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News & Views

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In this issue:

New Assurance Directorate

As part of the recent change to MPI to establish four branded business units (see March issue), the Systems Audit, Assurance and Monitoring (SAAM) Directorate has been restructured. Under Director Allan Kinsella, who was also SAAM Director, we are now the Assurance Directorate, Regulation & Assurance Branch, New Zealand Food Safety, Ministry for Primary Industries.

Several changes to better align animal and plant functions have been made. New or restructured Assurance Directorate teams created are:

- Food & Live Animal Assurance Team (see page 6)
  Live Animal Export Assurance Team
- Plant, Wine & Organic Assurance Team (see page 7).

The following SAAM teams that are in the new Assurance Directorate remain unchanged:

- ACVM Programmes & Appraisals Team
- Chemical & Microbiological Assurance Team
- Systems Audit Team.

New Physical Address

The Assurance Directorate, i.e. all the above teams, is now located in the TSB Tower Building, Lambton Quay and Waring Taylor Street corner, Wellington.

Courier and postal addresses have not changed--these contacts are still:

Pastoral House
25 The Terrace
PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand 6140

New Zealand Food Safety
Haumaru Kai Aotearoa

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

Farewell to Glen

In May we farewelled ACVM Programmes & Appraisals Manager **Glen Bradbury,** who has taken a more hands-on role within the Food Regulation Directorate of MPI, assessing the provision of regulatory services under the Food Act as we head towards the end of transition. The move, which was for family reasons, has taken him from Wellington to sunny Tauranga.

Glen was with ACVM for seven years. During this time he saw the team through several changes of premises, staff, workload, and Ministry restructures – not an easy task! He also led the team through quite a few major issues and responses involving ACVM, and helped get the Registration Review Project up and running. He will be missed and we wish him all the best in his new role.

Acting Manager during the process of appointing a new manager, which is well underway, is Sarah Lester, Senior Adviser Agricultural Chemicals and Vertebrate Toxic Agents.

ACVM Winter Workshop

The ACVM winter workshop for registrants and consultants will be held on Friday, 27 July 2018, from 9.00am - 4.00pm at Te Papa (55 Cable Street), Wellington.

In addition to ACVM and Approvals Operations staff, speakers for the day include Lee Bailey, Senior Adviser in the EPA's Reassessements Team in hazardous substances applications, and Cathy Dyer, Senior Adviser (Imports) from MPI's Animal Trade Team, who will talk about Biosecurity requirements.

The tentative agenda includes:

- ACVM update – Food Safety branding
- Approvals Operations update
- Changes to the ACVM Regulations
- MRL process and forms
- Reassessment programme
- Registration Review Project update - Risk Analysis
- 2014 – 2016 Antibiotic Sales Report
- Antimicrobial Resistance activities (tbc)
- AMR reassessment activities

In the afternoon there will be separate vet med and ag chem sessions.

Cost for the day is $90.00, which includes morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea.
Register online

FYI

ACVM 101 workshop heads up

One day workshops for those with minimal experience in submitting ACVM applications are likely to be held in September 2018--venue(s) will be decided when the level of interest has been determined. To receive further information closer to the time, register your interest by email with the subject heading '101 workshop': approvals@mpi.govt.nz

Antimicrobial sales report

Consultation on the draft report for New Zealand sales of ACVM antimicrobials from 2014 to 2016 concluded 15 June. The final report is being prepared and will be made available on the website as soon as possible.

RTT operating plans

The application form, template and guidance material for operating plans used by research, testing, teaching/ training organisations have been updated and are available on the website:
Application form (ACVM 26A)
Template form (ACVM 26)
Guidance

Vet med chemistry and manufacturing

The second draft of the veterinary medicine chemistry and manufacturing guideline will soon be released for a 6 week public consultation. Keep an eye on our website and/or sign up for notifications if you wish to review and comment on this. (Please note that biological guidance will be in a separate document that is to come.)

