Activity Report 2012

Key Events
2012 has been another very busy year for teams at the French Directorate General for Food.

Work began on drafting the strategic plan 2013-2015. The aim is to align health governance with new challenges which are emerging by:

• strengthening collaboration mechanisms with all stakeholders in the food and agriculture sector with the introduction of new bodies such as CNOPSAL, the French National Council for Animal and Plant Health Policy;
• continuing to modernise operations and rationalise tools and working methods.

Moreover, DGAL is taking part in the introduction of the « Produisons autrement » (Let’s produce differently) scheme launched by the French Minister for Agriculture, Agro-Food and Forestry, Stéphane Le Foll. It is playing an active part in achieving desired outcomes: preserving high agricultural yields while adopting more environmentally friendly methods of production.

The consolidation of the Ecophyto Plan, which has been strengthened and reviewed, will reduce the use of pesticides by promoting alternatives. The launch of the Ecoantibio Plan in 2012, which aims to reduce the use of antibiotics in livestock farming, is part of this same sustainable production approach, with an additional public health agenda. There are several other major associated programmes: the Seed and Sustainable Agriculture Plan, which shares some objectives with the Ecophyto Plan, and the Plan for Sustainable Apiculture, which was developed in late 2012 and will be fully rolled out in 2013.

A huge change in practices will be facilitated by new governance in the health sector, which lies at the heart of DGAL’s work, in response to the major challenge of ensuring safe, high-quality food.

The initiatives introduced address the key concerns of citizens. They help to protect sustainable agriculture based on solidarity, and our ability to be competitive in a global marketplace.

Patrick Dehaumont
Director General for Food
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Major projects
Access to quality food for all School pupils

Training for professionals in the school meal sector

The "Plaisir à la cantine" (Enjoy school meals) scheme has been developed in 5 regions to train some one hundred secondary school chefs and the "Bien manger dans ma petite cantine" (Eating well in my school canteen) scheme, which has been rolled out in 19 regions, has trained over 400 people who rarely have access to continuing professional development.

Raising children's awareness of the health benefits of fruit

650,000 children signed up for the "Un fruit pour la récré!" (A piece of fruit at break time) campaign involving 5,000 schools. The assessment carried out at both French and European levels demonstrated the benefits of this type of measure. Since 2010, 500 "taste classes" have been rolled out for 8-9 year-olds across France. This scheme was facilitated by a young people's "taste-training" network established in 2011 with support from DGAL. An assessment of the classes demonstrates the positive impact on eating habits of educating the senses, notably in relation to trying new flavours, as it allows children to enjoy tasting everything and to broaden the range of foods in their diet.

Promoting French food and culinary heritage

Funding for outstanding sites focusing on taste, to promote locations with noteworthy buildings, cuisine and landscapes which form part of the French heritage.

Promoting more sustainable consumption

Introduction of a French National Plan to Combat Food Waste with objectives set for 2025. The campaign to raise awareness of food waste, carried out via the internet and backed up on social networks, aims to make people more aware of the value of food, which is so often overlooked.

Improving consumer information

French National Food Programme (PNFA) labelling: over 400 projects in the field (local authorities, non-profit associations, professional bodies) have been awarded the “Bien manger, c’est l’affaire de tous!” (Eating well is everyone’s business!) label;

Introduction of regulations authorising charitable organisations to receive public funding to distribute food aid and raise awareness among professionals.

Improving product quality

Introduction of Health and Socio-economic departments in the Food Observatory; expansion of the Observatory’s Nutrition department (Oqali) which makes it possible to track the development of food quality more effectively (26,000 reference products). The highlight was the Oqali colloquium on 4 December.

Completion of the working party study on salt in food, demonstrating the work already carried out by professionals and developing solutions for the future;

Drafting of the standard for collective agreements and setting up of committees of experts tasked with assessing the quality of partnerships to improve the nutritional and environmental quality of products (fewer additives, less packaging, preservation of natural resources, heritage promotion, etc.).

Since the second half of 2012, the new government’s public food policy has focused on the following priorities:

The Minister for Agriculture’s priorities:
• social justice;
• educating young people;
• a regional focus.

The Minister responsible for the food sector’s priorities:
• competitive companies,
• combating food waste,
• better quality ingredients.

The Minister for Agriculture’s priorities:
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Theme 1  Improving French national monitoring

Mobilisation of the Platform for Animal Health Epidemiological Monitoring, created in 2011 to monitor the emerging Schmallenberg virus.

Publication of 3,000 reports on plant health to curb the use of phytosanitary products.

Consolidation of the national biological monitoring network and the organisation of monitoring of unintentional effects of agricultural practices on the environment (biodiversity, resistance).

Preparation of a continuing professional development module for animal health veterinarians on antibiotic resistance and drug monitoring, which will be available in September 2013.

Theme 2  Improving preventive measures and responsiveness

56 government-approved guides to best hygiene practices of which 41 are currently in production and 18 are under review.

Operational organisation of the cattle health inspection upgrade: data collected (tuberculosis, antibiotics) will be processed by ANSES in 2013 to assist professionals and government departments.

Redefinition and extension of the role of animal health veterinary officers in order to respond to developments (2 decrees and 5 implementing decrees published).

Conduct of an audit to optimise the network of laboratories and their positioning.

Theme 3  Consolidating and pooling risk analysis tools

An enhanced presence and role for the ANSES Plant Health Laboratory (LSV) in European networks and in the French Plant Health Network (RFSV).

Finalisation and signature of the ANSES Contract of agreed objectives and performance (2012-2015) and increased prioritisation of referrals for advice to the Agency.

Theme 4  Sound, diverse skills

Thinking on raising the profile of technical skills in professional training for government officers and on the role of advisors and experts.

Review of inspection handbooks.

Implementation of the report of the Veterinary Curriculum High-Level Committee, in liaison with the French Directorate General for Teaching and Research (DGER).

Theme 5  Optimising governance and funding

Publication of three implementing decrees of the order of 22 July 2012 renewing animal and plant health governance mechanisms: creation of CNOPSAV, the French National Council for Animal and Plant Health Policy (see page 24), classification of diseases, establishment of regional bodies.

Operational implementation of mutual funds to cover damages related to health issues.

Drafting of regulatory texts relating to the new mechanism for certifying animals and their products for European trade.

Theme 6  Ambitions on a European and international scale

Organisation of a meeting in France of the Joint Standing Committee of the Mediterranean Animal Health Network, during the Franco-Moroccan presidency.


Active involvement in the drafting of European legislation in the health field and codification of a French official to Brussels.
Ecophyto 2012, a new phase

Involving government professionals and local elected representatives...

...in training programmes
Over 200,000 users have taken this training course and obtained the "Certiphyto", certificate required to sell, provide advice on and use phytosanitary products.

Training for employees working in green spaces: the Certiphyto is available to them too!

...to help pesticide users change their habits
Almost 1,900 pilot farms have been selected to demonstrate and acquire agro-nomic, economic and phytosanitary reference standards.

4,000 observers, in the epidemiological monitoring network monitor approximately 13,000 plots. Over 8,000 plant health reports have been published across the regions to provide impartial information in real time on the phytosanitary situation and short-term developments in order to provide farmers with more effective help in targeting their treatments.

Expansion of the epidemiological monitoring network to monitor unintended effects of phytopharmaceutical product use on the emergence of resistance and on biodiversity.

Signature of a framework agreement on 9 October 2012 by 23 stakeholders, which aims to develop and promote bio-control strategies in agriculture.

Launch of the EcophytoPIC internet platform for integrated crop protection, specially designed for agricultural sector users (farmers, trainers and advisors). It allows users to reap the benefits of integrated crop protection tools, to circulate them to as many people as possible and to encourage them to change their practices.

Approximately 5,000 hits on the website per month.

Stakeholders
Farmers, and also economic stakeholders, consumers, amateur gardeners, non-profit associations, elected representatives, research bodies, etc.

Five new guidelines for the Ecophyto Plan were announced by the Minister for Agriculture in order to launch a new phase in the reduction of the use of phytopharmaceutical products: "Environmental issues must be at the heart of agricultural practices. To ensure that respect for the environment provides opportunities and drives growth, it is crucial to foster a shared dynamic between farmers and between farms."

For more information:
http://agriculture.gouv.fr/ecophyto

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200,000 trained users
1,900 pilots farms
8,000 plant health reports including 3,000 in 2012
Ecoantibio, 1 plan, 5 themes, 40 measures

The Ecoantibio Plan promotes careful and informed use of antibiotics reflected in:

主题 1 Promote best practices and raise awareness among stakeholders
- Cattle health inspections: an additional form and the distribution of an antibiotic resistance information sheet by veterinary health inspectors to livestock farmers (87,000 cattle health inspections carried out in 2012) (measure 4).
- Production of 31 information sheets classified by disease and species in the Guide to Good Practice in Veterinary Prescribing (measure 6).
- Circulation of a letter to the French National Council of Pharmacists (CNOP) to raise awareness among pharmacists (measure 9).

Achievements in 2012

主题 2 Develop alternatives to avoid antibiotic use
- Alternative treatments to reduce the use of antibiotics: referral for an opinion to ANSES on the use of zinc oxide in the pig production sector (measure 19).
- Research assistance: inclusion of the “antibiotic resistance” theme projects qualifying for CASDAR funding for agricultural and rural development and an increase in the CASDAR fund from 2 million to 2.5 million euros (measure 21).

主题 3 Tighten supervision of sales practices and prescription rules
- Discussions have been opened with agents to remove antibiotics from the approved list in order to restrict their use for preventive purposes (measure 28).
- The General Council for Food, Agriculture and Rural Spaces (CGAAER), the French Inspectorate General for Social Affairs (IGAS) and the French Finance Inspectorate (IGF) were tasked with a project to review sales practices (prescription-is-suing debate, measure 29).

