.htm>**> Mandates accepted****Mandates accepted: January-May 2010**Information on all other on-going requests is available in EFSA's [register of questions](#).**Animal Health & Welfare (AHAW)****Consultation on health and welfare aspects of genetic selection in broilers**

Deadline: 30-Jun-10 Mandate number: M-2009-0087

Scientific opinion concerning the practice of harvesting feathers from live geese for down production

Deadline: 15-Nov-10 Mandate number: M-2009-0334

Scientific opinion on Q-fever

Deadline: 30-Apr-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0007

Scientific opinion on the increased mortality events in oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*)

Deadline: 31-Oct-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0008

Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ)**Request for a Scientific Opinion on Resistance caused by bacterial strains producing extended-spectrum cephalosporinases in food and food-producing animals**

Deadline: 30-Jun-11 Mandate number: M-2010-0187

Public consultation on the revision of the joint AFC/BIOHAZ guidance document on the submission of data for the evaluation of safety and efficacy of substances for the removal of microbial surface contamination of food of animal origin intended for human consumption.

Deadline: 22-Feb-10 Mandate number: M-2009-0008

Neste Oil Application for new alternative method of disposal or use of animal by-products

Deadline: 30-Sep-10 Mandate number: M-2009-0266

Review and up-date of the scientific data, methodology and review of the quantitative risk assessment (QRA) of the residual BSE risk in mammalian derived meat and bone meal

Deadline: 30-Sep-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0001

Scientific opinion on Q-fever

Deadline: 30-Apr-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0007

BSE/TSE infectivity in small ruminant tissues

Deadline: 01-Sep-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0041

***Salmonella* Typhimurium-like strains**

Deadline: 30-Sep-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0043

Request for technical assistance on the format for applications for new alternative methods for animal by-products

Deadline: 31-Jul-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0058

Request for a scientific opinion to assess the parameters with respect to hygiene which may be relevant for the production of fish oil

Deadline: 30-Sep-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0117

Self-tasking mandate for a scientific opinion on the maintenance of the list of QPS recommended biological agents intentionally added to food or feed as notified to EFSA (2010 update)

Mandate number: M-2010-0067

Analytical sensitivity of approved TSE rapid tests

Deadline: 30-Apr-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0090

Scientific opinion on the results of the EU survey for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in cervids

Deadline: 30-Sep-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0117

Contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)
Request for assessment of recent scientific information on the toxicity of ochratoxin A

Deadline: 31-May-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0031

Ergot alkaloids

Deadline: 30-Jun-11 Mandate number: M-2010-0092

Report on toxicity data on trichothecene mycotoxins HT-2 and T-2 toxins

Deadline: 18-Jun-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0116

Further elaboration and update on the published opinions on marine biotoxins in shellfish on the basis of new consumption data

Deadline: 31-Jul-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0150

Statement of EFSA on the possible risks for public and animal health from the contamination of the feed and food chain due to possible ash fall following the eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland

Deadline: 23-Apr-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0181

Experimental study: uptake of coccidiostats in vegetables

Deadline: 30-Sep-11 Mandate number: M-2010-0215

Emerging Risks (EMRISK)
Internal mandate for a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) for the customisation of MedISys for the monitoring of food and feed hazards.

Deadline: 31-Dec-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0210

Internal Collaboration Working Group on emerging risks in food and feed

Deadline: 31-Dec-10 Mandate number: M-2009-0344

Stakeholder Consultative Group on emerging risks

Deadline: 31-Dec-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0063

Working Group on data collection for the identification of emerging risks related to food and feed

Deadline: 31-Dec-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0130

Crisis preparedness training

Deadline: 30-Apr-11 Mandate number: M-2010-0141

Establishing an Emerging Risks Exchange Network

Deadline: 31-Dec-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0180

Feed Additives (FEEDAP)

Optiphos® (6 phytase) for chickens and turkeys for fattening, chickens reared for laying, laying hens, turkeys reared for breeding, other birds for fattening and laying, weaned piglets, pigs for fattening and sows

Deadline: Under consideration Mandate number: M-2010-0123

Econase XT (endo-1,4-beta-xylanase) for laying hens, pigs for fattening and minor species, including ducks, geese, quails, pheasants, pigeons

