



Food Safety Bites – November 2018



If you have any comments or queries about the articles below or would like further information on any matter, please contact foodsafetybites@nsf.org

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1) Brexit

A) Arla Foods warns of no-deal Brexit issues

Arla Foods has joined farmer organizations from the UK, Denmark, The Netherlands, Republic of Ireland, France and Germany to call for the UK government and the European Union to pull out all the stops to avoid a no-deal Brexit.

Arla has consistently advocated against a so-called hard Brexit, putting forward a positive solution that promotes free trade and high animal and food safety standards.

Read more [here](#)

b) Manufacturers' organisation calls for longer Brexit transition period

There must be a longer transition period after Brexit to enable the UK to agree trade terms with the World Trade Organisation (WTO), according to the head of manufacturers' organisation EEF. EEF chief executive Stephen Phipson's call comes following last week's failure to agree a tariff schedule at the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Phipson urged the Government to recognise the dangers to jobs and livelihoods that would follow the simultaneous loss of EU membership benefits while negotiations with the WTO were still in their infancy. International trade negotiations often took more than five years and we were only at the beginning of this process, he said.

Read more [here](#)

2) Diet and health

a) Fermented dairy products associated with lower heart disease risk

New research suggests that consumption of fermented dairy products such as cheese, yogurt, quark and kefir could lower the risk of coronary heart disease.

The study, from the University of Eastern Finland, was published in the *British Journal of Nutrition*. It also concluded that a "very high" consumption of non-fermented dairy products is linked to an increased risk of heart disease.

Read more [here](#)

b) The economics behind obesity: How can nutrition make us rich?

Healthy nutrition could end the obesity epidemic and make us richer, according to an industry expert, who suggests the economy is keeping the consumer fat.

Trials have shown it's possible to reverse type 2 diabetes through 'very dramatic diets' - the patient only consumes 800 calories a day for eight weeks, then sticks to a strict weight management diet for the next six months.

"Shouldn't we be jumping on that intervention to create products to really evolve this? The trouble is that our economy and the business models do not yet fit."

Read more [here](#)

C) UK government expected to finally sanction flour fortified with folic acid in effort to reduce serious birth defects

Downing Street is expected to introduce a new policy that all flour is to be fortified with folic acid in an effort to reduce the number of babies born in the UK with neural tube defects (NTDs).

The committee on toxicology of chemicals in food, consumer products and the environment is currently analyzing the results and is expected to report soon, after which an announcement is expected by Downing Street.

Read more [here](#)

3) Food Fraud

a) 'Trawler net' fraud detection system launched

A system for detecting adulteration in food and preventing fraud has been developed by UK authentication and testing provider Food Forensics.

Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) allows testers to identify and validate multiple species in products such as seafood, dried mushrooms or ready meals.

Unlike a targeted system of identification that looks for a specific species, NGS uses a “trawler net” approach to capture as much gene data as possible.

NGS is the first testing available to test for the ‘unknown unknowns’, claimed Food Forensics.

Read more [here](#)

4) Catering Business

a) 'Turning a serious business into serious business': The accelerating plant-based protein market

The consumption of plant-based protein products is growing rapidly, driven by concerns over sustainability and health, but barriers to further uptake remain, the Proteins of the Future summit in Ede, the Netherlands, heard earlier this month.

Speaking at the event, ING economist Thijs Geijer discussed recent research from the financial group revealing 25% of Europeans expect to eat less meat five years from now.

Read more [here](#)

5) Ethical and Sustainability

a) 'A race to the top': Global commitment on plastic economy launched

Multinational food and beverage companies, governments and NGOs have united behind a pledge to “eradicate plastic waste and pollution at the source” and develop circular economy models for plastics.

The New Plastics Economy Global Commitment, led by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation in collaboration with UN Environment, was unveiled at the Our Ocean Conference in Bali today (29 October).

Businesses that sign the commitment will publish annual data on their progress to help “*drive momentum and ensure transparency*”. Signatories have said they will make sure 100% of their plastic packaging is recyclable by 2025.

Read more [here](#)

b) Cocoa and peace in Colombia: how the country went from ‘guns to pruners’

Juana Botero, director sustainability at Casa Luker, on how the cocoa industry is taking the fight to the drugs gangs by building a successful human-centred business with social inclusion throughout the supply chain based on empathy and support for the farmers.

Cocoa is an extremely durable crop that has had to overcome many obstacles, such as disease, climate change, deforestation etc, to thrive in its natural environment.

Read more [here](#)

c) FoodPrint.org wants to make it easier for consumers to understand labels and certifications

A newly launched nonprofit project called FoodPrint.org aims to help consumers make informed purchasing decisions at the grocery store by presenting information on how food items travel through the supply chain in its one-stop-shop website.

Read more [here](#)

d) How 'behind the scenes' efforts can help address consumer food waste

One third of food produced globally is wasted. In developed economies, the majority of waste occurs in the home. With the pressures of a growing global population and finite natural resources, this situation is not sustainable. Systems thinking is needed: collaboration, innovation and data sharing will be key.

According to figures from the EC, 55% of food waste actually occurs in the home. In the UK, food waste costs the average family of four £800 per year.

Read more [here](#)

e) Is enough being done to weather the cocoa sector against climate change & cocoa shortages?

Climate change is one of the biggest long-term threats to cocoa production. But is enough being done today to make the sector more resilient?

"The cocoa tree needs heat but also a lot of humidity, and when we see the Sahel advancing several kilometres southwards every year towards the Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, this reduces their cocoa-growing capacity."

Read more [here](#)

f) UK to introduce plastic packaging tax

The UK is planning to introduce a ‘world-leading’ tax on plastic packaging in 2022: applying to all single use plastic packaging that doesn’t include at least 30% recycled content.

Plastic bottles, trays and pots are due to be included in the tax.

Announced in Budget 2018 this week, the government has also announced it will allocate £20m (\$25.5m) to tackle plastics and boost recycling: £10m (\$12.8m) more for plastics R&D and £10m (\$12.8m) to pioneer innovative approaches to boosting recycling and reducing litter, such as smartbins.

Revenues from the single use packaging tax will be used to tackle waste and litter.

Read more [here](#)

g) West African cocoa farmers yet to earn a living income despite sales growth of Fairtrade certified cocoa beans

Fairtrade International's cocoa beans have seen the highest growth in sales during 2016-2017 compared to its other certified goods, including coffee, sugar and tea. However, most West African cocoa farmers still do not earn a living income.

Read more [here](#)

6) Nutrition

a) UK kicks off calorie reduction dialogue as childhood obesity rate rises

The UK's health authorities have commenced a collaborative effort with the food industry and health NGOs to develop the next phase of the government's proposed calorie reduction programme.

Read more [here](#)

7) Salt and Sugar

a) 'Health halo' conceals high salt levels in meat alternatives

Research from health campaign group Action on Salt reveals meat-free foods often contain more salt than meat-based alternatives.

A nationwide product survey of 157 meat-free products conducted by the UK pressure group suggested that the "health halo" of alternative protein products is being used to conceal high levels of salt. It found 28% of all meat-free products included in the study are higher in salt than maximum targets set by Public Health England.

Read more [here](#)

b) High fat, salt and sugar foods in the spotlight

We know that foods high in fat, salt or sugar (HFSS) have been under closer scrutiny since the new restrictions on advertising came into effect last July. However, two major companies have recently been caught out.

Read more [here](#)

c) Portfolio shift: Sugar tax knocks Coca-Cola Classic: but Zero Sugar up 50% in Great Britain

Coca-Cola Classic saw volumes in Europe decline by 1% over the last three months: attributed mainly to the impact of new soft drinks industry taxes. But Coca-Cola Zero Sugar grew 18.5%, with retailers increasingly shifting space over to the sugar-free variety.

In the UK – where the sugar tax came into effect this year – Coca-Cola Zero Sugar volumes were up 50% over the quarter.

Read more [here](#)

8) Advertising and Labelling

a) Belgium updates definition of cream

Belgium has updated its legal definition of dairy cream, light cream and whipped cream.

Cream, for instance, is defined as a product containing at least 10 % fat that was separated from milk. Whipped cream and whole cream must contain at least 30 % fat.

Read more [here](#)

b) Costa Coffee ad banned for promoting bacon rolls over avocados

Costa Coffee's attempt to poke fun at the trendy avocado has backfired, with the UK's advertising watchdog banning its radio ad for discouraging the selection of fresh fruit.

The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) said the advert suggested that a bacon roll or egg muffin was a better alternative to avocados, and discouraged the selection of fresh fruit.

Read more [here](#)

c) EC to award first health claim for combined effects of nutrients on lowering cholesterol

The European Commission (EC) intends to authorise for the first time a health claim arising from the combined effects of a number of substances, in a decision that affects firms backing the synergistic effect of nutrients in their products.

By publishing a [Draft Commission Regulation](#), the EC intends to press ahead with greenlighting a health claim made on foods and to the reduction of disease risk, in this case a reduction in blood LDL-cholesterol concentrations that contributes to coronary heart disease.

The claim proposed by the applicant was worded, *"Limicol has been shown to lower/reduce blood cholesterol. High cholesterol is a risk factor in the development of coronary heart disease"*

Read more [here](#)

d) EU to tighten rules to prevent misleading use of plant extracts

The EU wants to tighten rules on the excessive use of antioxidants and labelling botanical preservatives, such as rosemary, as flavours – but it missed an opportunity to clarify the situation for food manufacturers, according to one expert.

The committee said that manufacturers are using certain antioxidants, such as ascorbic acid-ascorbates or citric acid-citrates, at higher levels than authorised.

The committee also decided some manufacturers were misleadingly listing plant extracts as flavours rather than preservatives.

It unanimously decided to confirm previous statements made in 2006 and 2010 (on nitrate-containing spinach extract used in sausages and nitrite-enriched vegetable broth respectively) and to widen their scope to cover all plant extracts capable of performing a technological function.

Read more [here](#)

9) Food Safety

a) Campylobacter is top cause of foodborne illness in Denmark

Campylobacter continued to be the leading cause of foodborne infections in Denmark last year, according to a recent report.

There were 4,257 cases of Campylobacter illness in 2017.

2017 also saw two Campylobacter outbreaks, both related to unpasteurised milk, were recorded and were responsible for making 72 people fall ill.

Read more [here](#)

b) EU draft legislation limits trans fats

Trans fat limits for food have been introduced into EU draft legislation, with a proposed restriction of 2g per 100g of fat, where trans fatty acids (TFAs) are not naturally present in animal fat.

Read more [here](#)

c) European Parliament pushes ahead with tough unfair trading stance

The European Parliament is pushing ahead with efforts to crack down on so-called unfair trading practices (UTPs) in the food supply chain, backing a series of amendments that are designed to harden the position initially set out by the European Commission.

The UTP proposals – initially put forward by the Commission in April - are designed to shift the balance of power in the food chain in favour of smaller actors, including farmers and SMEs.

According to the EC, EU farmers receive on average 21% of the share of the value of agricultural products while 28% goes to processors and as much as 51% to retailers.

Read more [here](#)

d) Pret A Manger to introduce allergen labelling on products

Sandwich chain Pret A Manger is to introduce allergen labelling on all of its fresh products following the death of teenager Natasha Ednan-Laperouse.

The 15-year-old died after she ate an artichoke, olive and tapenade baguette she bought at a Pret store at Heathrow Airport. The product contained sesame, to which Ednan-Laperouse was allergic.

Read more [here](#)

10) Origin

a) Defra Consultations on UK Geographical Indication after Brexit Scheme & Improved enforcement of the Protected Food Names Scheme

In our blog [What happens for food labelling & Geographical Indications if there's a no-deal Brexit](#), we reported on the UK government [Technical Note](#) about the impact of a “no deal” Brexit on geographical indications. There are now two Defra consultations on establishing and enforcing a UK geographical indication and protected food name scheme.

Read more [here](#)

Food Alerts/Recalls – to 31st October

1 October 2018

[Montezuma's Chocolates recalls its 'Great British Puddings Truffle Collection' because it may contain small pieces of plastic](#)

Montezuma's Chocolates Ltd is recalling its 'Great British Puddings Truffle Collection', because it may contain small pieces of plastic in the lemon meringue truffle.

5 October 2018

[The Raw Chocolate Company recalls its Chocolate Goji Berries because they may contain small pieces of metal](#)

The Raw Chocolate Company are recalling their Chocolate Goji Berries because they may contain small pieces of metal. The presence of metal makes these products unsafe to eat and presents a safety risk.

18 October 2018

[Dunnes Stores recalls its Slow Roasted Turkey Slices due to incorrect 'use by' date](#)

Dunnes Stores is recalling one batch of slow roasted turkey slices from its Northern Ireland Stores as the product has been labelled with an incorrect 'use by' date.

25 October 2018

[CSM Bakery Solutions recalls its 18 Chocolate Cornflake Cluster Mini Bites due to the possible presence of salmonella](#)

CSM Bakery Solutions has taken the precautionary step of recalling one batch of its 18 Chocolate Cornflake Cluster Mini Bites because the product might contain salmonella. This product has been distributed to Iceland Stores only.

Allergy – to 31st October

5 October 2018

[The National Trust recalls biscuits due to a labelling error](#)

The National Trust is recalling a range of biscuits as they have been prepared and manufactured in a factory that also handles peanuts and/or tree nuts and is missing 'may also contain peanuts or tree nuts' within the allergen statement on the label

9 October 2018

[Farmhouse Biscuits Ltd recalls its Honey & Oat Biscuits due to undeclared wheat](#)

Farmhouse Biscuits Ltd is recalling Honey & Oat Biscuits because they contain wheat which is not mentioned on the label. This means the product is a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy or intolerance to wheat or gluten

9 October 2018

[Southern Synergy recalls Arnott's Shapes Originals varieties due to undeclared allergens](#)

Southern Synergy is recalling Arnott's Shapes Originals Barbecue and Arnott's Shapes Originals Pizza because they contain celery and/or mustard which are not mentioned on the label.

10 October 2018

[Booths Chicken Tikka Masala with Pilau Rice Pot recalled because of undeclared cashew nuts](#)

E H Booths & Co Ltd is recalling Booths Chicken Tikka Masala with Pilau Rice Pot because it contains cashew nuts which are not mentioned on the label. This means the product is a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy to nuts.

12 October 2018

[Booths Honey & Spelt Bread recalled because of undeclared soya](#)

E H Booths & Co Ltd is recalling Booths Honey & Spelt Bread because it contains soya which is not mentioned on the label. This means the product is a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy to soya.

12 October 2018

[Azka Impex recalls PRAN Muri Moa because milk is not correctly mentioned on the label](#)

Azka Impex Limited is recalling PRAN Muri Moa (Puffed Rice Balls Mixed with Molasses) because it contains milk which is not correctly mentioned on the label.

13 October 2018

[Milegate Ltd recalls Noury Individually Quick Frozen Prawns because of incorrect allergen labelling](#)

Milegate Ltd is recalling Noury Individually Quick Frozen Prawns because they contain crustaceans and sulphites which are not mentioned on the label.

13 October 2018

[Booths Honey & Spelt Bread recalled because of undeclared allergens](#)

E H Booths & Co Ltd is recalling Booths Honey & Spelt Bread because it contains barley (gluten), lupin and sesame which are not mentioned on the label.

15 October 2018

[Southern Synergy extends its recall of Arnott's products due to undeclared allergens](#)

Southern Synergy is extending its recall to include Arnott's Shapes Originals Savoury, Arnott's Shapes Originals Cheddar and Arnott's Cheds, because they contain celery and/or mustard which are not mentioned on the label.

16 October 2018

[John & Pascalis recalls Four Seasons Sesame Tahini because of undeclared peanuts](#)

John & Pascalis Ltd is recalling two types of Four Seasons Sesame Tahini because the products contain peanuts which are not mentioned on the label. This means the products are a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy to peanuts.

22 October 2018

[ASDA recalls ASDA Frozen Smooth Mashed Potato because of undeclared gluten](#)

ASDA is recalling ASDA Frozen Smooth Mashed Potato because a small number of packs may incorrectly contain potato croquettes instead of mashed potato. Potato croquettes contain wheat (gluten), which is not mentioned on the label.

24 October 2018

[Espresso Warehouse recalls two Wooden Spoon products due to incorrect allergen labelling](#)

Espresso Warehouse is recalling two Wooden Spoon products, Gluten Free Chocolate & Pear biscuits and Lemon Melt biscuits because they contain soya, milk and wheat (gluten) which are not emphasised correctly on the label.

24 October 2018

[Waitrose recalls its Normandy Pork Casserole because of undeclared milk](#)

Waitrose is recalling its Normandy Pork Casserole because some packs may contain a Madeira sauce sachet that contains milk which is not mentioned on the label.

25 October 2018

[The Grocer Ltd recalls its Spinach & Broccoli Soup due to undeclared milk](#)

The Grocer Ltd is recalling its Spinach and Broccoli Soup because it contains milk which is not mentioned on the label. This means the product is a possible health risk for anyone with an allergy or intolerance to milk or milk constituents.

EU RASFF (Rapid alert system for food and Feed) – highlights to 30th October

All RASFF can be found at: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/rasff-window/portal/?event=notificationsList&StartRow=1>

Date	Country of origin	Subject	Country of notification	Classification
31/10/2018	India	thiamethoxam (0.024 mg/kg - ppm) and unauthorised substances carbendazim (0.034 mg/kg - ppm) and tricyclazole (0.082 mg/kg - ppm) in basmati rice from India	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
31/10/2018	China	high content of cyanide (1390 mg/kg - ppm) in bitter almonds from China	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
29/10/2018	USA	unauthorised food additive sodium chlorite in sodium chlorite solution from the United States	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
29/10/2018	United	Salmonella enterica ser.	United	alert company's own check

	Kingdom	Enteritidis in liquid egg for pet food from the United Kingdom	Kingdom	
26/10/2018	United Kingdom	Salmonella in 18 chocolate cornflake cluster mini bites from the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	alert company's own check
26/10/2018	United Kingdom	poor traceability records (altered passport) for chilled horse carcasse from the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	information for follow-up official control on the market
26/10/2018	United Kingdom	too high intake of vitamin B6 (113 mg/item) from vitamin B6 from the United Kingdom	Germany	monitoring of media – on line
26/10/2018	United Kingdom	unauthorised use of colour E 127 - erythrosine (13.3 mg/l) in strawberry flavoured drink from the United Kingdom	France	official control on the market - recall from consumers
25/10/2018	Turkey	aflatoxins (B1 = 19.4; Tot. = 20 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted salted pistachios from Turkey	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
25/10/2018	Brazil	Salmonella (presence /25g) in frozen chicken fillets with added water from Brazil	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
24/10/2018	United Kingdom	unauthorised novel food ingredient 3,3'-diindolylmethane (DIM) in food supplement from the United Kingdom	Slovakia	official control on the market - withdrawal from the market
24/10/2018	USA	aflatoxins (B1 = 233.9; Tot. = 249.7 µg/kg - ppb) in pistachios in shell from the United States	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
23/10/2018	Vietnam	Salmonella enterica ser. Weltevreden (presence /25g) in frozen cooked whiteleg shrimps (Penaeus vannamei) from Vietnam	United Kingdom	information for attention - consignment released
19/10/2018	United Kingdom	risk of overdosage with vitamin B6 in and too high intake of vitamin B6 (50 mg/day) from vitamin B and vitamin B-complex from the United Kingdom	Sweden	monitoring of media – On-line sale
19/10/2018	China	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) (presence) in food supplement for bodybuilders from China	United Kingdom	alert monitoring of media
18/10/2018	Tanzania	aflatoxins (B1 = 53.3 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts from Tanzania	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
18/10/2018	Lebanon	undeclared colour E 127 - erythrosine and unauthorised use of colour E 127 - erythrosine (46 mg/kg - ppm) in pickled turnips from Lebanon	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained

18/10/2018	India	aflatoxins (B1 = 64.6; Tot. = 73.9 µg/kg - ppb) in coated groundnuts from India	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
17/10/2018	Egypt	traces of peanut (4.8; 2.5 mg/kg - ppm) in sesame and sesame paste tahini from Egypt	United Kingdom	alert official control on the market
16/10/2018	On - Line	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
16/10/2018	On - Line	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
12/10/2018	Brazil	aflatoxins (B1 = 56.3; Tot. = 72.4 µg/kg - ppb) in Brazil nuts from Brazil	United Kingdom	information for attention - consignment released
11/10/2018	Pakistan	too high content of E 210 - benzoic acid (290 mg/kg - ppm) in mango juice drink from Pakistan	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
11/10/2018	United Kingdom	unauthorised substance glucosamine in food supplement in powder from the United Kingdom	Sweden	monitoring of media – on-line sale
10/10/2018	Australia	undeclared mustard and celery in pizza and barbecue flavoured biscuits from Australia	United Kingdom	alert consumer complaint
10/10/2018	China	poor temperature control (-3.8, -4.2, -4.8, -6.0, -7.2, -11 °C) of frozen smoked haddock (Gadus aeglefinus) from China	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
10/10/2018	USA	too high content of E 210 - benzoic acid (210 mg/kg - ppm) in soft drink from the United States	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
09/10/2018	On - Line	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
09/10/2018	China	poor temperature control (between -11 and -3.8 °C) of frozen Atlantic cod (Gadus morhua) from China	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
08/10/2018	Vietnam	unauthorised substances malachite green (2 µg/kg - ppb) and leucomalachite green (54 µg/kg - ppb) in frozen raw barramundi from Vietnam	United Kingdom	information for attention - consignment released
08/10/2018	China	unauthorised genetically modified (positive for 35S promoter rice package) brown rice noodles from China	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
05/10/2018	United Kingdom	metal fragments in chocolate goji berries and plain goji berries	United Kingdom	alert company's own check

		from the United Kingdom		
04/10/2018	On - Line	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) offered online for sale	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
04/10/2018	Turkey	aflatoxins (B1 = 8; Tot. = 20.1 / B1 = 11.5; Tot. = 18 µg/kg - ppb) in hazelnuts from Turkey	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
03/10/2018	USA	2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) in food supplement from the United States	United Kingdom	information for attention monitoring of media
03/10/2018	Turkey	too high content of sulphite (2188 mg/kg - ppm) in dried apricots from Turkey	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained
03/10/2018	China	aflatoxins (B1 = 9.3 µg/kg - ppb) in groundnuts in shell from China	United Kingdom	border rejection - consignment detained