主题 4 Improve the monitoring mechanism for antibiotic consumption and antibiotic resistance
- Monitoring of sales: publication of the ANSES report in October 2012 (measure 34).

主题 5 Promote a uniform approach at a European and international level
- On an international level: numerous communications and presentations on Ecoantibio, with the French position being presented at a number of meetings (measure 38).

This plan involves
- livestock farmers in the various sectors; veterinarians and pharmacists; scientists and risk assessors (ANSES); the pharmaceutical industry; the French authorities and the general public, including all animal owners.

A specific initiative to reduce critically important antibiotics in veterinary medicine, including fluoroquinolones and 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins.

A 25% cut in the use of antibiotics in veterinary medicine within 5 years: only appropriate and strictly necessary doses must be prescribed and administered to animals.

Combating illegal use: a letter raising awareness has been sent to the French Ministry of Justice (measure 32).

Organisation of a colloquium in November 2012 aimed at stakeholders in the animal and human health sector on the theme “Assessing and reducing the use of veterinary antibiotics.”
Abattoirs
Implementation of health standards and modernisation of the inspection regime

Achievements in 2012

2012 is a significant year for the classification of abattoirs and the introduction of Food Chain Information (ICA) incorporating livestock farm data.

Implementation of health standards in abattoirs

Introduction of an adjustment to the health inspection fee to incentivise the implementation of health standards in abattoirs.

There are no longer any category IV abattoirs. Work is now focusing on category III facilities.

Work is ongoing to implement abattoir equipment standards. DGAL introduced a classification system for abattoirs in 2002 (for domestic ungulates) and 2006 (for poultry). This classification is used to measure progress recorded in abattoir operations.

Class I: facilities are fully compliant with the regulations; very satisfactory health standards.

Class II: a small number of minor non-compliant areas; satisfactory health standards.

Class III: average level of non-compliant areas; average health standards.

Class IV: major areas of non-compliance; product safety compromised; suspension of health and safety certification by the Prefect.

Modernisation of abattoir health inspections

Challenge: to develop the health and safety inspection mechanism to include advances in scientific knowledge relating to risks and epidemiological data (action 7 on the programme of the "États généraux du sanitaire" French Sanitary Summit).

Publication of the national regulatory mechanism framing the implementation of Food Chain Information (ICA).

Further discussions with the European Commission initiated by France, will lead to a review of the hygiene package by 2014.

Research carried out both at a French and European level aims to implement epidemiological monitoring indicators or alert criteria which will make it possible to target livestock farms or batches of animals where specific action is required at the abattoir.

In the poultry-rabbit sector: implementation of pilot projects.

In the pig-rearing sector: involvement in studies at a European level relating to changes in inspections in the pig-rearing sector.

Improved organisation of inspection services

Development of specific "Local Veterinary Officer" training with the French National Veterinary Training College (ENSV).

Changes in scheduling of abattoir inspections.

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### 2012 overview

#### January
- **17-18** ORPV national plant protection event in Nancy.
- **25** Detection of the first two cases of Schmallenberg virus infection in France.
- **25** Departure of Pascale Briand, who was appointed Director General of the French National Research Agency.

#### February
- **2** Meeting with French consumer associations.
- **8** Appointment of Patrick Dehaumont as the new Director General.
- **8-9** General Assembly of the Bovine Federation in Strasbourg.

#### March
- **1** Conference on animal welfare organised by the European Commission and the Danish presidency of the Union in Brussels.
- **7** Visit to the Aquitaine region by the Director General.
- **15** Visit to the Auvergne region by the Director General.
- **22** Visit to the Dordogne region by the Director General.

#### April
- **2-6** Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) in Paris.
- **4-5** Mediterranean Network for Animal Health (REMESA) standing committee co-chaired by France and Morocco in Rabat, Morocco.
- **12** ANSES management board.
- **12-13** Executive Committee of the European Commission for the control of foot and mouth disease (EuFMD), in Bucharest.
- **15** Launch seminar for institutional twinning with Tunisia
- **23-27** Standards Committee of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

#### May

#### June
- **4-5** Participation in the World Meat Congress.

#### June
- **6-7** Extraordinary meeting of CVDs (Chief Veterinary Officers) in Horsens, Denmark.
- **7** Meeting with consumer associations on the purchase and sale of pets, toxins in shellfish and fishing on the shoreline.
- **14** DGAL seminar on food safety held in Paris.
- **15** Launch of the “Animal protection in the holidays” operation, which involves reinforcing checks on some establishments until 15 September.
- **21-22** Bilateral Franco-Spanish meeting (JACA).
- **26** Visit to the Côte d’Or region by the Director General.
- **29** Withdrawal by the Minister of the product licence for Cruiser OSR, following the publication of an article in the scientific journal Science and on the advice of ANSES on 1 June confirming the harmful effects of this substance on bees.
- **29** Meeting in Brussels to review European regulations on official health inspections.
July
1 Launch of the “Holiday Food” operation which enforces more stringent checks on food in holiday locations.
2-7 Codex Alimentarius Commission in Rome.

August
28-29 Management seminar at the Lyole viticole in Montagne-Libourne (33) with directors of Regional Food, Agriculture and Forestry Services (DRAAF) and Interministerial Departmental Directorates (ODI).

September
3-4 Extraordinary meeting of Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) in Nicosia, Cyprus.
9 Inaugural steering committee of the Food Observatory and appointment of its chairman Bernard Chevassus-Au-Louis.
11-14 Participation in SPACE, the European ines- tock fair in Rennes.
18-21 “Europe” regional meeting of the OIE in Ger-
dany.
19-20 DGAL Health and Animal Protection semi-
nar in Orkans.
27 ANSES management board.

October
3 Lecture: “The Animal Health Epidemiologi-
cal Monitoring Platform one year on” at the Livestock Summit in Cournon.
5 Submission of the report on the development of sustainable beekeeping to the Minister.

November
12-13 Standing Joint Committee co-chaired by France and Morocco of the Mediterranean Network for Animal Health (REMESA) in Montpellier, aimed at strengthening coopera-
tion between Mediterranean Basin countries.

December
4 2nd Oqali (Food Quality Observatory) col-
loquium.
11 Inauguration of the French National Council for Animal and Plant Health Policy (CNOPSAV) by the Minister.
13 Visit to the Nord-Pas de Calais region by the Director General.
14 France recovers its official disease-free status for blue tongue (BT).

Not forgetting...
• Monthly meetings of Regional Food, Agriculture and Forestry Services (DRAAF), General Inspectors Responsible for Supporting People and Organisations (IGRPS) and heads of Regional Food Departments (SRAL);
• Monthly meetings of European Union Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) and Chief PhytoSanitary Officers (CPOs);
• European Union Standing Committees on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCFCAH).

9 National steering and monitoring committee of the EcoPhyto programme.
9-12 Meeting of Chief PhytoSanitary Officers (CPOs) for plant health in Cyprus.
12-16 44th meeting of the Codex Alimentarius on food hygiene.
14 Colloquium organised by DGAL: “Evalua-
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• Monthly meetings of Regional Food, Agriculture and Forestry Services (DRAAF), General Inspectors Responsible for Supporting People and Organisations (IGRPS) and heads of Regional Food Departments (SRAL);
• Monthly meetings of European Union Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) and Chief PhytoSanitary Officers (CPOs);
• European Union Standing Committees on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCFCAH).

9 National steering and monitoring committee of the EcoPhyto programme.
9-12 Meeting of Chief PhytoSanitary Officers (CPOs) for plant health in Cyprus.
12-16 44th meeting of the Codex Alimentarius on food hygiene.
14 Colloquium organised by DGAL: “Evalua-
ting and reducing the use of veterinary antibiotics”.
26 Information meeting with consumer asso-
ciations.
Mainland France was declared blue tongue-free on 14 December 2012. It had lost this status when the disease broke out in the north of France in 2006. Blue tongue then spread throughout mainland France. No cases have been recorded for over two years. This situation was notified to the European Commission and the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health).

A new monitoring mechanism adapted to this new status was discussed and defined by the Animal Health Epidemiological Monitoring Platform (Plateforme ESA), created in 2011 by DGAL and ANSES. The recovery of this disease-free status will facilitate animal trade and live exports of ruminants and reduce costs for livestock farmers, since vaccination and screening tests are no longer required. It was obtained via the joint mobilisation of livestock breeders, veterinarians and DGAL, who managed the fight against the disease and organised funding for two compulsory vaccination campaigns (2008-2009 and 2009-2010).
The CNOPSAV
A new collaborative body

Minister Stéphane Le Foll officially established the French National Council for Animal and Plant Health Policy (CNOPSAV) on 11 December 2012.

Chaired by the Minister for Agriculture, this new collaborative body is designed to shape public policy on monitoring, prevention and the fight against health risks relating to both animal and plant health. CNOPSAV comprises a general branch and two specialised branches. Its initial work focused on the classification of health risks and implementing decrees on health governance emerging from the conclusions of the “États généraux du sanitaire” French Sanitary Summit held in 2010 and the decrees which implemented it (Decree of 1 July 2012).

Epidemiological monitoring
The ESA Platform is put to the test with the emergence of the Schmallenberg virus

2012 saw the roll-out of the Animal Health Epidemiological Monitoring Platform (Platformation E), a monitoring tool launched in 2011 by DGAL to respond to new health risks.