CODEX residues meetings

Codex Committee on Pesticides Residues (CCPR)

The 50th meeting of CCPR was held in Haikou, China, in mid April 2018. Warren Hughes, Dave Lunn and Maria Lloyd from MPI along with Rebeca Fisher from Market Access Solutionz attended.

Items of interest include:

- All of the 390 or so draft maximum residue limits (MRLs) proposed for 36 pesticides by the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) were progressed to Step 5/8 (for adoption as Codex MRLs at the 2018 Commission Meeting), with virtually no opposition. Exceptions were for those MRLs where JMPR had identified dietary intake risk concerns.
- The Committee finalised the Crop Group Classification revision on nuts, seeds, herbs and spices groupings.
- The review of the International Estimate of Short-Term Intake (IESTI) equation completed the task on the background of the IESTI.
- A new electronic working group was established to initiate new work on options for evaluating food safety risks arising from the use of 'biopesticides'.

Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food (CCRVDF)

The 24th meeting of CCRVDF was held in Chicago, USA, in late April 2018. Warren Hughes and Bill Jolly from MPI attended.

Items of interest include:

- The Committee adopted Codex MRLs at step 5/8 for four compounds. This included monepantel MRLs on cattle, which was sponsored by New Zealand.
- The MRLs for zilpaterol hydrochloride were held at step 4. A number of countries expressed their disappointment that the compound met all the criteria for progression, yet it was still being held at step 4 because of opposition by a number of other countries.
- Six compounds were identified as high priority for Codex MRLs and a number of countries made commitments to support them by supplying data.
- An electronic working group was established to discuss the definition of edible offal.

One Stop Shop Update

As announced in the March issue of *News and Views*, the application for Biosecurity approvals has been integrated into the ACVM application process.

The following forms have been updated and are available on the website documents pages for agricultural chemicals, veterinary medicines and vertebrate toxic agents:

- Registration (ACVM 1)
- Variation to Registration (ACVM 1V)
- Registration Renewal (ACVM 1R)
- Product data sheet (PDS) forms
- PDS guidelines
- Special Circumstances Approval (ACVM 3)
- Provisional Registration (ACVM 4)
- Research Approval (ACVM 5)
- Biosecurity Approval of Imported Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines – ACVM Guidance
- Biosecurity Summary of Information Provided form.

Residue Conferences

The Chemical and Microbiological Assurances (CMA) team is responsible for implementing MPI's major animal product residue testing programmes. It must keep up with international issues and market requirements when designing annual programmes. Susan Morris (Principal Adviser) and Ross Pearson (Specialist Adviser) from this team recently attended residue conferences in Europe, and visited counterparts in the UK to discuss emerging issues in the residue area.

The 8th International Symposium on Hormone and Veterinary Drug Residue Analysis

This Symposium, held in Ghent, Belgium, attracted more than 220 registrants from 49 countries. Registrants included regulators involved with national residues plans and laboratories involved with testing of official monitoring plan samples and research into analytical method development for testing for veterinary drug residues in animal products. This provided an opportunity to network with key persons in regulatory and laboratory roles, and to understand latest advances in analytical developments for national residues plans, as well as changing legislation that may apply to international trade from and to New Zealand.

The outcomes were gaining awareness and information regarding:

- continued EU focus on development of analytical strategies to 'control' (by testing for) banned growth promotants and other banned substances
- use of advanced analytical techniques to test for untargeted and targeted compounds
- widespread use of quantitative validated methods for antibiotics, and
- the EU technical role in validating methods, including an antibiotic screen for milk to meet specific market requirements.

12th European Pesticide Residue Workshop

Attendance at this Workshop provided a two-yearly opportunity to network with other regulators in the residues area, and to understand key developments in science as well as our trading partners' current areas of interest. Presentations included the latest on technological developments and directions that European and North American regulators and laboratories are taking in the field of residue analysis. It was also an opportunity discuss alternative approaches and techniques to address challenges faced in the New Zealand national residue programme to gain insight into how similar regulators address these same issues.

Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

In addition to the residue conferences, Principal Adviser Susan Morris led the New Zealand delegation to the CCMAS meeting, held in Budapest, Hungary. Key objectives included working to ensure a science-based approach to measurement uncertainty and a review of dairy test methods to ensure accuracy for their use in an international context.

CCMAS agreed for the New Zealand-led new work proposal to provide for a science-based approach to sampling inspection.

Visit with UK government organisations

The objective of the visit with the United Kingdom (UK) government organisations responsible for national residue monitoring programmes for animal products was to understand their approach to development, administration, implementation and reporting, including evaluation of testing services and incorporating risk-based modelling into programme design and implementation.

MPI plans to use the information gained to examine the cost efficiency and technical delivery of the MPI national residues programmes for animal products, as well as to provide context to New Zealand industry stakeholders on the sample numbers, tests and costs of the New Zealand programme required for market access.

LABELLING*LABELLING*LABELLING

Labelling of Infant Formula and Formulated Supplementary Food for Young Children for Export

As a result of a number of questions raised by verifiers regarding the requirements for labelling infant formula for the Chinese market, MPI has prepared a document clarifying the requirements for China. This is published on the website as Labelling Notice and Guidance Advice to Verifiers for Exports to China

In addition, as many of the issues raised are generic to all markets, the Guidance Document: Labelling of retail-ready dairy-based infant formula products and formulated supplementary food for young children intended for export has been updated and is available on the website

New Export Regulatory Framework for the Halal Labelling and Certification of Dairy Material and Dairy Products

MPI has issued a notice establishing an export regulatory framework for the halal certification and labelling of dairy material and dairy products intended for export.

The notice, namely the Animal Products Notice: General Export Requirements for Halal Dairy Material and Halal Dairy Products, applies only to exported dairy material and products.

MPI developed the notice in collaboration with the dairy industry and with assistance from existing halal certification agencies. We publicly consulted on the notice for six weeks. The notice will come into effect on 16 July 2018.

FAT to FLAT

As part of the MPI restructure (see page 1), the Food Assurance Team (FAT) has been expanded to become the Food and Live Animal Assurance Team (FLAT).

While the MPI plan to better align animal and plant functions required a few changes, most members of the team, including manager Sharon Wagener, remain the same.

Team email contacts also have not changed.

introducing...

Plant, Wine, Organic Assurance Team

The Plant, Wine, Organic Assurance Team (PWO) has a critical role in facilitating, maintaining, and enhancing trade, through the delivery of its export assurance programmes for plants and plant products, wine and organic products, and through its engagement in relevant international fora. This work is enhanced by maintaining linkages across MPI and with industry. Sharing expertise, communicating and collaborating to ensure success and growth for the PWO sectors are its top priority.

Core Functions of PWO

Standard Setting
PWO leads on export standard setting for its sectors and works with industry and market access where Overseas Market Access Requirements (OMARs) are indicated.

Certification Systems
PWO is responsible for the e-Phyto certification system for plants and plant products, Wine E-Cert for New Zealand grape wine, and the Official Organic Assurance Programme for exports of organic products for specific markets.

Recognised/Third Party Agencies and Persons
PWO provides advice (and support) and monitors the performance of third party agencies, persons and organisations who are recognised or approved by MPI to provide evaluation, verification and laboratory services that support the export assurance programmes.

Technical Advice and Support
PWO provides technical advice and support within MPI and other government agencies, and to industry operators in the sectors.

Non-Compliance Management
PWO works with exporters, verifiers, MPI Approved Organisations and MPI Operations teams to assist with the resolution of non-compliances that may result in food safety issues or jeopardise trade.

Market Access and International Fora
PWO works with the Market Access team to resolve trade-related problems relevant to the sectors in specific markets, and to enhance trade. The team also participates in and/or provides input into a range of international standard-setting and trade-facilitating fora, including Codex, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV), and World Wine Trade Group (WWTG).