

FEED HYGIENE EXPLAINED:

Trading Standards' role protecting animals, keeping our food safe and helping businesses to thrive

Do you know why the safety of animal feed is so important to the economy, consumers and animals in this country? Are you aware of the role that local authorities play to help keep our food safe? Would you like to know more about how animals are kept healthy and our food safe to eat in your local area?

NATIONAL
TRADING
STANDARDS

Protecting Consumers
Safeguarding Businesses

We hope that this leaflet can answer all these questions and show why the work of local authorities with feed businesses – from small farms to large-scale feed mills and importers – is so vital.

WHAT DOES THE FEED INDUSTRY MEAN TO THE UK ECONOMY?

The UK animal feed industry is large and complex.



Feed businesses range from small shops disposing of surplus food to a feed mill producing 600,000 tonnes of feed. It is equally important for every single one of these businesses to understand why animal feed must be safe and what can happen if things go wrong.

WHY DO WE NEED TO CARE ABOUT WHAT OUR ANIMALS EAT?

The foot and mouth disease outbreak in 2001 cost the UK economy over £8 billion.

OVER 6,000,000

ANIMALS WERE SLAUGHTERED AND THEIR BODIES DISPOSED OF IN PYRES ACROSS OUR COUNTRYSIDE.



The source of this destruction was a single farm feeding waste to their animals.

BSE (Bovine spongiform encephalopathy) cost the UK economy billions, as many as 3 million animals were infected and there have been over 200 cases of the related CJD (Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease) in humans. BSE was caused by large-scale feeding of animal protein to farm animals.



The impact of smaller feed incidents can be just as telling for those involved. In 2008, excessive levels of dioxins were discovered in meat products from Ireland, which led to **meat products worth well over £1 million being recalled**, hitting businesses across the UK.



HOW DO LOCAL AUTHORITIES SUPPORT FEED BUSINESSES?

Feed businesses are required by European law to have systems in place that identify risks to the safety of their products and prevent these from occurring. This can range from steps to prevent vermin, contamination and spoilage to paperwork systems that can quickly trace where ingredients have been bought and final products sold. In their capacity as enforcement bodies for feed hygiene legislation, local authorities support businesses to help them comply with the law, undertake surveillance activities to identify problems and take appropriate enforcement action.



WHAT IS NATIONAL TRADING STANDARDS HERE TO DO?

With funding and support from the Food Standards Agency, National Trading Standards oversees an animal feed inspection and sampling programme that is carried out by local authorities across England. The programme includes risk-based inspections of feed businesses, checks of imported feed, coordinated sampling for surveillance and – in response to specific risks – promotes regional coordination and knowledge sharing. It also provides opportunities by cutting red-tape for farm assured and reputable feed businesses.



RESULTS – THE NATIONAL TRADING STANDARDS PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES:



95% of local authorities in England are engaged in the Feed Delivery programme



Since NTS began working with local authorities 99.6% of inspections have been achieved



Working together over 2014/15 our inspection and sampling programme involved 12,500 feed interventions.



Responsible feed businesses, whether farm assured or with a history of compliance, are receiving less inspections.



For the first time ever England has a nationally coordinated sampling programme, preventing duplication and working to identify emerging trends and new risks

WORKING TOGETHER WE ARE IDENTIFYING NEW THREATS TO ANIMAL FEED

- Local authorities across England recently traced surplus food from retailers to final destination and found a number of premises where it was illegally being used as animal feed; stopping the diversion has protected the UK food market.
- A national sampling project revealed significant numbers of producers with illegal levels of feed additives in their products. Products were withdrawn and industry systems changed to protect uncontrolled additive levels reaching animals and consumers.
- All the products sampled during a recent project looking at online feed sales failed to comply with the law. Support is being offered to help keep this market safe.

WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU?

We believe that our partnership with local authorities to support feed businesses has brought about real benefits in its first year.

We know that the continued support of managers and local politicians for this work is vital if we are to build on our success to date. We would welcome your active interest and support for the National Feed Programme into the future.

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A word from Lord Toby Harris, chair of National Trading Standards

"Thank you for taking the time to read this information. We recognise that Feed Hygiene Delivery is not an easy task due to the complexity of the industry and the sheer number of businesses, each with very unique needs. We would like to thank local authorities for all the hard work that has been put into the National Feed Programme over the last year. If we continue to work in collaboration then we'll be able to take action against the small number of offending businesses that could fundamentally jeopardise the health of animals and indeed humans, the safety of our food and our economy as a whole.

If you would like any more information with regards to this matter please do not hesitate to contact our team. We're here to help you!"



Further information:

NTS - www.nationaltradingstandards.uk/work-areas/feed-hygiene-delivery
FSA - www.food.gov.uk/business-industry/farmingfood/animalfeed