Emerging diseases which affect the animal population (Schmallenberg virus, blue tongue, bird flu, etc.) raise public health issues and often have major economic repercussions. This is the rationale for the establishment of the ESA platform epidemiological monitoring tool. The platform programme focuses on nine high-priority themes. Two new bodies, the French National Hunting Federation (FNC) joined the original six full members - Adilva, ANSES, Coop de France, DGAL, the livestock farmers’ organisation GDS France, and the French National Society for Technical Veterinary Groups (SNGTV) - as associate members.

The mechanism was supplemented with a follow-up investigation into the impacts on affected livestock farms. Monitoring was transferred to livestock farmers’ organisations (GDS France) in the second half of the year.

Animal welfare: bringing pig farms up to standard

Since 1 January 2013, sows and gilt (females which have not farrowed) on European livestock farms with more than ten animals must be reared in groups from the fourth week of gestation right up to the last week prior to birth. Animals must be able to move around freely.

In 2012, a national action plan was rolled out by the French Ministry of Agriculture to support livestock farms and meet the schedules set. Campaigns aimed at livestock farmers to provide information and raise awareness of the 1 January 2013 deadline were carried out by Departmental Directors responsible for the Protection of the Population (DDecPP). Regional monitoring committees consisting of relevant local authorities and representatives of professionals were set up by Regional Food, Agriculture and Forestry Services (DRAAF) in order to follow the works more closely, to provide information to livestock farmers and to offer technical and financial support. A precise, targeted inspection mechanism rolled out by the DDecPP, will ensure compliance with the regulations. The challenge is to integrate French production into an approach which respects animal welfare and demonstrates full compliance with European law by the French authorities.
Abattoirs:
Roll-out of measures regulating slaughter without stunning

Stunning of animals destined for human consumption before slaughter has been mandatory since 1974 in France. However, the Rural and Maritime Fisheries Code and European law include an exception for ritual slaughter in order to respect freedom of worship.

Ritual slaughter to produce halal or kosher meat is subject to veterinary department inspections and to specific legal requirements. Slaughter without stunning can only be carried out:

- in a certified abattoir;
- by authorised individuals certified by accredited religious bodies;
- after the animals have been immobilised by mechanical means to avoid pain, distress, agitation, wounding or bruising.

The decree of 28 December 2011, which came into force on 1 July 2012, reinforced supervision of ritual slaughter by requiring every abattoir to obtain authorisation for exemption from stunning before slaughter.

This exemption, which is specific to ritual slaughter, is issued by the Prefect of the department provided that:

- the abattoir facilities meet the criteria for the application of the animal protection and hygiene regulations (appropriate equipment, trained staff and procedures which ensure appropriate slaughter speeds and hygiene standards for this slaughter technique);
- the abattoir introduces a registration system so that slaughter without stunning tallies with a corresponding number of sales or orders requiring it.

Since July 2012, authorisations have been granted with close scrutiny only to establishments which meet the regulations and are inspected by officers from Departmental Directors Responsible for Protection of the Population (DDeCP).
Bees
Development of a sector action plan and health monitoring

Apiculture is a key part of the pollination process: 80% of crops (mostly fruit, vegetables, oilseed and protein crops) are dependent on insect pollinators, of which the honey bee is the main representative. The list of plants with flowers pollinated by bees covers approximately 170,000 species of which 40,000 would not thrive without visits from bees. Moreover, France has import honey to meet demand. In order to rise to the challenges posed by significant bee mortality, a multiannual plan was implemented in 2012.

DGAL is responsible for the "Bee health" component which includes setting up an epidemiological monitoring mechanism in the apiculture sector. A network was also set up in six départements to gain a better understanding of the epidemiology of the main diseases and mortality. On 31 May 2012, ANSES was consulted by DGAL following the publication of research by INRA, the French National Agricultural Research Institute, to offer advice on the effect on bees of sublethal dose of thiamethoxam, the active ingredient of CRUISER OSR used to coat rape seed. Bees which consume nectar containing this molecule may experience behavioural anomalies which affect their ability to return to their hive, thus leading to a drop in population numbers. Based on this advice, Minister Stéphane Le Foll withdrew the product licence for CRUISER OSR on 1 June 2012.

Moreover, DGAL has asked ANSES to produce a hierarchy of bee diseases and to deploy its expertise in the fight against one of these diseases, American foulbrood.

The health of bee colonies, support for apiculture research, development of the French bee population, training and employment for young beekeepers and the organisation of the beekeeping and honey production sector. It was launched in early 2013. DGAL is responsible for the "Bee health" component which includes setting up an epidemiological monitoring mechanism in the apiculture sector. A network was also set up in six départements to gain a better understanding of the epidemiology of the main diseases and mortality. On 31 May 2012, ANSES was consulted by DGAL following the publication of research by INRA, the French National Agricultural Research Institute, to offer advice on the effect on bees of sublethal dose of thiamethoxam, the active ingredient of CRUISER OSR used to coat rape seed. Bees which consume nectar containing this molecule may experience behavioural anomalies which affect their ability to return to their hive, thus leading to a drop in population numbers. Based on this advice, Minister Stéphane Le Foll withdrew the product licence for CRUISER OSR on 1 June 2012.

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For several years, the health authorities have faced a gradual increase in the number of cases, which has risen from approximately fifty to approximately one hundred per year, with a concentration of cases in the Côte d’Or, Dordogne départements and Camargue region and in southwest France.

New outbreaks in early 2012 demonstrate that the disease is persisting in the Côte d’Or and Dordogne départements and in the Landes/Pyrénées-Atlantiques area. Several new départements (Ardennes, Ille-et-Vilaine, Manche, Mayenne), which had not previously had any outbreaks for several years, are now affected. The situation is now static overall: no active spread of the disease has been recorded, but there are still problems with eradicating it in infected areas. The disease has also developed in some wild animals (boar, deer and badgers), which makes the fight against it more complicated.

DGAL had introduced a national action plan in 2010. In order to pursue efforts to restore a clean bill of health, a revised multiannual plan was implemented in 2012 to reinforce prevention and monitoring, pursue eradication of the disease and enhance management of mechanisms. The commercial stake is significant as a loss of confidence in the health status of French cattle on the part of France’s commercial partners would harm trade. Measures to monitor and fight the disease involve early screening in herds, systematic inspection of carcasses in abattoirs and partial or total protective culling of entire herds when a case has been confirmed. There is no treatment or authorised animal vaccine. Research is underway to adapt monitoring to the current disease situation (choice and order of tests, monitoring of wild fauna, etc.) and to prevent the spread of the disease more effectively.

The various stakeholders in the cattle sector were keen to come together and to have access to the largest possible pool of data on livestock rearing from the farm right through to the abattoir. Regulatory data for productive animal identification and movement contained in the BDNI represented the first step towards building an information system.

Since then, with encouragement from DGAL, all the stakeholders in the cattle sector have committed to thinking about a project to virtualise movement records via the SPIE, (passport, and health certificate "green card" - ASDA).

According to an initial cost/benefit analysis, the project offers several benefits:
- more reliable and effective traceability and health safety mechanisms;
- streamlining of administration with a positive impact on the risk of contamination for livestock breeders;
- a reduction in running costs for the sector and the government. Costs relating to management (printing, postage, etc.) of the passport and ASDA were estimated at 0.80 euros per cow, i.e. approximately 7 million euros; the management of paper upstream in the sector was estimated at over 3 million euros.

The SPIE association brings together all the stakeholders in the beef sector (CNIEL, INTERBEV, CNE, APCA, FMBV, FFCB, FNED, FNEAP, FNCGV, FMFB, FFCB, SNIV, and NOR-MABEV) as associate members.

Bovine tuberculosis
The fight goes on

Cattle
Virtualisation of movement records

A 10-year agreement was signed in February 2012 by DGAL with the Permanent Assembly of Chambers of Agriculture (APCA) representing the Professional Livestock Information System association (SPIE) to provide the various stakeholders in the sector with data from the French National Identification Data-base (BDNI). The agreement also involves carrying out statistical or future-focused research.
The aim of this reform is to improve management of health crises relating to animal diseases in order to protect the health of animals and consumers and to limit direct and indirect economic losses. With encouragement from DGAL, stakeholders in the sheep and goat sector have rallied to implement reforms relating to the traceability of small ruminants following the stages set at a European level: individual identification (2005), traceability and notification by movement batch (2009), electronic tagging (2010), individual traceability (2011).

Under a new law, it is mandatory for livestock breeders and operators individually to record the movement of electronically identified animals on a database in order to facilitate the implementation of this reform, major funding has been provided for stakeholders in the sector as a whole:

- 18 million euros (6 million per year from July 2010 to July 2013) to provide livestock farmers with funding for the additional cost of electronic identification; the European Commission provides joint-funding of 50%;
- 3 million euros (1 million per year from July 2010 to July 2013) to provide livestock farmers with funding for the additional cost of detagging and retagging small ruminants born before July 2010;
- 1.2 million euros for the inter-branch organisation Interbev ovin to provide a professional information system (OVINFO) which can manage regulatory requirements, and notification of movements in particular. This funding is provided by DGAL under a 3-year agreement (May 2010 to May 2013);
- 40% of the cost of tag readers covered for upstream operators: FranceAgriMer provided funding in 2012 to equip operators with tag reading systems.

The target set of electronically identifying the whole of the reproductive herd by 1 July 2013 is therefore about to be met. An assessment of the level of electronic identification of the herd has been carried out at the request of DGAL by the Livestock Institute and the Assembly of Chambers of Agriculture (APCA), which estimated that 90% of small ruminants had been electronically identified over the entire French national territory on 31 December 2012.

In order to improve efficiency and drive down the cost of services significantly, one structure will henceforth be responsible for a single standardised register, and this role will involve:

- processing and providing access to data collected from assignees and users as defined in the regulations;
- publishing, printing and supplying documents to holders certifying the identification of an animal and the traceability of its identification number;
- updating the data on the French national carnivore identification register;
- managing lost and found animals;
- providing information on identification equipment certified by the Minister for Agriculture, and its control and supply where appropriate.

