

PROPOSED DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE ON GOOD ANIMAL FEEDING

SECTION 6. ON-FARM PRODUCTION AND USE OF FEEDINGSTUFFS

[At Step 3 of the Procedure]

This section applies to farm level production, procurement, handling, storage, processing and distribution of feed and feed ingredients, and the proper use of feedingstuffs for food producing animals, including aquatic animals.

On-farm manufacturing of feedingstuffs should follow the same principles as industrial feed production and adherence to Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP). Where possible, GMP is encouraged during all stages of on-farm manufacturing of animal feed for food producing animals, to help ensure the safety of animal origin food for human consumption. Three types of contamination represent hazards at most stages of on-farm production of feeds, namely;

- **biological**, such as bacteria, fungi and other microbial pathogens,
- **chemical**, such as residues of, medication, pesticides, fertilizer or other agricultural substances,
- **physical**, such as broken needles, machinery and other foreign material.

6.1. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION OF FEED

6.1.1. Production of pastures, cereal grain and forage crops

Adherence to Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) is encouraged in the production of natural, improved and cultivated pastures, forage and cereal grain crops used as feed or feed ingredients for food producing animals. Following GAP standards will minimise the risk of biological, chemical and physical contaminants entering the food chain. If non-food crop residuals and stubbles are grazed after harvest, or otherwise enter the food-chain, they should also be managed as livestock feed. Most livestock will consume a portion of their bedding and crops that produce bedding material should also be managed as a livestock feed. Good pasture management practices, such as rotational grazing and dispersion of manure droppings, should be used to reduce biological cross-contamination between groups of animals. On farm feed needs to be properly conserved to avoid the occurrence of rodent filth and pathogen cycling.

6.1.1.1. Manure Fertilizer

Where manure fertilisation of crops on pastures is practised, an appropriate manure handling and storage system should be in place and maintained to minimise environmental contamination, particularly to ground water and waterways through run-off. There should be adequate time between applying the manure and grazing, to allow the manure to decompose and to minimise biological contamination. Similarly, manure applied to ponds to enhance productivity should be composted for an adequate period prior to use to attenuate human pathogens.

The systems must comply with any local regulatory requirements in place. Manure, compost and other plant nutrients should be properly used and applied to croplands, pastures and ponds to minimise biological and chemical contamination of crops and the environment.

The source and safety of manure or sludge sourced off-farm should be assured of quality by appropriate means.

6.1.1.2. Chemical Fertilizers

Appropriate handling, storage and application systems should be in place and maintained to minimise environmental contamination, particularly to ground water and waterways through run-off and drift during application. The systems must comply with any local regulatory requirements in place.

6.1.1.3. Agricultural Chemicals

Where possible, agricultural chemicals should be obtained from reputable suppliers who follow HACCP principles in the manufacture of their products. If regulatory system is in place, then those chemical used must be registered with that agency

Agricultural chemicals should be stored safely in clearly labelled, secure containers in clean, dry areas separate from other inputs and livestock feed. Herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers and other agricultural chemicals should be used for the purpose indicated, applied at the rates, frequencies and in the manner indicated in the instructions for use. Records of the application should be maintained, including the name and content of the chemical used, when and how they were applied.

Withholding periods for harvesting, stocking, feeding or grazing should be strictly observed.

Chemicals should be disposed of responsibly in a manner that will not lead to contamination of any water body, soil, feed or feed ingredients.

6.1.1.4. Site Selection and water use

Land used for production of livestock feeds should not be located in a proximity to industrial operations where industrial pollutants from air or ground water would be expected to contaminate the pastures, harvested crops or crop residuals. Runoff from adjacent land and irrigation water should be free of any biological or chemical contaminants that may present a risk to food safety.

6.1.2. Water

Water for irrigation should not contain any biological or chemical contaminants that have the potential to be ingested in significant quantities by animals that consume the products of the irrigation.

6.2. MANUFACTURING OF FEED ON-FARM

6.2.1. Production

On-farm mixing or production of feedingstuffs should be conducted in accordance with HACCP or GMP principles.

As HACCP principles have been scientifically demonstrated, farmers may have the option to follow GMP or HACCP principles.

6.2.2. Ingredients

Feed ingredients produced on the farm should be produced in accordance with good agricultural practice (subsection 6.1).

Sowing seed treated by chemicals other than approved grain protectorants should not be used.

Feed ingredients from off the farm should be sourced from reputable suppliers and should be inspected at delivery to detect any contaminants that may present a risk to food safety. Rejected feed ingredients should be clearly identified and promptly returned to the supplier.

Waste and contaminated or spoiled materials should be safely disposed of to avoid contamination of the feed and feed ingredients, water supply and other feed sources.

Only approved/registered veterinary chemicals and feed additives should be used.

6.2.3. Mixing

Mixing and processing premises should be kept as clean and as free of pests as practicable and should be designed and maintained to prevent water damage of feed ingredients and feed. Mixing machinery should be appropriate, easily operated, cleaned and maintained. Entry of personnel and animals, including pets, into the premises should be controlled.