Deadline: Under Consideration Mandate number: M-2010-0115

Ronozyme® RumiStar (L/CT) (alpha-amylase) for dairy cows

Deadline: 07-Dec-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0112

Hostazym® X (endo-1,4-beta xylanase) for chickens for fattening, turkeys for fattening, laying hens, weaned piglets, fattening pigs and other birds for fattening or laying

Deadline: Under Consideration Mandate number: M-2010-0029

Chemically defined flavourings from Chemical Group 01 - Straight-chain primary aliphatic alcohols/aldehydes/acids, acetal and esters with esters containing saturated alcohols and acetals containing saturated aldehydes: 86 substances for all animal species and categories

Deadline: 11-Nov-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0153

Chemically defined flavourings from Chemical Group 02 - Branched-chain primary aliphatic alcohols/aldehydes/acids, acetal and esters with esters containing branched-chain alcohols and acetals containing branched-chain aldehydes: 34 substances for all animal species and categories

Deadline: 11-Nov-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0152

Cylactin®/Cernivet® (*Enterococcus faecium*) for calves, lambs and kids for rearing and fattening

Deadline: Additional data request Mandate number: M-2010-0006

Fecinor and Fecinor Plus (*Enterococcus faecium*) for chickens for fattening

Deadline: Additional data request Mandate number: M-2009-0336

KemTRACE Zn (Zinc propionate) for all species

Deadline: Additional data request Mandate number: M-2009-0265

Beta carotene for all animal species and categories

Deadline: Additional data request Mandate number: M-2009-0286

Clinacox 0.5 % (diclazuril) for guinea-fowl

Deadline: 28-Oct-10 Mandate number: M-2009-0335

GalliPro®Tect (*Bacillus licheniformis*) for chickens for fattening

Deadline: Additional data request Mandate number: M-2009-0337

Technical Guidance on the safety of use of *Bacillus* species in animal nutrition

Deadline: 31-Dec-10 Mandate number: M-2009-0338

Evaluation of the safety of hemp as animal feed

Deadline: 21-Dec-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0013

Update of the "Guidance for the preparation of dossiers for technological additives" to include the new functional group "substances for reduction of the contamination of feed by mycotoxins"

Deadline: 30-Sep-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0014

AveMix® XG 10 (endo-1,3(4)-beta-glucanase and endo-1,4-beta-xylanase) for weaned piglets

Deadline: Additional data request Mandate number: M-2010-0015

FINASE EC (6-phytase) for turkeys

Deadline: 31-Mar-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0055

Bonvital (*Enterococcus faecium*) for chickens for fattening

Deadline: 31-May-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0056

Mandates accepted

Miya-Gold® EU (*Clostridium butyricum* MYYAIRI 588) for weaned piglets, minor porcine (relevant) and minor avian species

Deadline: 23-Sep-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0113

Danisco Glycosidase (TPT/L) (endo-1,4-beta-xylanase and endo-1,3(4)-beta-glucanase) for poultry, piglets (weaned) and pigs for fattening

Deadline: 30-Sep-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0114

ZOONOSES (Data Collection)

Internal Mandate for a contract on in-depth analyses of data on microbiological contaminants in food from the years 2005-2009

Deadline: 31-Dec-11 Mandate number: M-2010-0228

Statistical analysis of data on antimicrobial resistance

Deadline: 31-Mar-11 Mandate number: M-2010-0087

Community Summary Report on antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic agents in 2009 in EU

Deadline: 28-Feb-11 Mandate number: M-2010-0089

Summary report on *Salmonella* source attribution from serovar and phagetype data

Deadline: 28-Feb-11 Mandate number: M-2010-0148

Community Summary Report on zoonoses, zoonotic agents and food-borne outbreaks in 2009 in EU

Deadline: 31-Dec-10 Mandate number: M-2010-0164

Community Summary Report on zoonoses, zoonotic agents and food-borne outbreaks in 2010 in EU

Deadline: 31-Dec-11 Mandate number: M-2010-0178

> Opinions and other outputs adopted

Opinions and other outputs adopted: January-May 2010

Disclaimer: This is not the full list of all EFSA opinions but only those considered relevant to this newsletter.

