

AHDA MATTERS

Animal Health Distributors Association (UK) Limited

'TIRELESSLY SERVING OUR MEMBERS TODAY AND SAFEGUARDING THEIR FUTURE TOMORROW'

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AHDA Membership:

We are delighted to welcome more new members joining AHDA in May and a full listing plus our suppliers joining under the Foundation Partners Scheme is shown below.

New Distributor Members

Ace Farm Supplies, Shrewsbury
Robertson Crop Services, Kildary
Collycroft, Derbyshire
Pharmall, Harrogate
Abbeydale Direct, Ashbourne
Agri Input Direct, Newton Stewart
Agrimed (Scotland), Glasgow
Green Farm Health, Thirsk
Michael Hoyle & Co, Clitheroe
PSB (Country Supplies) Tetbury
Hamilton Bros (Eng) Ltd, Mauchline
William Eyre & Sons, Hope Valley
Beeverfeeds Animal Health, Sleaford
Tapsons Animal Health, Radstock
Cornwall Countryside Supplies, Truro
Mike Hawken Agriculture Ltd, Truro
Grampian Highlands & Islands Farm Supplies, Banff
Animal Health Supplies, Castle Douglas

Foundation & Associate Foundation Partners

Bradshaw Bennett
Fort Dodge Animal Health
Trilanco
Battle, Hayward & Bower
Net-tex
Virbac Ltd
Janssen Animal Health
Agrihealth (NI)
Schering-Plough
Teisen Products
Merial Animal Health

Legislation and Current Issues

VMD Comment

Steve Dean, CEO at the VMD, spoke with me last week. He said 'the single most important thing AHDA can do in our eyes is to represent as high a portion of the industry as possible. In that way your lobby becomes stronger and even more effective!'

Readers can, from this, understand just why we value and respect your membership support to enable us to maintain the right to sell animal medicines.

Re-classification:

As mentioned last month, AHDA is becoming increasingly concerned over the absence of several farm large animal medicines in the re-classification exercise currently slowly being processed from the VPC and VMD. The exercise was partly initiated from a critical Competition Commission Report demanding a review to enable animal medicines to become more widely available, cheaper to the end user and competitively marketed.

As matters stand, the VPC has responded well to the companion animal market with cats and dogs in particular but very little in reality has come to the farm livestock industry. Whilst a re-classification (on-going) of 58 medicines either from POM-V to POM-VPS or NFA-VPS or POM-VPS and NFA-VPS to AVM-GSL sounds impressive (and welcome), Dairy, Beef and Sheep have had very little moved.

One could even argue that the anti-scour vaccines were only put on for change due to the Merial initiated request to move Trivacton 6. This leaves only Covexin 10 and a few pig vaccines to help farmers reduce input costs and improve animal welfare.

The proposed re-classification in poultry and fish will have little impact for end users due to the high levels of vertical integration and specialist supply and advice in these sectors. AHDA, we believe justifiably, has responded strongly to the absence of some sheep vaccines not recommended for re-classification as per our last newsletter. Work has been going on apace since the response to the consultation to gather support for our case. This is all particularly vexing following the work, cost, time and commitment we all undertook to upgrade SQPs and we believe that this elevated level of professional competence is not being fully respected. We will keep you informed

AMTRA CPD

Indications about the likely form of AMTRA CPD are beginning to emerge and the likely scenario, still to be agreed by AMTRA Council, is as follows: AMTRA CPD is expected to be implemented from October 2008, with SQPs being required to accumulate at least the minimum number of CPD points over the three years to September 2011 in order to be eligible to renew their SQP status for 2012.

It is envisaged that it will be possible to achieve AMTRA CPD points by attending an AMTRA accredited training event, run in-house, jointly with a third party, or externally by, for example, a manufacturer. At least 20% of the time will have to be devoted to legislative matters and the training event will have to be a minimum of 5 hours.

AMTRA is considering that attendance at one of these events would accrue 20 points out of a required minimum of 25 over the three year initial period. The remainder of points could be accrued by on-line training off approved websites with Q and A sessions similar to that demonstrated by AMTRA at the last AHDA conference, with a maximum of 2 points being achieved in this way and finally 4 points could be achieved by approved reading such as AHDA Matters or OTC, subject to AMTRA accreditation. Since the whole purpose of AMTRA CPD is to ensure that SQPs keep themselves up to date, if an SQP had not demonstrated this by achieving the necessary credits by the end of September 2011, then he or she would be able to sit a special examination, similar to the current upgrade or conversion exam, as an alternative to CPD, to retain his or her SQP status. AHDA Council will now be able to assess what role AHDA can play to deliver affordable and effective CPD training for members.

The AMTRA Board is also currently considering the future management structure and location of the organisation following the planned retirement of the current AMTRA Secretary Dr Roger Dawson in mid 2009. We will keep members informed as soon as decisions are finalised.

GM Crops

Most of our members are involved with selling nutritional products such as feed, minerals and supplements. The GM debate is likely to kick off again as manufacturers find it increasingly difficult and more expensive to source non-GM Soya and maize products. Soybeans and Soy meal are the biggest problems and currently the EU imports 35 million tonnes per year for use in the animal feed industry. In fact, the EU feed industry imports 76% of its protein needs. The major suppliers of Soya to the EU feed industry are Argentina and Brazil.

Led by Monsanto, there is a steady pipeline of new biotech varieties planned each year bringing in, for example varieties high in essential oils, herbicide tolerance and fungicide tolerance.

Couple these facts to an increasing awareness of higher food prices and food shortages we may start to see public opinion swing away from the anti GM lobby, the US has been using GM for over 10 years without any problems. Likewise, we should be aware of the facts and play our part in the ensuing debate.

On the horizon....

It was good to learn that a new group of anthelmintics under development (AHDA Matters Sept 2007) has been released in New Zealand by Novartis and Pfizer may also soon have something as well. The new group actives are known as AAD's and could prove valuable in the on-going work against anthelmintic resistance.

AHDA anticipates reporting some fresh member benefits for our members businesses in July and progress on our Code of Best Practice.

Ian Scott. Secretary General. AHDA (UK) Ltd.