Feed should be mixed in a manner that will minimise the potential for cross-contamination between ingredients and feed or other products that may have an effect on the safety, efficacy or withholding period for the feed. Medicated feeds should be accurately and adequately mixed so that the correct level of veterinary drug and/or food additive is supplied to livestock in a manner that is representative. Only approved veterinary drugs and feed additives should be used.

Mixing machinery should be cleaned after a run to prevent cross-contamination between batches.

6.2.4. Storage

Feed and feed ingredients should be clearly identified and be stored separately to preserve their identity and prevent cross-contamination, including with medicated feeds. Feed ingredients that may require analysis to ensure food safety should be adequately identified and isolated until approval for their use is obtained.

Feed and feed ingredients should be stored in a manner so that rotation of stock occurs, preferably on a "first in first out" basis, to discourage microbial growth of contaminants and to ensure the proper activity of feed additives, including medicaments.

Storage areas should be structurally sound, adequately maintained and kept clean, dry and at an appropriate temperature and humidity to minimise microbial growth. Where appropriate, pathogen control procedures should also be used. Effective pest control regimes should be implemented. Access by wildlife and other animals should be minimised.

Buildings and storage containers should be well ventilated and monitored to minimise contamination or deterioration of feed and feed ingredients.

6.2.5. Monitoring

Appropriate records of GMP or HACCP procedures followed by on-farm feed mixers should be maintained to assist investigations of possible feed related contamination or disease events.

6.2.5.1. Records

Records should be kept of incoming feed ingredients, date of receipt and batches of feed produced. A regular inventory of feed ingredients should be carried out to ensure that the correct feed ingredients have been used in the correct quantities. In some production systems, general feeding plans may be more appropriate.

Records should also be kept of master formulas and mixing instructions and the dates on which feeds were mixed and used. Where veterinary drugs or feed additives are used, a record of procedures for adding these should be kept to promote accuracy and prevent contamination of other feed mixes. Records of the use of veterinary drugs in feed mixes should be kept.

6.3. GOOD ANIMAL FEEDING PRACTICE

Good Animal Feeding Practice helps ensure the proper use of feed and feed ingredients on-farm while minimising the possible biological, chemical and physical risks to food animals and to consumers of this product.

6.3.1. Pasture grazing

The grazing of pastures, croplands or of ponds or other water bodies should be managed in a way that minimises the contamination of livestock by biological and chemical food safety hazards.

Where appropriate, an adequate rest period should be observed before allowing livestock to graze on pasture, crops and crop residuals and between grazing rotations to minimise biological cross-contamination from manure, where such a potential problem exists and to ensure that the withholding periods for agricultural chemical applications are observed.

6.3.2. Feeding Manufactured feed

This section refers to feed manufactured both off-farm and on-farm.

6.3.2.1. Off-farm Production

Feed and feed ingredients purchased should contain minimal chemical and biological residues and should be obtained from reputable suppliers who follow GMP or HACCP principles where possible. Feed blocks and salt licks should be used as recommended by the manufacturer.

6.3.2.2. Distribution

The on-farm feed distribution system should ensure that the correct feed is sent to the right animal group. During distribution and feeding, feed should be handled so that biological and chemical contamination does not occur from contaminated storage areas and equipment. Non-medicated feeds should be handled separately from medicated feeds to prevent contamination.

6.3.2.3. Medicated Feeds

Ensure that medicated feeds are transported to the correct location and are fed to animals that require the medication. To prevent unsafe medication residues in animal products, use feed that does not contain drugs and chemicals. Where medicated feeds are used, that could produce residues in food, correct withholding periods must be maintained and records kept. Feed transport vehicles and feeding equipment used to deliver and distribute medicated feed should be cleaned after use, if a different medicated feed or undedicated feed is to be transported next.

Animals receiving medicated feeds should be identified until the withholding period has expired.

6.3.3. Stable feeding and lot/intensive feeding unit

6.3.3.1. Location

The animal production unit should be located in an area that does not expose the animals and their end-products to the risk of biological and chemical contamination.

6.3.3.2. Hygiene

The livestock production unit should be designed so that it can be adequately cleaned. The livestock production unit and feeding equipment should be thoroughly cleaned regularly to prevent build-up of biological and chemical hazards. Chemicals used for cleaning and sanitising should be used according to instructions, labelled and stored away from feed and feeding areas.

A pest control system should be put in place to control the access of pests to the animal production unit to minimise the possibility of biological contamination of feed and bedding materials or culture units.

Buildings and feeding equipment should be kept clean. Systems should be put in place to regularly remove manure, waste material and other possible sources of biological contamination of feed.

Ensure that feed and bedding material used in the animal production unit is frequently changed and is not allowed to become mouldy and that mouldy feed and bedding material is not consumed by animals.

Operators and employees working in the animal production unit should observe appropriate hygiene standards to minimise the possibility of biological cross-contamination of feed.

6.3.4. Water

Drinking and water for aquaculture should be of adequate quantity and quality for animals. Where there is reason to be concerned about biological or chemical contamination of livestock through drinking water, or through direct contact of aquatic animals, measures should be taken to evaluate and minimise the hazards. Watering systems should be cleaned and monitored regularly, where possible.