Animal Health & Welfare (AHAW)

Scientific Opinion on Q-fever

Adopted on: 27-Apr-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2010-00010
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1595.htm>

The risk of introduction of African swine fever into the EU, especially from the Caucasus or Eastern Europe

Adopted on: 11-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00506
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1556.htm>

Bovine Besnoitiosis: an emerging disease in Europe

Adopted on: 28-Jan-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00879
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1499.htm>

Assessment Methodology (AMU)

Application of systematic review methodology to food and feed safety assessments to support decision making

Adopted on: 26-May-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-717
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1637.htm>

Quantitative risk assessment of *Salmonella* Enteritidis in shell eggs in Europe

Adopted on: 19-Apr-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00790
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1588.htm>

Coding manual for data collection of existing data on protected crop system in the European Member States

Adopted on: 26-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2010-00686
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1568.htm>

Database of guidance on different toxicity end-points, risk assessment methodologies and data collection related to food, feed, animal health and welfare and plant health

Adopted on: 22-Feb-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00944
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1518.htm>

Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ)**Statement on food safety considerations of novel H1N1 influenza virus infections in humans**

Adopted on: 27-May-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-01000
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1629.htm>

Scientific Opinion on Analytical sensitivity of approved TSE rapid tests – new data for assessment of two rapid tests

Adopted on: 22-Apr-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2010-00114
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1591.htm>

Scientific Opinion on Q-fever

Adopted on: 22-Apr-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2010-00772

Scientific Opinion on risk assessment of parasites in fishery products

Adopted on: 11-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00516
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1543.htm>

Revision of the joint AFC/BIOHAZ guidance document on the submission of data for the evaluation of safety and efficacy of substances for the removal of microbial surface contamination of food of animal origin intended for human consumption

Adopted on: 11-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00196

Scientific Opinion on a quantitative estimation of the public health impact of setting a new target for the reduction of *Salmonella* in laying hens

Adopted on: 11-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-292
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1546.htm>

Scientific Opinion on a Quantitative Microbiological Risk Assessment of *Salmonella* in slaughter and breeder pigs

Adopted on: 11-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2006-176
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1547.htm>

Scientific Opinion on the link between *Salmonella* criteria at different stages of the poultry production chain

Adopted on: 10-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-294
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1545.htm>

The assessment of the comparison of the Australian monitoring programme for carcasses to requirements in Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 on microbiological criteria on foodstuffs

Adopted on: 17-Feb-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-680
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1452.htm>

Contaminants in the food chain (CONTAM)**Statement on recent scientific information on the toxicity of Ochratoxin A**

Adopted on: 19-May-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2010-00038
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1626.htm>

Scientific Opinion on marine biotoxins in shellfish – Cyclic imines (spirolides, gymnodimines, pinnatoxins and pteriatoxins)

Adopted on: 19-May-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2006-065F
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1628.htm>

Emerging toxins - ciguatoxins

Adopted on: 18-May-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00955
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1627.htm>

Statement of EFSA on the possible risks for public and animal health from the contamination of the feed and food chain due to possible ash-fall following the eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland

Adopted on: **26-Apr-10** Question number: **EFSA-Q-2010-00793**
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1593.htm>

Effect on public or animal health or on the environment on the presence of seeds of *Ambrosia* spp. in animal feed

Adopted on: **19-Mar-10** Question number: **EFSA-Q-2009-00655**
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1566.htm>

Scientific Opinion on lead in food

Adopted on: **18-Mar-10** Question number: **EFSA-Q-2007-137**
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1570.htm>

Scientific Opinion on melamine in food and feed

Adopted on: **18-Mar-10** Question number: **EFSA-Q-2009-00234**
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1573.htm>

Emerging Risks (EMRISK)**Collection and routine analysis of import surveillance data with a view to identification of emerging risks**

Adopted on: **25-Jan-10** Question number: **EFSA-Q-2009-00854**
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1531.htm>

Establishment and maintenance of routine analysis of data from the Rapid Alert System on Food and Feed

Adopted on: **05-Jan-10** Question number: **EFSA-Q-2009-00495**
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1449.htm>

