

# Agroscope

## Research division Ruminants and pigs

### Research group Feed

Status 2014

## Despite positive developments, caution is required

Agroscope is responsible for inspecting all livestock and pet food on the Swiss market. This represents the first control step in the food chain. Last year 1,482 samples were taken and analysed. Despite an increase in the percentage of compliant samples during the last years, care must be taken on the basis of individual cases.



*The compliance of the feed is checked during the official inspections.*

In 2014, as part of official feed inspections, Agroscope took 1'329 samples of feed for livestock and 153 samples of pet food. Inspections were performed in over 350 production or trading companies

#### **75 % compliant feed for livestock**

Three quarter of the feed for livestock gave no cause for complaint. The proportion of samples with slight non-compliance (incomplete labeling, contents which deviated slightly from the declarations) was 11,4 % and the share of non-compliant feed (complaints with financial consequences) 12,7 %.

A look back on the past seven years shows a positive trend to the improvement of the situation, because the percentage of compliant samples increased from 50 to 75 %. The percentage of samples with non-compliant declarations also follows a positive development with a decline of more than 50 %. It noted however that the percentage of samples with non-compliant analysis results rises again since 2012.

#### **Imported feed: specific controls are necessary**

Particular attention was also paid to imported feed in 2014. Samples were taken both at the feed companies and at customs. 264 feed materials, 26 compound feed and 71 other products coming from various firms in Switzerland were checked.

The proportion of compliant feedstuffs was 85,0 %. 5,7 % of the samples were objected because of slight non-compliance and 9,3 % were non compliant. The most complaints were traced back to additives or nutrient contents which are outside of officially tolerated ranges or to important declaration errors. Also, undesirable substances have been identified in various cases: aflatoxins in corn gluten meal, chlortetracycline in an imported veal chuck, five cases of salmonella in corn gluten meal, soybean extraction meal, sunflower cakes or meat meal. Agroscope initiated emergency measures so that health was

not endangered by humans and animals as a result. Also Agroscope recommends the industry to take targeted measures

### **Strong improvement in pet food**

Of the 153 samples taken from pet food manufacturers and retailers, 35,3 % exhibited minor defects. Only two samples gave cause for complaints with serious financial consequences because they contained seeds of *ambrosia artemisiifolia* over the permitted higher level. The two products were taken off the market.

A look back on the past seven years shows a very positive trend and a clear improvement of the situation. The percentage of compliant samples increased from less than 20 to more than 60 %. The proportion of samples with non compliant declarations declined during this period by about 20 percentage points.

### **GMO under observation**

Of the 1,329 samples of livestock feed, 248 compound feed (and other products) and 155 feed materials were tested for genetically modified organisms (GMO). No sample could be classified as non-compliant.

Agroscope attaches particular importance to feed safety. For this purpose, various relevant parameters are tested such as dioxins and PCBs as well as other undesirable substances such as antibiotics, heavy metals, salmonella, coccidiostats, pesticides and mycotoxins. The results of these numerous analyses were largely negative. Deviations could only be founded in some cases of imported feed.



*The internal documentation of the feed firms is checked.*