The signature of this agreement occurred after a review in 2012 of legislation relating to identification and the operation of the domestic carnivore register. This new regulatory framework offers a national mechanism providing certification for tattooers working in dog identification who pass a theory test on the regulations and hygiene standards relating to tattooing and species identification, in addition to a practical test. Nine test sessions were held in 2012 and almost 270 candidates sat the tests after attending training delivered by the SCC.

On 17 December, the Director of DGAL, Patrick Dehaumont, signed a 10-year agreement with Rémi Gellé, Director of the company I-Cad (Identification Carnivores domestiques) handing over the management of identification records for domestic carnivores to this organisation.

Previously, there were several registers organised by species (dogs, cats, ferrets) and marking systems (tattooing and RFID tags) managed either by the Central Canine Society (SCC) or the Veterinary Association for Electronic Identification (an offshoot of the French national veterinary union SNVEL).

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This sector, which is vitally important to France in economic terms, had a trade surplus of over 650 million euros in 2012. On a European scale, France is the leading seed market and the leading seed producer. On a global level, it is ranked third behind the USA and China and is the world’s second largest seed exporter.

In order to consolidate achievements in this sector and to allow it to make an effective contribution to the policy guidelines established, notably within the Grenelle Environment Forum framework, an action plan was developed by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2011 after a large-scale consultation process with all stakeholders within a “Seeds and Sustainable Agriculture” group.

This plan has 7 themes relating in particular to the conservation and dissemination of genetic resources (Theme 1), the introduction of environmental criteria for the assessment of varieties (Theme 4), the contribution of seed certification to the objectives of the Ecophyto Plan (Theme 5) or the promotion of French input into the review of the Community framework (Theme 7).

A variety of initiatives have already been carried out and completed in 2012, such as the enshrining in French law of articles of international agreements relating to intellectual protection of varieties, or the extension of the governance of the Standing Technical Committee on the Selection of Cultivated Plants to include environmental NGOs (FNE) and consumer protection organisations (CLCV).

Other initiatives have made significant advances and are continuing to do so, such as the consolidation of the environmental aspect of assessment rules for varieties in the Ecophyto Plan, or the adaptation of the registration process for varieties aimed at specific or niche markets (organic farming, heritage varieties, etc.).
Managing plants contaminated by an outbreak of a harmful bacterium

In 2012, DGAL and decentralised services managed an alert relating to potatoes contaminated by a harmful bacterium.

Ralstonia solanacearum (bacterial wilt in potatoes) is a pathogenic bacterium affecting plants. In Europe, it is found in solanaceae, i.e. potatoes, tomatoes, tobacco and certain weeds.

It is a quarantine bacterium - a harmful organism which must be combatted and regulated. National monitoring on French territory is planned under the national ministerial decree of 11 February 1999 to combat Ralstonia solanacearum.

As soon as plants present symptoms, professionals (producers, nurserymen, dealers, wholesalers, etc.) must inform the Regional Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Forestry (DRAAF). Contaminated plants or batches must be isolated and destroyed in situ by incineration.

Professionals implement the withdrawal of contaminated produce from the market, inform those holding stocks of contaminated produce and arrange for this produce to be destroyed.

Cruiser OSR
Withdrawal of product licence

On 31 May 2012, ANSES, which was consulted by DGAL following the publication of research by the French National Agricultural Research Institute (INRA), delivered an opinion on the effects on bees of a sub-lethal dose of thiamethoxam, the active ingredient of Cruiser OSR which is used to coat rape seed.

Following this opinion, the Minister for Agriculture withdrew CRUISER OSR’s product licence on 1 June.

In the light of French measures, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published three reports on 16 January 2013 relating to three neonicotinoids and the European Commission presented Member States with a draft regulation banning the use of these substances on plants which attract bees.

DRAAFs supervise destruction operations for contaminated plants.

A freeze on growing potatoes, solanaceae and root crops must be applied for 4 years on contaminated plots. Biological decontamination (cleaning and disinfecting) of tools, equipment and premises exposed to the contaminated batch must then be carried out.

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This system promotes a higher quality product rather than higher quantities. The aim of regulations governing milk payments is also to ensure standardised milk analysis across the whole of France and thus fair treatment for all producers in line with European regulations and competition law.

In 2012, DGAL took part in the review of the payment regulation mechanism and a decree and order came into force on 1 January 2013. The main changes are as follows:

• the terms relating to the implementation of the principle of milk payment have been defined for sheep, whereas the implementing provisions only previously applied to milk from cows and goats;
• new optional criteria have been added and can now be factored into milk payments (e.g. levels of fatty acids). Certain practices by producers can therefore be encouraged more effectively;
• the principle of milk payment more explicitly excludes all treatments which alter the quality or composition of the milk. The use of microfiltration or centrifuge processes before the analysis required for payment is therefore prohibited (see also p. 49);
• the deadline for milk collection has been extended from 48 to 72 hours since research has shown that milk quality is not affected by this extension. This allows greater flexibility in organising the transport of milk to dairies;
• the supervisory framework for laboratories carrying out milk analysis has been altered to allow ANSES to become more involved, in liaison with DGAL.

Changes in the mechanism for milk payments to producers

Microbiological criteria are used by professionals and inspection authorities to distinguish between products which are fit or unfit for consumption. They also show whether manufacturing processes meet general hygiene principles.

This revision successfully brought together countries with significant experience in this field and countries with little or no experience. DGAL has been taking part in this review for several years. In 2010, the Codex Alimentarius Food Hygiene Committee carried out major research to produce a hierarchy of the main pathogens detected in food, which has provided scientific evidence which is useful for risk assessment and for scheduling and supervision of monitoring introduced on a national scale by surveillance authorities such as DGAL.

Monitoring of microorganisms in food

The 44th meeting of the Codex Alimentarius (FAO/WHO) on food hygiene, which took place in November 2012, approved the revised version of a fundamental document relating to “microbiological criteria” for food dating from 1997.

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Food safety, inspections, an improved range of products, help for the most vulnerable, promotion of French culinary heritage, training, quality products, accessibility, regional diversity, etc.

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Changes in the mechanism for milk payments to producers

For over forty years in France, the law has stipulated that the producer receives payment for milk based on its composition (fat content, protein content, etc.) and hygiene quality (the level of microorganisms and antibiotic residues).

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Scallops in the Bay of Seine river
Enhanced inspection procedures

The Bay of the Seine river, in common with other areas in France (Groix, Glénans, etc.) is regularly contaminated with the toxin causing amnesiac shellfish poisoning ASP, although to a lesser extent.

An exception to European regulations has been in place since 2002, which allows scallops with moderate levels of contamination by this toxin to be marketed. This exception is a means of maintaining production during periods of contamination in areas, while ensuring public health protection standards are met.

This very circumscribed exception is based on hygienic shucking in a specially certified facility. This involves removing the tissues from the scallop which are most heavily contaminated with the ASP toxin so that the edible parts which meet the regulatory requirements (scallop and coral) can be sold.

DGAL has revised its notice framing this exception in order to facilitate its implementation by professionals and inspection services, while adhering to European regulations. This measure came into force at the start of the 2012-2013 fishing season.

Abattoir inspections
Taking information from livestock farms into account

The introduction in 2012 of Information on the Food Chain (ICA) was a major reform which will facilitate more efficient transmission of hygiene information between livestock farmers and abattoirs in order to improve the effectiveness of abattoir inspections. Inspections will take more account of information provided by livestock farmers which could impact on health and safety. Analysis carried out from “field to fork” is an essential condition for maintaining high standards of food safety.

DGAL • Key Events

An adjustment to the health inspection fee for abattoirs

A decree and two orders relating to a change in the health inspection fee in abattoirs, co-signed by DGAL and the Budget Directorate, were published on 12 October.

Abattoirs and wild game processing facilities will now be allocated a fixed classification determined on the basis of a variety of criteria depending on the sector, notably an abattoir hygiene classification, the organisation of health inspections, involvement of abattoir staff, or participation in a pilot scheme. The category will determine an increase or reduction in the price of the health inspection fee (up to a maximum of plus or minus 20%) which reflects the involvement of state resources in carrying out official inspections.

This measure should encourage optimal inspection organisation via the signature of special protocols within the framework protocol in the annex to the ministerial order. These protocols set out the schedule for slaughtering and the terms and conditions for official inspections, including the involvement of the slaughterhouse operators in certain activities. The health inspection fee is reduced for these slaughter facilities.

Poultry
A pilot project in the experimental phase

This French project, which is being closely monitored by EU Member States, aims to define more effectively the respective roles of abattoir operators and veterinary services during poultry carcass inspections, in order to maintain high food safety standards in this sector.

The development of new inspection procedures was the main focus in 2012. These set out redefined roles in particular: the inspection checklist will contain alert criteria relating to the various situations which could trigger health issues at a level which will impact on the facility. This will enable farmers to consult the veterinary inspection services and ensure a more effective and focused response. Farmers will be trained to detect alert criteria. Experimental trials in the field began in September 2012 in a dozen abattoirs and will be spread out over the period of a year. A new division of activities between farmers and veterinary health services will therefore ensure that food safety is maintained.

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Reducing sugar, salt and fat

The Food Observatory, via Ogali, is carrying out overall monitoring of the nutritional quality of food on offer. Over 25,000 products from the agro-food industry have been identified.

The Directorate General for Food (DGAL) has organised a working group to help professionals in the agro-food and food service sectors to reduce salt levels in food. This group delivered its conclusions in December 2012. Between 2000 and 2009, progress was already achieved, with a 16.5% reduction in the amount of salt bought by the food industry and catering sector.