Feed Additives (FEEDAP)**Scientific Opinion on Bonvital (*Enterococcus faecium*) as a feed additive for chickens for fattening**

Adopted on: **27-May-10** Question number: **EFSA-Q-2010-00070**
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1636.htm>

Scientific Opinion on the safety and efficacy of vitamin E as a feed additive for all animal species

Adopted on: **26-May-10** Question number: **EFSA-Q-2009-00816**
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1635.htm>

Scientific Opinion on the safety and efficacy of Ronozyme® NP (6-phytase) as a feed additive for sows

Adopted on: **25-May-10** Question number: **EFSA-Q-2009-00536**
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1634.htm>

Scientific Opinion on Safety and efficacy of AviPlus® as feed additive for weaned piglets

Adopted on: **25-May-10** Question number: **EFSA-Q-2008-701**
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1633.htm>

Scientific Opinion on the safety and efficacy of Maxiban® G160 (narasin and nicarbazin) for chickens for fattening

Adopted on: **07-Apr-10** Question number: **EFSA-Q-2008-474**
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1574.htm>

Scientific Opinion on the safety and efficacy of Avatec® 150G (lasalocid A sodium) for turkeys

Adopted on: **07-Apr-10** Question number: **EFSA-Q-2008-751**
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1575.htm>

Scientific Opinion on the efficacy of Biosaf Sc 47 (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) for calves for rearing

Adopted on: **07-Apr-10** Question number: **EFSA-Q-2008-783**
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1576.htm>

Scientific Opinion on the modification of authorisation of the feed additive Monteban® G100 (narasin) for chickens for fattening

Adopted on: **10-Mar-10** Question number: **EFSA-Q-2009-00502**
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1549.htm>

Scientific Opinion on the modification of the terms of authorisation of Quantum™ (6-phytase) as a feed additive for laying hens

Adopted on: 10-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00804
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1550.htm>

Scientific Opinion on the safety and efficacy of Koffogran (nicarbazin) as a feed additive for chickens for fattening

Adopted on: 10-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00225
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1551.htm>

Scientific Opinion on the compatibility of the microbial product 035 (*Bacillus subtilis*) with lasalocid sodium, maduramycin ammonium, monensin sodium, narasin, salinomycin sodium and semduramycin sodium

Adopted on: 10-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00803
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1552.htm>

Scientific Opinion on the safety of Finase® EC (6-phytase) as a feed additive for turkeys for fattening

Adopted on: 10-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2010-00069
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1553.htm>

Scientific Opinion on the safety and efficacy of *Pediococcus pentosaceus* (DSM 16244) as a feed additive for all animal species

Adopted on: 03-Feb-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00717
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1502.htm>

ZOONOSES (Data Collection)**Analysis of the baseline survey on the prevalence of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in holdings with breeding pigs, in the EU, 2008 - Part B: factors associated with MRSA contamination of holdings**

Adopted on: 10-May-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-417B
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1597.htm>

User manual for the zoonoses reporting web application in 2009

Adopted on: 12-Apr-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00710

Community Summary Report data on *Salmonella* in laying hens: extraction, validation and management in support of BIOHAZ

Adopted on: 31-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00551

Manual for Reporting of Food-borne outbreaks in the framework of Directive 2003/99/EC from the reporting year 2009

Adopted on: 31-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00709
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1578.htm>

Manual for Reporting on Zoonoses, Zoonotic Agents and Antimicrobial Resistance in the framework of Directive 2003/99/EC and of some other pathogenic microbiological agents for information derived from the reporting year 2009

Adopted on: 31-Mar-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2009-00697
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1579.htm>

The Community Summary Report on antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and indicator bacteria from animals and food in the European Union in 2004-2007

Adopted on: 28-Feb-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-673
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1309.htm>

Technical specifications for monitoring Community trends in zoonotic agents in foodstuffs and animal populations

Adopted on: 28-Feb-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-263
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1530.htm>

Analysis of the baseline survey on the prevalence of *Campylobacter* in broiler batches and of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* on broiler carcasses in the EU, 2008

Adopted on: 31-Jan-10 Question number: EFSA-Q-2008-416A
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/scdocs/scdoc/1503.htm>



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