

**FEDFA**  
**Spring Meeting & AGM March 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> 2008 Brussels**  
**Minutes**

**Chairman:** Dr. John Fletcher, UK

**Attendance:**

**United Kingdom:** Dr. John Fletcher

**Sweden:** Rolf Eriksson and Andreas Svensson

**France:** Patrick Van Aubel

**Latvia:** Dr Dainis Paeglitis

**Switzerland:** Hanspeter Daenzer? (Not sure if this is correct)

**Denmark:** Asger Anderson

**Czech Republic:** Radim Kortrba (Maugli)

**Austria:** Franz Vogelmayr

**Ireland:** Greg Potterton and Marie Kelly

**Apologies-** Tony Armitage (UK), Dr. Paul Audenaerde (Netherlands) first day, Michael Quinn (Ireland), Petr Janovsky Czech Republic, Johan Trygve Solheim (Norway).

Last meeting: Denmark

**Agenda 26<sup>th</sup> March**

1. Matters arising from last meeting
2. Future of FEDFA
3. Survey Discussion
4. Report on FEDFA grants
5. Folic Acid work
6. TB control in EU- EFSA report and Swedish control programme
7. Link project
8. AOB

**Chairman's Opening Comments**

Questionnaire on EU survey on CWD

Communications in FEDFA

John says that the BDFA proposed to report on FEDFA proceedings in Deer Farming but nothing to date.

Yahoo messaging working well but members are requested to check if they are getting answers back so that they can identify if spam or blocking is occurring or not.

Forty nine (49) members in Yahoo group but some people are in 2 – 3 times and also there is something like 10 bouncing back.

The yahoo messaging current site manager Trigbi (?) is not anxious to continue managing the site but he may be persuaded to continue if given some assistance.

No developments after John's discussion with SANCO

Deer farming survey will be reported on later

Slaughtering of deer problems?

**Discussion on the future of FEDFA**

Rolf questioned

1) How will FEDFA continue working into the future? Should the meetings continue as heretofore?

2) How good are our EU contacts in relevant committees?

John Fletcher said moving around is good for the autumn meeting but maybe we need to discuss whether the spring meeting should still continue in Brussels.

Patrick: Brussels is central!

Did meet EU bureaucrats in last 3 meetings but not this time; there will be more meetings in the future especially on TB

John is worried about the quality of the contacts we have in the EU and also worried that farmer meetings with bureaucrats may not be beneficial.

Dainis: We need to find out who in the EU is responsible for non traditional farming.

John wrote to 3 MEPs but got no response so no meetings! He believes that the German contacts would be good especially with COPA

John touched on getting German delegates back after a cooling down period

How will the Germans comeback?

Franz Suggests maybe the Austrians could persuade them to return

Write a letter to German Deer Farmers Association requesting them to return to FEDFA

J F. Is there any objection to Germany coming back?

Patrick: We must keep FEDFA strong by including all but at the same time we should not be totally dependent on any one country, it is a delicate area!

JF Reiterated the important role Germany plays with COPA because EU farming legislation must be put through COPA, but deer farmers are not represented in it, except that in Germany there are a large number of deer farmers and are influential in their general farming organisation and via that in COPA. To date FEDFA have not being successful in getting to meet COPA

Unanimously agreed that all would like Germany to return and a letter should be written to them.

Access to SANCO to be continued by John

Paul tried to make more contacts in the EU but no great results! Tom Golding (?) is not a fan of FEDFA

Question Are deer farmers members of the general farming organizations in their own countries?

Comment (A) It is EU information impacting on deer farming is what is important,

(B) What do we do with the information?

(C) What do we need to achieve to be proactive?

Food Hygiene (2004)! We did not act/react in time and we know that was not good

The governments of some countries do not know about the existence of deer farms and it is probably the same with the EU and FEDFA's existence.

How could we improve the contacts with the EU?

It was suggested that a letter be written including Maugli's survey which will convey the size and representative nature of FEDFA. Important also that we work through our national organizations be they deer or general farming one and to try and get any contact possible with EU bodies.

Important to try and keep a look out for any EU developments that might impact on deer farming and to warn other FEDFA members.

John says they have good contacts in the vet and food hygiene areas in the UK  
Maugli says that the hunting lobby is stronger than the farming organizations in Czech and also that the Czech association met the Bavarian ministry people and they seemed to have good contacts.

Good relations between the German hunters and deer farmers  
UK, France and others it is the opposite

But in general FEDFA does not have good contacts for information or influence

Patrick: We should consider letters of introduction plus get some questions asked about deer farming and also point out that deer farming is turning around and becoming a business with a good environmental record.

Maugli's survey and also the discovered information on EU CWD survey could be the opportunity to open up dialogue with EU bodies.

Should also consider press releases in individual countries on the new image of venison and any findings coming from the conjugated linoleic acid work in the UK

Disappointment was expressed that a meeting with a lady official from the agricultural commissioner's office did not result in any follow-up.

The advantages of deer farming in a PR type note maybe worth pursuing!

FEDFA has already achieved a lot but it does tend to go in circles!

The EU has more power now than when FEDFA was instigated in 1990 and because it is a truly European representative organisation it must get this message across to various bodies.

The contacts FEDFA has with various research bodies doing work on deer, venison, food research and antlers through individual member countries is very valuable and this information should be collated and written down.

How deer farming fits in the general scheme of farming needs to be examined and also how it should move in a specific direction in specific areas.

Maugli's survey will be able to show-up some of these contacts and issues!

The survey is a key and we need to get it completed!