On 17 December 2012, the Minister for the Agro-Food Sector set objectives which must be a collective joint effort involving the entire sector.

Fighting food waste

In November, Guillaume Garot, Deputy Minister for the Agro-Food Industry, chaired the steering committee of the French National Plan to Combat Food Waste, which works in liaison with the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy.

I set the specific goal of reducing food waste by 50% with a deadline of 2025, thus adopting the European Parliament objective. It also expressed the desire to sign a national pact against food waste with all stakeholders in June 2013.

An inventory of initiatives already carried out, which could be scaled up, took place in late 2012. Working groups, in which DGAL is playing an active role, have been set up to address the evaluation of initiatives carried out and definition of indicators, technical and logistical resources to combat food waste, raising awareness among the general public, citizen education, stakeholder training, relationships between partners, institutional catering, legal, regulatory and legislative resources, and contractual clauses against waste.

An internet campaign to raise awareness with slogans such as “qui jette un œuf jette un bœuf” (all waste matters, however small); “jeter ça craint” (wasting sucks); “j'aime la nourriture, je la respecte” (I love and respect food) and free downloadable visuals has also been printed with the same visuals has been organised. The back-up campaign on social media has also been very successful. Posters and postcards have also been printed with the same visuals and distributed to DRAAFs and DIAAFs.

Educating the senses proves its worth

In terms of young people’s education, the evaluation of “taste classes” has made it possible to measure the positive impact on eating habits of educating the senses, with access to statistics.

This study confirmed first and foremost that the national strategy implemented is in line with the results relating to neophobia (the rejection of new foods) observed within the framework of the EduSens research program. Furthermore, it highlights the positive aspect of food which “taste classes” try to develop. It would seem to be essential to capitalise on this advantage and to consolidate it.

Five regions volunteered to take part in “taste classes”: Pays de la Loire, Franche-Comté, Languedoc-Roussillon, Burgundy, and Réunion. Children were asked 13 questions before and after taking part in the “taste classes”.

The effect of these “taste classes” on the rejection of new foods observed within the framework of the EduSens research program proved its worth; it set the specific goal of reducing food waste by 50% with a deadline of 2025, thus adopting the European Parliament objective. It also expressed the desire to sign a national pact against food waste with all stakeholders in June 2013.

Educating the senses proves its worth

The public authorities are committed to safeguarding the interests of beneficiaries of food aid and funding from the European Food Aid Programme (PEAD).

Reforms to the organisation of food aid

Reforms in the way in which food aid is organised in France and the development of the European Food Aid Programme (PEAD), introduced in October 2012, form part of the new mechanism for charitable associations. The FEAMD, which replaces PEAD, now falls within the European Social Fund (ESF) rather than the CAP.

Four regions (Burgundy, and Réunion) volunteered to take part in “taste classes”:

- Pays de la Loire
- Franche-Comté
- Languedoc-Roussillon
- Burgundy, and Réunion

Children were asked 13 questions before and after taking part in the “taste classes.”

The effect of these “taste classes” on the rejection of new foods observed within the framework of the EduSens research program proved its worth; it set the specific goal of reducing food waste by 50% with a deadline of 2025, thus adopting the European Parliament objective. It also expressed the desire to sign a national pact against food waste with all stakeholders in June 2013.

Educating the senses proves its worth

In terms of young people’s education, the evaluation of “taste classes” has made it possible to measure the positive impact on eating habits of educating the senses, with access to statistics.

This study confirmed first and foremost that the national strategy implemented is in line with the results relating to neophobia (the rejection of new foods) observed within the framework of the EduSens research program. Furthermore, it highlights the positive aspect of food which “taste classes” try to develop. It would seem to be essential to capitalise on this advantage and to consolidate it.

Fighting food waste

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An internet campaign to raise awareness with slogans such as “qui jette un œuf jette un bœuf” (all waste matters, however small); “jeter ça craint” (wasting sucks); “j'aime la nourriture, je la respecte” (I love and respect food) and free downloadable visuals has also been printed with the same visuals has been organised. The back-up campaign on social media has also been very successful. Posters and postcards have also been printed with the same visuals and distributed to DRAAFs and DIAAFs.

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Managing emerging contaminants
The example of a nitrosomorpholine (NMOR) pollution incident

In July 2012, DGAL was informed of the presence of N-nitrosomorpholine (NMOR), a member of the nitroamine family, in groundwater supplying a dozen municipalities in the Seine-Maritime département, within the framework of a national drinking water analysis campaign carried out by the Directorate General for Health (DGHS).

This substance, which is currently unregulated, is considered to be potentially carcinogenic by IARC (International Agency for Research on Cancer) in the event of ingestion on a daily basis over a long period. After identifying the source of the pollution, a pharmaceutical factory using morpholine, residents were asked not to use tap water for food-related purposes as a precautionary measure.

In parallel, DGAL made an urgent request to ANSES to assess the risk of contamination of the food chain via the contamination of farm animals and crops exposed to contaminated water. On the basis of the bibliographic data available and taking into account the chronic nature of the risk, the introduction of restrictions on the use of water in agricultural areas and the consumption of local produce was not deemed appropriate.

However, an analysis protocol was defined by DGAL with ANSES and implemented by the Haute-Normandie Regional Food Department (SRAL) in order to determine the potential level of contamination in food produced in affected zones. The results of analyses, which are still ongoing, will be accompanied by a recommendation from ANSES.

This incident is a good illustration of increasingly common environmental pollution by emerging substances for which the bibliography relating to contamination of foodstuffs and associated health risks for the consumer (chronic risk) is often inadequate. These situations require assessments, urgent management measures and effective cooperation between ministries and assessors.

An environmental conference and monitoring of research into emerging risks

In order to respond to current and future major environmental issues and to mark France’s commitment to an ecological and energy transition, the French President and government assembled all the stakeholders in the environmental debate at a conference on 14 and 15 September 2012.

This conference brought together government departments (including DGAL), non-governmental organisations, employee unions, representatives of parliamentarians and local elected representatives, and resulted in the drafting of a roadmap for ecological transition to provide a framework for the government in forthcoming semesters.

The component of the roadmap entitled “Preventing environmental health risks” makes provision for the drafting of a national strategy on endocrine disruptors by June 2013, including research, expert appraisal and public information projects and thinking relating to the regulatory framework – all work in which DGAL is actively involved.

“Health and the environment” and “emerging risks” are playing an increasingly significant role in the daily work of DGAL, in particular those risks related to endocrine disruptors, nanomaterials or unregulated pollutants in water and the “cocktail effect” of very low doses.

DGAL has also been involved in 2012 at a French, European and international level on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Agro-food and Forestry (MAAF) in a number of studies relating to these areas: the interministerial and EU group on Endocrine Disruptors, the French National Health and Environment Plan (PNSE) group on emerging risks, the interministerial nano group and taskforce, and the development and implementation of the law relating to the ban on bisphenol A in food contact materials.

Post-nuclear incident management Ongoing research

As a direct extension of research carried out in previous years on post-nuclear incident management, DGAL has continued to be closely involved once again this year.

The completion of research by the Steering Committee for Post-nuclear Incident Management (COODIRPA) led by the Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN) resulted in a more finely honed principles for the management of agriculture and food (submitted to the Prime Minister in late 2012 by the ASN). DGAL was therefore able to launch new research exploring these principles which are essential for the preparation of all stakeholders potentially involved in post-nuclear incident management of agriculture and food.
There are two particularly significant achievements:

- an update of the guide (ACTA) providing assistance with decision-making in an agricultural environment in the event of a nuclear incident.
- the introduction of training for decentralised services (DRAAF and DCoS PP). This training, which takes place annually, offers an opportunity to describe existing rules to local stakeholders and to provide practical examples of how to implement them.

Adoption of the ANSES Contract of objectives and performance 2012-2015

The ANSES Contract of objectives and performance is a crucial tool for defining strategic policy guidelines which meet the expectations of society and the needs of public authorities.

Society’s expectations in terms of health and safety are rising and the frequency and diversity of health threats will also rise significantly in years to come under the impact of increased globalisation of trade, climate change and the emergence of resistance to treatments.

This contract is the fruit of collaborative work which began in December 2011, and is reflected in some forty working meetings bringing together representatives from the five supervisory ministries and from ANSES agency, a consultation meeting with stakeholders and discussions at the management board of the agency on 29 November 2012. It is structured around five strategic, cross-cutting policy guidelines in the agency’s various skill areas:

- respond to health and safety initiatives by providing scientific expertise and high-level research activity;
- meet the requirement for independence, transparency and openness among all stakeholders by effective management of processes;
- develop knowledge, monitoring and alert capabilities;
- extend the presence and influence of the establishment of an internal DGAL referrals committee and an inter-supervisory authority liaison committee overseeing the scrutiny of all ministerial referrals for advice facilitating prioritisation of the Agency’s assessment activities.

These guidelines are presented within the context of the extension of the scope of ANSES’s activities in response to audit report recommendations, the scientific assessment of the laboratories’ activities, and increased prioritisation of requests for consultation and scientific and technical support from the Agency’s supervisory authorities. In relation to the latter point, the establishment of an internal DGAL referrals committee and an inter-supervisory authority liaison committee overseeing the scrutiny of all ministerial referrals for advice facilitates prioritisation of the Agency’s assessment activities.

In 2012, ANSES received 236 referrals for an opinion from supervisory bodies, 58 from DGAL. Of these 58 consultations, 26 related to food safety, 18 to plant health and the assessment of phytopharmaceutical products and 14 to animal health.

For the 2012-2013 call for projects on the theme “Health and nutritional quality of primary production and food”, the aim of the Directorate General for Food is to facilitate improvements in the nutritional quality of food on the market and promote healthy eating.

DGAL is leading this tender “Agro-food and Innovation” funded by state-region contracts. It creates conditions which are conducive to fostering innovation by bringing stakeholders and parties together on joint projects, in particular:

- the control of hazards for the consumer (environmental, anthropic, biological or chemical hazards) in order to develop new methods, tools or production processes to combat or curb the risks to the consumer of these hazards throughout the food chain in alignment with French and European regulatory policy;
- improvements in the nutritional quality of food, in alignment with the policies of the French National Food Programme (PNA).

Agro-food and innovation
A call for applied research projects

Projects selected must demonstrate the following, in particular:

- the control of hazards for the consumer (environmental, anthropic, biological or chemical hazards) in order to develop new methods, tools or production processes to combat or curb the risks to the consumer of these hazards throughout the food chain in alignment with French and European regulatory policy;
- improvements in the nutritional quality of food, in alignment with the policy
Reaccreditation of agricultural and agro-industrial technical institutes

Coordinated by ACTA for the agricultural component and the ACTIA for the agro-food component, these networks play a significant role in supporting farmers and agro-food industries, in particular on a small scale, by developing scientific and technical partnerships projects with transfer, research and technology stakeholders.

Over the period 2007-2012, technical institutes were the focus of an initial accreditations by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Food Health and Safety Agency (ANSES) and the French National Agricultural Research Institute (INRA) in addition to the Chair of the Institute (ITAI) sector, focusing in particular on the following themes:

- plant health and protection (reduction in input use, selection of varieties);
- animal health and protection (antibiotic resistance, animal feed, animal welfare);
- the specific subject of bee health;
- food safety (biological, chemical and physical hazards, traceability);
- quality of foodstuffs (nutritional and organoleptic benefits, consumer acceptance).

In order to capitalise on this process, an IT “barometer” application is currently being introduced to automate on a daily basis the hierarchy of changes in trends on the web relating to one thousand keywords.

Trend analysis will focus on the number of publications, internet user search trends and topics trending on social networks. This tool may also be shared in networked form with DGAL as a whole and with staff of decentralised services who want to make requests targeting a local issue.

The Food Observatory
Establishment of the Technical Steering Committee

The Food Observatory’s brief is to inform economic stakeholders and the public authorities about developments in the range and consumption of food.

It is divided into three divisions: the Nutrition Division tasked with issues relating to availability and food characteristics (Oqali), the Health Division, and the Socio-economics of Food Division. DGAL is responsible for secretarial services.

The Food Observatory became operational in 2012 with the appointment of its Chairman Bernard Chevassus-au-Louis and vice chairman Nicolas Biros. The Steering Committee was made up of three supervisory ministries, the French National Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Agency (ANSES) and the French National Agricultural Research Institute (INRA) in addition to the Chairman and Vice Chairman. It has met twice to present internal regulations and a programme of research to the Technical Steering Committee which was officially installed on 10 December 2012 by Stéphane Le Foll, Minister for Agriculture, Agro-food and Forestry. In addition to members of the Steering Committee, the Technical Steering Committee is composed of representatives from the agro-cultural, agro-food, retail, distribution and catering sectors and national consumer associations appointed by a decree of 6 April 2012.

The Technical Steering Committee of 10 December 2012 approved the programme of work for 2013 of the Nutrition Division and also the Socio-economic Division and demonstrated its interest in the success of the prototyping study for the Health Division, which should be completed by 2013.

Experiences over the last four years with the Nutrition Division - Oqali - alone have demonstrated the benefits of this mechanism. Moreover, the colloquium held in December 2012 provided an opportunity for it to present research on monitoring in some sectors. 17 sectors (compotes, delicatessen, milk products, etc.) have already been analysed and 28 studies are available on the Oqali website (www.oqali.fr).

The Food Observatory will make impartial data available to the public authorities, professionals in the sector and consumers in the nutrition, health, and socio-economic fields.

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Weak signals
Introduction of a monitoring mechanism

To supplement the documentary monitoring carried out by DGAL, a special department identifying weak signals was established in July 2012 with the aim of alerting DGAL departments to the emergence of any event or media announcement relating to food, animal health or plant health

• animal health or plant health

• nutrition

• organoleptic benefits, consumer acceptance

• food safety

• quality of foodstuffs

Introduction

Weak signals

Establishment of the Technical Steering Committee

The Food Observatory

DGAL • KEY EVENTS
An investigation into microfiltration of raw milk

In 2012, DGAL investigation team exposed breaches in regulations relating to raw milk by a significant number of dairy farmers.

Raw milk is a product which is strictly defined by European regulations. It must meet a number of health criteria and must not be subjected to any form of heat treatment, microfiltration or equivalent techniques which could eliminate the majority of somatic cells and make it healthier.

The investigation led by the French National Veterinary and Phytosanitary Investigation Unit (BNEVP) with technical support from the Central Office for the Prevention of Damage to the Environment and Public Health (OCLAESP) showed that a significant number of French producers were using microfiltration or centrifugation processes on milk which was being sold as raw milk.

Why combat microfiltration in raw milk?

Microfiltration causes a significant reduction in the number of somatic cells in milk, which is an indicator of udder health. If this operation is carried prior to official sampling, it may be associated with fraud and involves criminal deception relating to the benefits and composition of the product, which is punishable by law. Furthermore, microfiltration is an example of unfair competition among producers since the price of milk in France is partially linked to its bacteriological quality and levels of somatic cells.

The investigation and its outcome

Over the course of an investigation lasting two years, the investigation team seized over 220 pieces of equipment, filters and centrifuges from producers. These instances of deception were penalised and the restrictive description of “raw milk” restated. Investigations led by the BNEVP team, but also involving various central government departments, were passed on to the European Commission. At a national level, a decree on milk payments restating the ban on microfiltration of “raw milk” was published on 11 November 2012 and came into force on 1 January 2013.

An internatio nal network to combat organised breaches of phytosanitary regulations

There has been a renewed upsurge in illegal sales and cross-border trade in phytopharmaceutical products. It is therefore necessary to tackle this on a European level by creating an international cooperation and control network. This network is currently being set up and the French National Veterinary and Phytosanitary Investigation Unit (BNEVP) is playing an active role in this.
Alerts and food crises

Non-compliance, food poisoning outbreaks, investigations, etc.

Merguez sausages contaminated with sodium bisulphate

A positive result!

In December 2012, Marseilles criminal court sentenced seven managers of Halal butchers and sales staff in the Bouches-du-Rhône département to suspended sentences ranging from 6 to 18 months for reviving bad meat with sodium bisulphate.

The supplier of the chemical used in this deception was also given a 30-month prison sentence including a 12-month suspended sentence and a fine of 10,000 euros.

This verdict was the culmination of an investigation by the national gendarmerie (city of Marseille local field) with technical support of DGAL's investigation unit (BNEVP).

The charge was given as “adulteration of food stuff injurious to health”, the “sale of adulterated foodstuffs presenting a health hazard” and “deceptive sale of goods posing a human health hazard”.

Sodium bisulphate is a food additive which can be found legally in fruit juice and alcohol to curb oxidation of drinks. When it is mixed with ground meat which has gone bad, it revives the colour of the meat and artificially enhances its appearance.

The free movement of goods is one of the key principles of the European Union. In the phytopharmaceutical sector, this “free movement” gives rise to a number of problems due to the poor integration of regulations between the various Member States (lack of harmonisation for product licences and use, despite the recent adoption of the 1109/2009 regulation).

Trade in illegal and counterfeit products is carried out by highly organised networks which have developed a complex supply chain and set up legal companies in Europe to distribute these products. Criminal investigations have curbed the activities of these networks, but investigations are ongoing at an international level to fully expose these activities. The first judgements should occur in 2014. This cross-border cooperation will facilitate information-sharing on networks trading in illegal products, gather intelligence on potential trading, and provide a better understanding of the movements and destinations of batches in France.

The first tangible outcome of this cross-border cooperation were two fora for discussions and meetings aimed at specialists in the field which took place in 2012.

The mechanism is therefore now in place and cooperation between countries on the fight against the trade in illegal phytopharmaceutical products will be stepped up.

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An inspection by a private operator in October 2012 also detected the presence of Escherichia coli O157: H7 in frozen beefburgers.Shops affected by the distribution of the contaminated batch withdrew the product and put up posters to notify consumers. However, some of the products had been sold before the withdrawal measure was implemented. Manufacturers therefore asked people not to consume the products and to return them to the outlet where they purchased them.

Escherichia coli O157:H7 can cause diarrhoea, which may be haemorrhagic, abdominal pain and vomiting, with or without fever, in the week following the consumption of contaminated products. These symptoms can develop into haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS) which can lead to several renal complications in 5 to 8% of cases, in children in particular.

Producers and distributors are subjected to frequent inspections, self-monitoring and scheduled and unscheduled inspections relating to hygiene and compliance with the cold chain. Discussions have been launched with them in order to reinforce inspection and self-monitoring, notably for refrigerated ground meats.

Detection of contaminated products is rare, but when it does occur a food alert management mechanism is triggered. DGAL receives notification of non-compliant products and information about people who may have become ill. It coordinates investigations which are carried out at a national level.
Datu...
Manufacturers must follow processes which will ensure that the products are guaranteed stable until their “use by” date.

They must use the sterilisation scales (time/temperature of the cabinet certified for a specific type of product packed in a given container according to a defined weight and for fixed autoclave characteristics). They must also ensure the traceability of the application of these scales, so that they can state compliance with manufacturing processes which ensure that healthy, safe products are sold.

Manufacturers carry out stability tests as part of their self-monitoring regime in order to ensure that the sterilisation scale applied is adequate. Batches which do not comply with stability tests must be destroyed.

DGAL ensures that these products are withdrawn from the market and that consumers are informed not to eat any of the products in their possession.

**Salmonella in cheese made from raw milk**

Several outbreaks of infection by the bacteria *Salmonella dublin* were reported in September 2012 by the French Institute for Public Health Surveillance (InVVS).

Following investigations carried out to identify the source of these cases of food poisoning, the Departmental Directorate for the Puy-de-Dôme has identified two separate sources of contamination of farmhouse Saint-nectaire cheese manufactured with raw milk.

Unusually, the two cases of contamination occurred simultaneously, but were unconnected. Approximately 90 cases of illness were recorded. The cheeses were withdrawn from the market and consumer information was circulated promptly.

Food poisoning caused by salmonella manifests itself in intestinal upset often accompanied by fever. Salmonella poisoning is relatively common, with approximately 300 cases per million people in France, but it is generally not serious. However, the symptoms can be more severe in children, the immuno-suppressed and the elderly.
The Codex Alimentarius

The EU position on ractopamine has been defeated, but France is preparing the European response

Ractopamine is used as an ingredient in animal feed with the sole aim of accelerating growth. It is authorised in 26 countries, including the United States, but is banned outright in the European Union, which is fighting the principle of administering chemical substances to healthy animals in order to accelerate growth.

The ractopamine issue has been the focus of intense activity by the Codex since several years. The issues involved include the adoption of an MRL for this substance which opens the way for its international recognition and the option for countries which authorise ractopamine to challenge the ban declared by certain European countries at the WTO.

The adoption of this standard by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in July 2012 means that the European ban will be more difficult to justify to the WTO in the event of a challenge by meat-exporting countries which authorise the use of ractopamine.

In order to ward off the threat of a trade dispute which would make Europe more vulnerable, DGAL wanted to provide a response commensurate with the issues at stake and coordinated at a European level in order to defend Europeans’ interests and vision of international standards.

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The International Plant Protection Convention

Involvement in developing international standards

In March 2012, a DGAL delegation took part in the 7th session of the Commission for Phytosanitary Measures (CPM 7) of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) at the FAO headquarters in Rome.

The IPPC aims to protect cultivated plants by preventing the introduction and dissemination of harmful organisms, while opposing curbs on international trade.

The six international standards for phytosanitary measures (SPSMs) and strategic documents which were adopted met French expectations. The adoption of the standard on Integrated measures applicable to plants intended for plantations in particular meets current developments in France (gradual introduction of the phytosanitary control plan by certain French producers) and those desired by the European Union (the new European plant health regime is currently being reviewed).

The CPM, which is supported by France and EU Member States, has agreed:
• to pursue research into dielectric heating of wood in order to approve this new treatment with the aim of guaranteeing that wood-based packaging materials are free from harmful organisms;
• that electronic certification is a priority for IPPC research;
• to retain as themes for standards to be developed: import permits and international grain movements, with standards which allow practices to be harmonised internationally.

France has been contributing to the IPPC budget since March 2012 by providing a member of staff from the Ministry to the Secretariat. Gratitude was expressed to France for this at the plenary session in 2012.

REMESA

Cooperation on animal health on the Mediterranean rim

The Mediterranean Animal Health Network, REMESA, which was set up in 2009, aims to build on exchanges and cooperation between Mediterranean countries.

Its aim is to improve and control the main animal diseases and zoonoses (diseases transmissible to humans) in the Mediterranean Basin via liaison between veterinary services in Member States.

The Permanent Joint Committee co-chaired by France and Morocco met in Montpellier on 12 November. A framework cooperation agreement was signed defining operating methods.

Consolidation of cooperation between Mediterranean countries is crucial to improved harmonisation and coordination of monitoring activities and animal disease control, which are not governed by frontiers. The OIE and FAO provide technical support to the network and operate the secretariat. DGAL provided support in 2012, and France is the co-chair.

REMESA contributes in particular to the fight against foot-and-mouth disease, which resurfaced in Libya and Egypt in 2010, and has spread during recent events there. It also emphasises the need for more stringent monitoring and inspections of Rift Valley fever, small ruminants pest, bird flu, rables,blue tongue and West Nile fever. It brings together veterinary services from 10 Mediterranean Rim countries, 4 southern European countries (Portugal, Spain, France and Italy) and 6 North African countries (Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt).

Participation in EU-US negotiations

A High-Level Working Group on Jobs and Growth was set up following the EU-US Summit Meeting in November 2011.

It was tasked with evaluating possible avenues for building up transatlantic economic and trade relations. Various options were studied ranging from regulatory or tariff agreements to a global agreement.

The Working Group submitted its report in early 2013. The solution providing the greatest range of reciprocal benefits is a global agreement which aims to facilitate and promote trade and investment between the European Union and the United States. The agreement will include both bilateral tariff issues and other regulatory aspects such as health and phytosanitary topics for which DGAL is responsible.
DGAL • KEY EVENTS

The aims of the working Group in this sector is to achieve an “SPS plus” chapter going beyond the measures already set out in the WTO SPS agreement and deem to provide more tools than this agreement to lift sanitary barriers hindering trade.

The European Union, via its Heads of State and governments, and the European Parliament have already declared that they were favourably disposed in October 2012 to the possibility of launching negotiations relating to an ambitious transatlantic agreement. In parallel, the United States also favours the initiation of new negotiations with the European Union. The US and EU mandates are currently being developed with the starting date for negotiations set for June 2013. Within the framework of interministerial coordination, DGAL is following the drafting of the European mandate and will track the progress of negotiations by lending its support to the Commission.

The European Union authorises the use of lactic acid in early 2013. In parallel with this thinking, the EU and USA made a commitment to resolve some of their differences ahead of the launch of negotiations for the agreement, including the surface decontamination of carcasses using lactic acid. France and several other Member States were opposed to this practice on the basis that chemical decontamination designed to compensate for shortfalls in hygiene during slaughtering operations was contrary to the European Union’s long-established prioritisation of best practice right along the food chain from field to fork. Despite this opposition, and following discussion with certain other Member States, the Commission approved the legislation permitting the decontamination of carcasses using lactic acid. France and several other Member States were concerned, but shortcomings were detected in facilities at 3 points of entry. The outcomes were satisfactory overall as far as operational procedures were concerned, but shortcomings were noticed at 3 points of entry. These anomalies are currently being addressed.

The TRACES system

The TRACES (Trade Control and Expert System), developed by the European Commission, is a unique database which tracks the movement of live animals and animal products imported into the European Union. In the imports field, it is updated by private operators who provide advance notification of the arrival of batches and by border inspection posts (BIPS) which capture the results of their inspections. The TRACES system allows operators to reap the same benefits of computerisation as BIPS: advance notification of the arrival of batches and online customs clearance with the DELTA customs system (a national one-stop shop project). The Commission has recently developed a supplementary module which allows designated points of entry (DPE) to record import inspections of animal feeds. After several trials carried out at pilot sites, this new functionality was rolled out nationally on 22 October 2012. BIPs are tasked with inspecting the surface decontamination of carcasses using lactic acid. FVO inspectors were particularly interested in BIPS in Marseille, Dunkerque, Châteauroux, Orly, Le Havre, Rouen, Deauville and Lorient.

At the SIAL international food exhibition which took place in Paris in October, the government announced 7 priority actions to support the international reach of French agro-food companies.

The outcomes were satisfactory overall as far as operational procedures were concerned, but shortcomings were detected in facilities at 3 points of entry. These anomalies are currently being addressed.

Streamlining of procedures and training for agro-food exporters

DGAL is involved in several areas of this action plan related to the sanitary guarantees which are crucial to international trade, notably streamlining of administrative and customs procedures. The implementation of a one-stop administrative shop managed by the French customs agency will be fast-tracked and trials are scheduled for 2013 to compute rise dealings with FranceAgriMer to facilitate the process of obtaining health certificates. The range of computerised services available will also be extended with the development of a proper export platform to manage accreditation and certification procedures. This tool is being jointly developed by DGAL and FranceAgriMer.

DGAL is also planning to run “training for export” courses in 2013 aimed at professionals and certification officers. The aim is to prepare food companies and government departments more effectively for the specific requirements of third countries regarding audits and sanitary agreement.
Negotiations to open up new markets

Sanitary guarantees are key issues when exporting to new markets. DGAL is responsible for conducting bilateral negotiations which can sometimes be protracted and difficult.

In 2012, there were several conspicuous success stories. In the plant sector in particular, negotiations with Israel took place to allow the whole of France to export seed potatoes, previously the exclusive preserve of Brittany. This opening up of the Israeli market had been eagerly anticipated by the sector concerned. DGAL also successfully opened up the Chilean market which can now import young French vine plants. In the animal sector, the lifting of the classical swine fever embargo which enable the export of genetic material and meat to Brazil is another DGAL’s achievement. The health certificate is now available on the Expadon website to professionals who want to export.

After several animal health crises which had a significant impact on the embargo on ruminant exports, France is now blue tongue-free and exports can resume. This information must now be widely circulated to the various importing countries.

A similar situation occurred with the Schmallenberg virus (closure of borders and reopening with constraints).

Management and tools supporting health

Modernisation, effectiveness, streamlining, quality, efficiency, etc.
The main aims of the exercise are to clarify the role of DGAL and to increase the cohesion and visibility of initiatives carried out. Work began in August 2012 with a working seminar on this topic bringing together all the stakeholders in the General Directorate and decentralised services.

