

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: ANIMAL FEED SERVICE PLAN 2014/2015	
From: HEAD OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES			
Date: 12 AUGUST 2014	Ref: CM/PB		

1. Purpose

1.1 This report seeks the Committee's approval for the Trading Standards Animal Feed Plan for 2014/2015.

2. Background

2.1 A Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Law Controls agreed between the Food Standards Agency and Local Authorities sets out planning and delivery requirements expected of local authorities based on statutory codes of practice.

2.2 Feed law enforcement, including the quality, composition and labelling of animal feeding stuffs, is the responsibility of the Trading Standards service. With its close links to food safety law enforced by the Business Regulation service, the delivery arrangements for feed law have previously been contained within that service's Operational Plan. However, with an increasing emphasis being placed on feed law enforcement by the Food Standards Agency, a separate service plan for this function has now been produced on an annual basis since 2012/2013.

2.3 The service plan produced for this purpose is seen as an important part of the process to ensure that national standards and priorities are delivered locally and, to that end, the service plan will provide the basis on which the Council's arrangements for feed law enforcement will be monitored and audited by the Food Standards Agency. The Agency now carries out separate feed law audits of Councils, instead of on the same occasion as food law audits.

3. Proposal

3.1 Animal feeds play an important part in the food chain and the arrangements in the service plan cover feeding stuffs, feed hygiene and primary production enforcement. Guidance contained in the Framework Agreement requires the service plan to cover certain areas including aims and objectives, delivery and resources, and quality assessment and review.

3.2 There are 540 known feed businesses in North Lanarkshire including a feed mill, farms and retailers supplying domestic animal food. The service plan contains details of the number and type of inspections to be carried out at various operators, along with details of both formal and informal samples to be taken for analysis to ensure that feeds are safe, comply with compositional requirements and are correctly labelled.

3.3 The plan also contains arrangements for dealing with complaints about feedstuffs, feed safety alerts, providing advice to business, and supporting the Home Authority Principle and Primary Authority Partnerships. It is also proposed to carry out specific work during the year targeting unregistered premises including those that supply waste food into the animal feed chain.

3.4 A copy of the plan has been placed in the Members' Library. It is a requirement of the Framework Agreement that service plans are approved by the Council through the Authority's usual arrangements. Once approved, the service plan will be available on the Council website.

3.5 A review of last year's plan for 2013/2014 has also been carried out and a summary of the activities and outcomes is attached as an Appendix to this report.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 All Feed Law enforcement activities are contained within the Trading Standards budget and there are no additional financial implications arising from these proposals.

5. Corporate Considerations

5.1 The Council is under a statutory duty to enforce principal legislation dealing with Feed Law controls and the framework agreement requires it to approve an agreed service plan for that purpose. There are no additional personnel, legal or property implications arising from this report.

6. Recommendation

6.1 That the Committee:

- a) approves the Animal Feed Service Plan for 2014/2015,
- b) notes the review of activities for 2013/2014, and
- c) otherwise notes the contents of this report.



**CRAWFORD MORGAN
HEAD OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

Local Government Access to Information Act: For further information please contact Carol Fraser, Senior Trading Standards Officer on 01236 856340.

Environmental Services



Trading Standards Service

Feed Plan 2013-2014 Review

Review of Feed Plan 2013/ 2014

Feeding Stuffs Premises Interventions:

	Planned	Actual
Primary Production visits (Food and Feed)	14	12
Primary Production visits (Feed only)	3	3
Registered/ Approved Premises (non Primary Production Visits)	8	8
Retailers	140	110
FSA Funded visits to potential producers of fruit and vegetables	10	2

Primary production visits were planned for 14 premises, however 2 of the premises were determined to not be carrying out primary production activities, hence are not recorded as feeding stuffs premises interventions.

An officer visited 10 premises that had been identified to North Lanarkshire Council as potential producers of fruit and vegetables and Food Standards Agency funding had been sought to carry out these visits. Only two of the premises were identified to be carrying out primary production activities hence only 2 premises are recorded as feeding stuffs interventions despite 10 visits being carried out. Since funding could not be claimed for premises that were not actively engaged in primary production activity, with the Food Standards Agency's agreement, 8 of the scheduled primary production visits (Food and Feed) were substituted as premises for which funding could be claimed.

Feeding Stuffs Complaints

The service received no complaints regarding farmed animals feeding stuffs, however received 4 complaints regarding pet animal feed, from members of the public.

2 of the complaints related to animals becoming unwell after eating pet food and appeared to be as a result of packaging for the feed becoming damaged at some point in the distribution chain.

The other 2 complaints related to foreign metal objects in pet food.

One of the foreign object complaints related to feed supplied by a national retailer who was importing the feed. Similar complaints had been experienced by other West of Scotland local authorities. The national retailer's own local authority has been made aware of concerns regarding the retailer/ importer.

Feed Safety Incident

Details of a feed safety incident were received from the Food Standards Agency regarding pet food that had been determined to be contaminated with excess levels of lead. As a result, a premise in North Lanarkshire no longer supplies a particular product as a feed material to the pet food industry.

Feeding Stuffs Inspection and Sampling

It had been planned to take part in a Society of Chief Officers of Trading Standards in Scotland Quality Group project to identify any unregistered fish farms within North Lanarkshire, however following later discussions by the Group that the project would focus on

commercial fish farms, North Lanarkshire Council did not take part, as the authority does not have any commercial fish farms.

The project concerning identification of unregistered businesses within North Lanarkshire Council will continue into the 2014/2015 Feed Plan. During 2013/2014, thirteen food premises that supply former foods to the feed chain were registered with the local authority.

North Lanarkshire Council took part in a market surveillance project along with other West of Scotland local authorities whereby samples of milk replacer products were sampled and analysed for statutory statement compliance and the presence of heavy metals. Three samples of milk replacer products were sampled by North Lanarkshire Council and were found to be satisfactory on analysis.

North Lanarkshire also took part in a market surveillance project by taking samples of feeds used on farms such as silage, haylage and grains, for analysis for pesticides and mycotoxins. It had been planned to take 6 samples, however 4 were obtained, due to the non availability of suitable product to sample at 2 of the targeted premises. All 4 samples on analysis were determined to be satisfactory.

Formal sampling was not carried out as planned due to staffing shortages in the team where the 2 relevant premises are based. One of the target products to be sampled in one of the premises is also no longer supplied. Formal sampling for the 2 premises will be planned for 2014/2015.

Sampling 2013/2014

	Planned	Actual
Formal Samples from Feed manufacturers	4	0
Formal Samples of feed materials from Feed material manufacturer	4	0
Informal Samples from Retailers	3	3
Informal Samples from Farms	6	4

Resourcing

In the last 10 years, Trading Standards has seen a steady increase in the number of premises that it is required to inspect to determine compliance with Feed Law. The Authority does get a small amount of direct funding from the Food Standards Agency to carry out some of the primary production visits, however the remaining visits that the Service is required to do are currently being undertaken in competition with other enforcement priorities.

It is anticipated that the number of premises subject to inspection will continue to increase year on year and in particular that many more food retailers will start supplying former foods from their establishments into the Feed Chain.

This steady increase in premises liable to inspection will continue to have an impact on the current resources, and workloads will continue to be reviewed to determine which enforcement duties require to be prioritised.