

UNION EUROPEENNE DES VÉTÉRINAIRE HYGIENISTES
UNION OF EUROPEAN VETERINARY HYGIENISTS (UEVH)

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Meat & Bone Meal & ruminant PAP: key contributors to sustainable livestock production

UEVH is the [Union of European Veterinary Hygienists](#). UEVH is the lead organisation representing veterinarians in public health and a member of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE). Through FVE, UEVH contributes to all FVE activities aiming to enhance animal health, animal welfare, food safety and public health and protect the environment by promoting the veterinary profession.

With this position, UEVH aims to acknowledge and support the positive impact of meat and bone meal (MBM) and ruminant Processed Animal Proteins (PAPs) as a safe and sustainable way of feeding livestock.

MBM and PAP

MBM is a product of the [rendering](#) industry. It is made from [category 1 and 2 animal by-products \(ABP\)](#) which are unfit for human consumption¹.

On the contrary, PAPs are feed ingredients made from [category 3 animal by-products \(ABP\)](#) derived from healthy slaughtered animals fit for human consumption or food processing. Their sourcing and quality are under veterinary control, audit and inspection. Thanks to the excellent nutritional protein value (amino acid balance) and phosphorus digestibility, PAPs are used in aquafeed, pet food and to a minor extent already in farmed animal feeds. Produced from by-products of the meat chain, PAPs have a very low carbon footprint. This was calculated according to international standards² and accepted by GFLI, the Global Feed LCA Institute.

In 2023 one one-third of the European PAP production was exported outside the EU and had to be replaced with farmed animal feed. Taking into account the higher protein content 50-95%, the replacement by vegetable proteins (35-44%) causes unnecessary environmental damage. Moreover, PAPs prevent valuable by-products from going to waste.

Generally, there are lots of potential benefits to the use of MBM and especially for ruminant PAPs. They pose a low risk for health and disease and cross-contamination prevention over the years has proved to be efficient. They also provide an excellent alternative to soya with the potential for the EU animal agriculture sector to reduce the environmental impact and European protein self-sufficiency. It fulfils the Green Deal's key approach to a bio-circular economy.

¹ E.g. fallen or euthanized animals as well as carcasses and carcass trimmings, condemned carcasses, condemned livers, inedible offal (lungs) and bones (Reg. 1069/2009) - Normally hair, hooves and blood are not included. After animals have died their carcasses can be rendered to destroy disease organisms and made also into meat and bone meal.

² https://efpra.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2PP_CASE_STUDY_3.pdf

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UEVH recommendations

UEVH welcomed the EU Commission ban lift allowing:

- 2013 - Porcine and Avian Processed Animal Proteins (PAP)² in fish feed;
- 2017 - Insect Processed Animal Proteins (PAP) in fish feed;
- 2021 - Porcine Processed Animal Proteins (PAP) in poultry feed, avian Processed Animal Proteins in pig feed, insect PAP in pig and poultry feed and ruminant gelatine in non-ruminant feed.

However, since the BSE incidence cases in Europe over the years have been limited to negligible risk, and in May 2023 the WOAH General Session adopted the up-to-date Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) risk status (Resolution N. 20)³, UEVH acknowledges that Europe has still stricter rules for the use of animal meals compared to the rest of the world. For these reasons, UEVH calls the EU Commission and the Member States to:

1. Further join forces, and collect research outcomes to provide a sound scientific basis for a risk-based and sustainable use of MBM and ruminant PAPs;
2. Establish a level playing field for the European Animal By-Products by revising the current set of legislation and aligning the EU legislative framework with the rest of the world to foster animal health and welfare, the circularity of resources and fair competition;
3. Allow the use of ruminant PAPs in aquafeed and in all non-ruminant species.

Notes to the editors

[UEVH](#) represents veterinarians working in veterinary public health, having a key role in protecting public and animal health and welfare. Founded in 1967 in Geneva, in 1976 UEVH became a member of the [Federation of Veterinarians of Europe](#) and adopted its current name

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² Processed Animal Proteins (PAP) are made from Category 3 animal by-products.

All Category 3 material is fit for human consumption at the point of slaughter

³ [WOAH Resolution N.20](#)