Rolf asked Patrick if he could write down some points on the benefits of deer farming in general.

Paul is to be asked to draw up a detail account of FEDFA's achievement to date, and that if possible it be put into a report format and circulated for comment to the Yahoo group.

JF pointed out the benefits to local economies of on-farm processing and the importance of deer farming for rural development through diversification.

Maugli suggest that Michelin star chefs need to be kept informed of the story of farm venison and its traceability and consistency.

Returning again to German participation it was suggested that they be asked to attend the autumn meeting in the Czech Republic.

### **Financial Guidelines for Office holders**

It was agreed that the president should have his expenses paid and also anyone else that does a large body of work for FEDFA should get some recompense.

### **European deer farming survey updating.** *Radim Kotrba, Ludek Bartos*

John: It would be better to get the updating directly emailed from Maugli as my information is probably not comprehensive, but if you want it I can send it to you later.

## **Blue Tongue**

Meeting with Belgium expert in Woburn to discuss vaccination, wild-life role in spreading the disease J F believes that wildlife will probably not be involved in transmission to midge.

## **FEDFA Grant**

**JF** says he can't find any.

## **TB control**

Paper produced by the Swedish representative Rolf Eriksson of their experience of putting in place a TB Control Program 1994 – 2008

John you can get a copy from Rolf I will just cover some of the discussion that occurred afterwards.

Discussion on the TB testing program

1. What was the gain?
2. Meat from infected animals not a problem
3. Lots of animals dying
4. Minimize the reservoir is a big benefit
5. TB infection but no obvious symptoms
6. Human picked it up in a rendering plant
7. Girl involved in repeated testing picked it up
8. Rolf himself picked it up from a human body during his work
9. Swedish testing work is about reducing the reservoir and the milk industry were the main drivers
10. Probably a very sound scenario in the long term

What should be done on an EU wide scale?

J.F. Meat inspection is a likely way

Rolf. No point in testing the few farmed deer if TB is present in cattle and in wildlife

Dainis: Is it possible to be declared TB free from meat inspection alone?

J.F. says EU has EFSA recommendations so we should wait until they come back to us.

Rolf: He would be better left out of official discussion on TB as he may compromise the situation having successfully carried out the programme in Sweden and their standards may be too high for application in other countries.

Suggestions

That we stick for the moment with meat inspections

Most human cases of TB now are not bovis

What will we do about a testing control program?

1. We do nothing?
2. Keep our ears open to what is happening
3. Testing is expensive and its value for money is very questionable
4. Option of testing 20% of herd by shooting and close examination may be an option in parks (these would be animals that would be shot anyway)
5. If in an infected area then live deer being moved should be tested
6. No suggestion on wild deer
7. No timetable set for action

**BDFa LINK Project:** John Fletcher Preliminary report (You have this yourself) will just give briefly what I took down.

Five work packages:

Objectives

1. Quality measurement at slaughter
2. Consumer buying surveys
3. Packaging and shelf-life
4. Slaughtering methods
5. Technology Transfer

Run from August 2006 – July 2007

Taste, Health value, novelty value

Sweden the fillet, loin and mince the rest is the norm

John's own findings that the fore-shoulder is the most popular in farmers markets

Some general comments on hanging JF says need to be careful with moulds in hung in wet skins.

### **Venue and date for autumn meeting**

Maugli offered Czech Republic choice of two dates 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> September or 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> September. The 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> was selected.

Matter was left over for further discussion next day at the AGM

The meeting closed at 19.45 and agreed to meet next morning for the AGM of FEDFA.

## **FEDFA AGM Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

**Apologies:** Tony and Johan Trygve

### **Agenda**

1. Minutes
2. Matters arising
3. Financial report
4. Election of Officers and working committees
5. Countries reports
6. National representatives
7. AOB

**Minutes** were read, accepted and signed off.

**No matters arising**

### **Financial Report – Asger Anderson**

(You can get the details of this from Asger)

Countries not paid up membership in 2007

Norway, Denmark, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Hungary and Ireland

If all pay up in 2008 it will come to €2475

Requested that all countries give the name and contacts of the treasurers of the associations to Asger

Agreed €200 to John to cover Berlin visit

### **Set fee for 2008**

Agreed to leave as for 2007 but to chase-up the defaulters

### **Election of Office holders**

#### **President:** Rolf Eriksson:

John thanked Rolf for taking the post and for his assistance to him during his time as president and especially for his report on the TB testing

Rolf thanked John and would make a more substantial comment in the September meeting

#### **Vice Presidents:** Franz Vogelmayr and Radim Kortrba

#### **Secretary:** Tony Armitage stepping down.

John Fletcher elected. Tony was thanked for his good work and he will also be thanked more substantially in September

#### **Treasurer:** Asger Anderson (out going)

### **Working committees**

**Veterinary:** Paul, John, Ludek Rolf

**Communications:** Johan Trygve and Patrick

### **National Delegates:**

Sweden: Rolf and Andreas

Latvia: Dainis and Guntais

Benelux: Paul and Peter

Denmark: Asger

France: Patrick and Didia (?)

Switzerland: Hanspeter

Czech: Maugli, Petr and Ludek

UK: John and AN Other

Austria: Franz

Ireland Greg and Marie

### **AOB**

Franz requested Paul to build and write up the material he has gathered re FEDFA  
Rolf suggested himself and Peter continues to build – up networking as it is of great value.

Peter suggested a more formal thank you to John and Tony at the meeting in September  
Greg suggested deer farmers be encouraged to attend the September meeting as the farm visits are very stimulating.

### **National association's reports**

To Follow:

