

Agroscope

Ruminants & pigs

Feed – Official feed control

Status 2015

Feedstuffs : many non compliant labels

Agroscope is responsible for inspecting all livestock and pet food on the Swiss market. Last year 1,480 samples were taken and analyzed. 70% of them were compliant. This proportion is too low.



About 70% of the feedstuffs for livestock were compliant.
(photo: Agroscope)

In 2015, as part of official feed inspections, Agroscope took 1,314 samples of feed for livestock, animals for food production, and 166 samples of pet food, in particular dog and cat feed. Inspections were performed in over 400 production or trading companies.

30 % of feedstuffs for livestock not compliant

About 70% of the analyzed feed for livestock gave no cause for complaint. 170 feedstuffs (13%) had slight non-compliance, principally due to errors in labeling and 233 samples (about 18%) had more severe complaints. The non-compliance observed were essentially contents which deviated from the declarations and important errors in labeling. Some samples were also not compliant or led to more investigations because of contaminations with salmonellas or additives for animal feeding. Agroscope found also pesticides residues in organic feed, which had to be downgraded as conventional feed.

Stable situation in pet food

Of the 166 samples taken from pet food manufacturers, importers and retailers, 63 % (105 samples) gave no cause for complaint. 58 samples (35%) exhibited contents deviating from the declarations and outside of officially tolerated ranges. 32 of them exhibited also errors in labeling. 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 of the market.

GMO under observation

Of the 1,314 taken samples of livestock feed, 118 feed materials and 282 other products (essentially compound feed) were tested for genetically modified organisms (GMO). One compound feed was non-compliant and led to further investigations.

New tasks

As the reviewed "Organic Ordinance" is guilty from the 1st of January 2015 on, the Federal Office of Agriculture is responsible for the application in the feed sector, based on article 34a. In practical terms, this means that Agroscope has taken over this task, in addition to its activities of official feed

control. The research group “Feedstuffs” was re-organized to assume this new task.

Changes in the crew

Mr Gaël Félix started work at Agroscope on the 1st of April 2015 as feed inspector. He is agricultural engineer from the HAFL, Zollikofen, and has had many years of experience working for Nestlé SA, where he was responsible for the quality of fresh milk.

Mr Anton Vonlanthen began work as scientific collaborator at Agroscope on the 1st of September 2015. He has had extensive experience in the feed sector. He is responsible for the application of the rules of the “Organic Ordinance” for feed.

Agroscope is pleased to welcome the two new collaborators, Messrs. Félix and Vonlanthen and wishes them success in their respective activities.

Retirement of Claude Chaubert

Mr. Claude Chaubert took a well-deserved retirement at the end of October 2015. During 23 years, he served Agroscope, and the feed sector, with his knowledge and experience with diligence. For this, Agroscope warmly thanks him.

His journey in Posieux was marked by several name changes of the research station, and he worked under various directors. His extensive knowledge made him a valued advisor and a very interesting interlocutor. He offered concrete and relevant answers to all the questions, and he always found practical solutions. Thus, we could mention his contributions to several reference publications such as the “Green Book”, the “Yellow Book” or “Guide for correct labelling of animal feed”.

Claude Chaubert knew the value of teamwork. With his expertise he was always ready to help his colleagues. He had a remarkable memory: when asked a question, he answered not only swiftly, but specified the historical background that had led to such decision or standard. Always ready to serve, Claude Chaubert handled business with tact and diplomacy.

All collaborators of Agroscope Posieux offer Mr Claude Chaubert their warmest thanks. May he enjoy great satisfaction in this new chapter of his life.

The estate of Claude Chaubert is provided by Mrs. Dr. Céline Clément, who has worked among others so far as inspector of animal feed. Agroscope wishes her to be successful in this new task.