This approach involved implementing a three-year schedule of initiatives to prioritise DGAL projects, examine its objectives and the way in which stakeholders currently interact with each other in order to define initiatives to simplify working methods and relationships, improve the efficiency and quality of the service provided to users and enhance initiatives carried out.

Four working groups met on several occasions and defined four strategic development areas:
- update and consolidate state intervention approaches in public policy managed by DGAL;
- optimise joint operations and organisational methods;
- rationalise tools and working methods;
- position DGAL and promote its policies and initiatives within its sphere of activity.

The assessment was carried out in the summer of 2012 and will culminate in the drafting of DGAL Strategic Plan for the period 2013-2015.

Assessment of the quality management approach

An assessment of quality management was carried out at DGAL in 2012: a number of structural developments have taken place since its introduction and the award of Cofrac accreditation in 2010. It is now necessary to carry out an interim review.

The aim was not just to build on the Cofrac accreditation obtained in 2010 under the reference ISO/CEI 17020 for inspection activities, but also to extend the quality-based management approach to all DGAL activities.

This initiative also forms part of DGAL Strategic Plan which is currently being developed. The aim is for all stakeholders to adopt this approach so that continuous improvement is tangible to all.

This approach primarily targets optimal efficiency of departments in a period of resource constraints, while safeguarding the system and making it more reliable in terms of public health protection.
The RESYTAL programme
The food information system review

2012 marked the operational launch of design and technical development work on the new DGAL information system which will provide efficiency benefits by modernising existing databases and applications which have become obsolete.

The main initiatives launched in 2012 built on the strategic and operational guidelines of the Resytal programme, with the introduction of a decision-making and steering committee as well as user groups to bring users in the field into a very close relationship with officers from Departmental Directorates for Social Cohesion and Protection of the Population (DD(CS)PP) and Regional Food Departments (SRAL) in Regional Food Agriculture and Forestry Services (DRAAF).

Several macro-projects have therefore been launched:
- The “Platform” macro-project which brings together all cross-cutting services common to RESYTAL profession applications;
- The “Users” macro-project aimed at administering standards for companies, establishments and units involved in DGAL professions, as well as characteristics relating to sanitary risks (processes, premises, products handled, etc.). (Database of establishments and farms falling within DGAL’s jurisdiction as part of the programme 206 framework: food quality and safety);
- The “Facilities inspection” macro-project aimed at providing all the functionality required to prepare and carry out inspections of facilities (preparation of inspection checklists and guides, inspection scheduling, production of inspection reports, etc.).
- The “Abattoir products inspection” macro-project, which aims to provide all abattoir veterinary services with a national inspection management tool.

A specific study has also been carried out to investigate the integration of mobile technologies into the inspection process. The conclusions are due in April 2013;

Inspections of establishments in the food chain and outcomes (2012 figures)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECT OF THE INSPECTION</th>
<th>NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS</th>
<th>OUTCOME IN%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Certified report</td>
<td>Formal notice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food safety</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total including:</td>
<td>86,239</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processing facilities</td>
<td>17,730</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and storage facilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional and</td>
<td>38,362</td>
<td>1.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>commercial catering</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail outlets</td>
<td>18,558</td>
<td>2.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentary inspections</td>
<td>11,589</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(including referrals for</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an opinion)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal protection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total including:</td>
<td>14,431</td>
<td>1.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock farms</td>
<td>7,893</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>3,934</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditions of use and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sale of phytosanitary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>products</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of tests</td>
<td>5,972</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on farms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of tests</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the distribution phase</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock farm safety</td>
<td>48,062</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(hygiene, identification,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>animal feed, cases of</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>salmonella, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant product safety</td>
<td>582</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Import tests (2012 figures)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS</th>
<th>NUMBER OF BATCHES INSPECTED</th>
<th>NUMBER OF BATCHES REJECTED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animals and animal products</td>
<td>47,558</td>
<td>324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plants and plant products</td>
<td>57,998</td>
<td>1,029</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Meat inspections in abattoirs

- **Total:** 67,896 batches inspected, 99.4% compliance level.
- **Banned substances:**
  - Certain drugs and pesticides: 26,056 batches inspected, 100% compliance level.
  - Microbiological agents: 7,227 batches inspected, 97.4% compliance level.
  - Physico-chemical substances (heavy metals, pesticides, drugs): 34,613 batches inspected, 99.5% compliance level.

### Tests carried out on foodstuffs (2012 figures)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTAMINANTS</th>
<th>NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS</th>
<th>NUMBER OF NON-COMPLIANT INSTANCES</th>
<th>COMPLIANCE LEVEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>67,896</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
<td>446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banned substances</td>
<td>26,056</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbiological agents</td>
<td>7,227</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>97.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physico-chemical substances</td>
<td>34,613</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>99.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Specific area: routine inspections

#### Number of carcasses inspected in 2012:
- **Domestic ungulates:** 1.8 million tons CWE slaughtered in 699 abattoirs, 430 non-accredited farm slaughter houses and 3,827 non-accredited farm slaughter facilities.
- **Poultry and rabbits:** 26,056 batches inspected, 100% compliance level.

### Glossary of acronyms

- APCHA (Assemblée permanente des Chambres d'Agri- culture) Permanent Assembly of Chambers of Agriculture
- ARS (Agence régionale de santé): Regional Health Agency
- ASDA (Attestation sanitaire à délivrance anticipée) "Green card" health certificate
- ASN (Autorité de sûreté nucléaire): Nuclear Safety Authority
- ASR (associations sanitaires régionales): Regional Health Associations
- BDNI (Base de données nationale d'identification): National Identification Database
- BIP (Border Inspection Post)
- BNEVP (Brigade nationale d'enquêtes vétérinaires et phytosanitaires): French National Veterinary and Phyto sanitary Investigation Unit
- CASDAR (Compte d'affec tation spéciale pour le déve loppement agricole et rural): Special Agricultural and Rural Development Fund
- CCOP (Codex Committee on General Principles)
- CGAER (Comité général de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture et des espaces ruraux): General Council for Food, Agriculture and Rural Spaces
- CLOV (Consommation, logement et cadre de vie): French consumer association
- CNOP (Conseil national de l'ordre des pharmaciens): National Council of Pharmacists
- COIRPA (Comité interministériel pour le contrôle et la répression des fraudes): Steering Committee for Post-nuclear Incident Management
- CPO (Chef phytosanitaire)
- CVO (Chef Veterinary Officer)

### What is non-compliance?

A result is declared non-compliant if the maximum residue limit (MRL) of a contaminant present in a product authorised under the regulations is exceeded or a banned substance is detected.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FVO</td>
<td>Food and Veterinary Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDS France</td>
<td>Groupements de défense sanitaire France (French livestock farmers' association)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAA</td>
<td>Industries agroalimentaires (Agri-food industries)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IARC</td>
<td>The International Agency for Research on Cancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICA</td>
<td>Information sur la chaîne alimentaire (Information on the Food Chain)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGAPS</td>
<td>Ingénieurs généraux d'appui aux personnes et aux structures (General Inspectors Responsible for Supporting People and Organisations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGAS</td>
<td>Inspection générale des affaires sociales (French Inspectorate General for Social Affairs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGF</td>
<td>Inspection générale des finances (French Finance Inspectorate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INRA</td>
<td>Institut national de recherche agronomique (French National Institute for Agricultural Research)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>InVS</td>
<td>Institut de veille sanitaire (French Institute for Public Health Surveillance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPPC</td>
<td>International Plant Protection Convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISPM</td>
<td>International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITA</td>
<td>Institut technique agricole (Agricultural technical institute)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITIA</td>
<td>Institut technique et agro-industriel (Agro-industrial technical institute)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSV</td>
<td>Laboratoire de la santé des végétaux (Plant Health Laboratory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAAF</td>
<td>Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'agroalimentaire et de la forêt (French Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCLAESP</td>
<td>Office Central de Lutte contre les Atteintes à l'Environnement et à la Santé Publique (Central Office for the Prevention of Damage to the Environment and Public Health)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OIE</td>
<td>World Organisation for Animal Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONFCS</td>
<td>Office national de la chasse et de la faune sauvage (French National Hunting and Wild Fauna Association)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONPV</td>
<td>Journées nationales de l'Organisation nationale de la protection des végétaux (National plant protection event)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVS</td>
<td>organisations à vocation sanitaires (Sanitary Service Organisations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVVT</td>
<td>organisations vétérinaires à vocation techniques (Technically-oriented Veterinary Organisations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNA</td>
<td>Programme National pour l'Alimentation (French National Food Programme)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNSE</td>
<td>Plan national santé environnement (French National Health and Environment Plan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFSV</td>
<td>Réseau français de la santé des végétaux (French Plant Health Network)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCAS</td>
<td>Service de la Coordination des Actions Sanitaire (Sanitary Action Coordination Department)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCC</td>
<td>Société centrale canine (Central Canine Society)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCFCAH</td>
<td>European Union Standing Committees on the Food Chain and Animal Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIAL</td>
<td>Salon International de l'Alimentation (International Food Exhibition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIMV</td>
<td>Syndicat de l'industrie du médicament vétérinaire et réactif (Union of the Veterinary and Reactive Drug Industry)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNVEL</td>
<td>Syndicat national des vétérinaires d'exercice libéral (French national veterinary union)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNGTV</td>
<td>Société nationale des groupements techniques vétérinaires (French National Society of Veterinary Technical Groups)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPIE</td>
<td>Système d’information professionnel sur l’élevage (Professional Livestock-rearing Information System)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPRSPP</td>
<td>Service de la Prévention des Risques Sanitaires de la Production Primaire (Primary Production Health-Risk Prevention Department)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRAL</td>
<td>Service régional de l’alimentation (Regional Food Department)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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